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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

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**School Board
Reacts to Audit**

**Floodplain Regs
May Be Revised**

**Could 'Blueprint'
Be Reprinted?**

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CALVERT IN THE FALL

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“I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DRINK BEFORE THEY GO UP THERE.”

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LOCAL 4
County gets MACO report



LOCAL 5
Zoning amendment could change flood plain



ON THE COVER
Fall heritage days at Horsmon Farms

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WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, SEP 28</p> <p>PM Showers Hi: 69° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>FRI, SEP 29</p> <p>AM Showers Hi: 68° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>SAT, SEP 30</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 59°</p>	<p>SUN, OCT 1</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 59°</p>
<p>MON, OCT 2</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 58°</p>	<p>TUE, OCT 3</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 58°</p>	<p>WED, OCT 4</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 59°</p>	<p>THU, OCT 5</p> <p>Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 60°</p>

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School Board Majority Still Question Audit

White Challenges Commissioners' Motives

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The majority of the Calvert County Board of Education continue to resist the county commissioners' desire to have a performance audit conducted of the school system's budget. More than a month after the commissioners sent a letter to the school board outlining their desire for the audit and at their second meeting since then the school board finally got around to talking about it. After the discussion the board voted 3-2 to send a letter back to the commissioners asking for clarification.

Not having heard from the school board, the commissioners several days later unanimously voted to send a request to the State Board of Education for such an audit.

That school board vote mirrored the opposition to the audit aired at a joint meeting of the two elected bodies in early August. At that meeting, Board of Education President Inez Claggett was the most outspoken against the audit and she continued to be so at the Sept. 14 meeting.

But board member Dawn Balinski outlined her concerns about the Aug. 9 commissioner letter to the school board.

Balinski said, "I enjoyed our meeting that we had in August. It was a good discussion, and at that point I thought we had reached an agreement that there would be some kind of a limitation to the scope because, from

my perspective, I'm just worried about the cost that's going to be incurred if the scope is much larger, if it's a large number of issues that they're going to address. Then we received this letter that they were asking for an internal control review, and they're actually pretty broad in that. Just looking for recommendations for correcting deficiencies. That's extraordinarily broad. An internal control in my mind is not an audit. It is looking at an organization's overall policies to see if they've covered all areas of potential risk in the organization. And then it is also looking at the procedures to see if they have any deficiency on covering the policies. And that is massive. That could entail looking at every single one of our departments."

The second part of the commissioners' letter called for an audit of procurement procedures. Balinski asked that be expanded to look at the county's procurement procedures to see if there could be savings in joint procurement.

Balinski's concerns were adopted by the majority in their vote to respond to the commissioners' letter. But apparently the commissioners had not received that when on Sept. 19 they voted to proceed with an audit request with some limitations on the scope of that audit (see The County Times Sept. 21 issue).

School board member Lisa Grenis along with member Jana Post have continued to support an audit. Grenis, at the Sept. 14

meeting, said, "When you consider that the county commissioner's budget is about 50 percent dedicated to Calvert County Public Schools, in a sense, they are part of this; you're auditing their money that they're putting into our system."

Claggett responded, "I think that the state law is clear in regard to the finances of school systems. And the state law gives all authority to the Board of Education to do policy and to provide a budget for the carrying out of school system functions. And it is my belief that if the state felt that the county commissioners should have more oversight regarding how our funds are spent, that laws would be passed at the state level to put that into place. So, I would believe that if the commissioners are seeking additional authority over the governance of how we spend our funds, that they might want to consider lobbying with their state partners to possibly change laws that are on the books, because these laws have been in place for many, many, many years."

Grenis said, "I think the primary thing we have to remember is that the county commissioners are looking for effective and efficient spending. The purpose is not looking for wrongdoing. That's what we have to keep in the forefront of all of this."

But Board of Education Vice President Antoinne White questioned whether that wasn't the commissioners' motive. "How do you know? White asked, to which Grenis

responded, "How do you know?" White answered, "Their actions!"

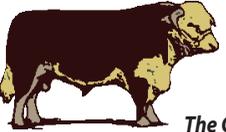
Earlier, White had opined, "I attended that first meeting that we had with the commissioners, and it seemed like they had no idea what they were looking for. They came up with something and gave it to us two minutes prior and then admitted to not even having a discussion of what they were looking for."

Grenis questioned asking the county to include themselves in the audit. "Maybe as a taxpayer, we could request that as an individual, but I don't know, as a board, we have the ability to, or that we should ask that."

Balinski and Claggett said the school system is subject to multiple audits. Claggett asked "that the county commissioners make themselves aware of all of the current audits that our school system goes through. So, when we're looking at efficiency and effectiveness, I believe that there are audits that we already are required to conduct or have conducted that look at effectiveness and efficiency."

But Grenis said, "There are plenty of audits done in our system that look at the budget to ensure everything's accurate, to make sure that the numbers add up. That's completely different from what I perceive this to be. This audit is specifically for the purpose of efficiency and finding savings."

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Horsmon Farm Celebrates 10 Years

Horsmon Farm is proud to announce the commemoration of its 10-year anniversary, marking a decade of growth, sustainability, and educational outreach.

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- Hayride: Explore the farm and witness the agricultural processes in action.
- Sudan Grass Maze: Discover the principles of sustainability while navigating through a unique maze.
- Pumpkin Patch: Witness the complete growth cycle of a pumpkin, from seed to harvest.
- Farm Animals: Learn about animal husbandry and connect with the farm's inhabitants.
- Farm Trail: Gain insights into soil conservation practices through an informative trail.
- Round Bale Rollers: Explore the physics and motion behind round bale rolling.
- Rubber Duck Races: Understand hydrology concepts through exciting duck races.



- Corn Box: Stimulate sensory development in a creative corn-filled environment.
- Dirt Diggers: Engage in hands-on activities to learn about mechanics and engineering.
- School Group Lesson: Educate students about the origins of their food and the importance of agriculture.

From a modest start with a few farm animals and a hayride, Horsmon Farm has evolved into a premier destination for agricultural education and family-friendly fun. The celebration continues every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until the end of October. You can find Horsmon Farm at 1865 Horsmon Farm Lane, St. Leonard, MD 20685. Tickets can be purchased online at horsmonfarm.com or on-site at the farm.

Could Blueprint Revisions Be Coming?

County Association Official Sees Pushback

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

When it comes to the Maryland General Assembly, the state's counties have a lot on their plate because many bills enacted have a trickle-down effect on local government. There thus is a lot on the agenda of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) which represents county interests in Annapolis. The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) at their Sept. 19 meeting received a briefing on MACO's agenda from their president Howard County Executive Calvin Ball and MACO Executive Director Michael Sanderson.

An ongoing hot topic is the implementation of the state's education reform legislation, known as the Blueprint.

Commissioner Vice President Mike Hart was critical of the legislators before the briefing even began: "I don't know what they drink before they go up there."

He told the MACO representatives, "You can tell the state they're crazy for all this wild stuff they keep throwing at us."

Regarding the state's economy and fiscal

stability, Sanderson said they rode out the pandemic. "We actually saw a weird sort of artificially inflated economy for a window of time. There are signs suggesting that that ride is sort of over."

On the Blueprint, Sanderson said, "Counties are already feeling this. Not every jurisdiction has been caught with really upside down numbers, but it's sort of a matter of time because you're going to come in waves where the Kirwan (Commission) requirement or the Blueprint requirement exceeds your maintenance of effort and sort of takes over as the driving force for what the state obliges your county to contribute."

"But we have a number of jurisdictions and including some large jurisdictions who had to dig deep into reserves just to make this year's budget work to be able to fund their education commitment. And this is only like year three of a 10-year phase in."

Sanderson observed, "I don't know what that portends for the state. The state's in something of a different position. The voters several years ago refined the workings of an education trust fund. Casino money goes into an education trust fund and needs to be used for just new spending on education

stuff. Some of it has gone into construction projects, but a lot of it has been basically sitting in the trust fund waiting to pay for the state's cost of the Blueprint. So basically, they've got money in the sock for 24, 25, 26 and they start feeling that pinch in '27."

"So, they're not quite feeling pressure the same way county governments are. But Baltimore City and Prince George's County and a number of small jurisdictions are already feeling that pressure locally. And we serve the same residents, we read the same newspapers, it's in the air. I don't know what that's going to mean for refinement or more tension. I think most folks who voted for the Blueprint are still committed to the goals. But what (does) that mean to the timetable and the expectation of what you do in year four versus year seven and whatnot? Some of that might be on the table as soon as this coming session."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso represents Calvert's interests with MACO during the legislative session for the myriad bills the organization logs in on.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



MACO Executive Director Michael Sanderson

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Zoning Change Would Increase Floodplain Elevation

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As planning and zoning staff continue to work on the update of the zoning ordinance, the planning commission got a briefing on several revised chapters of the document at their Sept. 20 meeting. One proposed change raises from two feet to four feet the required elevation of homes in the floodplain. That was the most significant change presented by Planner III / Zoning Will Hager for chapters relating to the critical areas, water dependent facilities, and floodplains.

Hager explained, "Building elevation is a technique that involves raising a building above the base flood elevation so that water can flow under the building during the flood event. Freeboard is the additional amount of height above the base flood elevation at which a structure's lowest floor must be elevated to be in accordance with regulations. It's also known as the flood protection elevation. These two terms, freeboard and flood protection elevation are sometimes used interchangeably.

"In Calvert County, freeboard is two feet above base flood elevation under the current regulations. In the draft zoning ordinance

CAVERT Zoning Ordinance UPDATE

update, it's proposed to be increased to four feet above the base flood elevation. The floodplain regulations also require electric and mechanical systems to be located above freeboard. And one of the proposed changes in the draft regulations includes requiring the surface of subdivision access roads in the floodplain to be at the flood protection elevation instead of the base flood elevation."

Hager explained, "According to a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) commissioned cost-benefit comparison, incorporating freeboard into new building construction can range from a quarter of a percent to 1.5 percent of the total construction costs for each foot of freeboard. However, the property owner will pay a lower flood insurance premium and reduce the risk of

sustaining foot damages in the long term."

Hager gave a tutorial on critical areas regulations, which were adopted in Calvert in 1988 to implement the requirements of the 1984 Maryland State Critical Area Act. He said, "The critical area includes all land within 1000 feet of the mean high-water line of tidal waters, or the edge of tidal waters. Statewide Critical Area Commission was created to oversee the development and implementation of local critical area programs. And our environmental planning staff worked closely with the Critical Area Commission when revising this article as substantive revisions require the approval of the state critical area commission."

Hager said, "The critical area protects natural resources by reducing runoff pollu-

tion and associated impacts, and there are requirements for vegetation and house lot coverage and restrictions on development in identified habitat protection areas."

Hager summed up proposed changes for critical areas, marine dependent facilities, and floodplains as:

"Article 22 (Critical Area) – Revised how the expanded Critical Area Buffer for steep slopes is delineated – Some disturbances of the Critical Area Buffer proposed to require administrative variance approval instead of having to go through the Board of Appeals variance process;

"Article 23 (Marine & Water Dependent Facilities) – Revised to clarify that private piers are allowed on undeveloped properties with a riparian right that are contiguous with a property lacking a riparian right that has a dwelling;

"Article 24 (Floodplain) – Revised definition of "substantial improvement" and the flood protection elevation raised from two feet to four feet."

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CALVERT SHERIFF'S CRIME BLOTTER

During the week of September 11 – September 17, 2023, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,634 calls for service throughout the community.

Damaged Property: 23-65760

On September 16, 2023, Deputy Lee responded to the 4100 block of Hidden Creek Road in Port Republic, for the report of damaged property. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect struck a mailbox causing it to break off the post. The estimated value of damaged property is \$150.00.

Theft: 23-65070

On September 13, 2023, DFC Mohler responded to the 3000 block of Ashwood Drive in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 and 1 p.m. on Sept. 13, an unknown suspect entered the victim's unlocked vehicle and stole a zebra print Jansport backpack and its contents. The estimated value of stolen property is \$105.00.

ARRESTS



On September 13, 2023, Deputy DeSantis responded to Traders Seafood Steak & Ale, located at 8132 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a subject trespassing. Investigation revealed **Elizabeth Marie Ireton**, 41 of no fixed address, had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Management observed Ireton sitting on the benches outside the restaurant. Ireton was charged with Trespassing: Private Property.



Upon arrival, deputies observed **Joshua**

Michael Stone, 40 of Mechanicsville, the sole occupant operating the vehicle in question. Stone was ordered out of the vehicle and asked if any of his personal property was still inside. Stone advised he had personal belongings in the vehicle and gave consent for deputies to retrieve them. During this time, Dep. Hendrickson and Deputy Plant located a suspected controlled dangerous substance (crack cocaine) inside the vehicle. Stone was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



On September 15, 2023, at approximately 11:15 p.m., DFC Idol was traveling northbound on Rt. 2 in the area of Wayside Drive in Sunderland, when he observed a motorcycle exceeding the posted 55 mph speed limit traveling at speeds over 85 mph. As DFC Idol activated his emergency lights and sirens, the driver of the motorcycle began passing vehicles at a high rate. The driver, identified as **Kyle Brendan Schuler**, 24 of Huntingtown, continued at a high rate and failed to stop in an attempt to elude DFC Idol. DFC Idol followed Schuler to a dead end where Schuler brought the motorcycle to a stop. Schuler was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Fleeing and Eluding, Speeding and other traffic violations.

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

Veterans Commission Gives Annual Report

Outpatient Clinic Hit with Staff Shortages



CALVERT COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMISSION

HONOR • ADVOCACY • RESPECT

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) received an update on the work of their Veterans Affairs Commission, now in its second year.

Commission Chairman Dr. Garrett Temple explained, "We have a representative from each of the three districts. We have one representative from each of four (American) Legion posts. We have a veteran business owner, and then a veteran educator or administrator position as well." They also have ex-officio members from the College of Southern Maryland and Calvert Library.

Temple said of their vision, "It's really focused on receiving our benefits and services that our veterans are entitled to. And that not just veterans, but also military personnel living in the county. But the mission statement really, I think, brings home what we're really trying to do here. It's not just about entitlements and benefits. It's about creating a community. It's about creating some fellowship between our veterans to support one another here in the county and to be there for one another."

Temple said, noting it's Suicide Prevention Month, "It's that peer to peer support that oftentimes saves a life because we can speak the same language as one another."

Temple said the commission has a certificate appreciation program "to recognize the businesses around this county that bend over backwards to support our veterans." For instance, Bull Rush Cafe provides free breakfasts to veterans on Tuesday that are made possible by businesses like CJ Johnson. The breakfasts have also been extended to first responders.

Temple reported, "Some of the feedback we've gotten this year in a lot of our different meetings and public events that we've had is always access to information. The VA, both Maryland and the federal, it's a very complex system. And what we've seen is that, especially the older veterans and their families, they have a harder time navigating those systems. They're not used to working on a computer."

Calvert Library offers those services, he said. "They can walk you through the internet and they have a veteran's team over there that can kind of work them through some of that stuff."

He said mental health and medical care is a nationwide problem for veterans. The nearby community-based outpatient clinics are contributing to access.

But Commission Vice Chair Pat McCoy said, "One of the issues that they're having, not just with the CBOCs (Community-Based Outpatient Clinics) here in Southern Maryland, but all over, is staff. They're not taking any new patients at the CBOC in Charlotte Hall because they're short on doctors. And so that's the thing that they're working on."

She said, however, the facility is "phenomenal."

Temple said the commission will have a booth at the county fair, handing out information on services for veterans.

Temple said, "The hard part about veterans is you have some 24-year-olds that are veterans and then you have World War II. I think we have two World War II veterans in the county. So you imagine that span 75 years or so of people and how each of those different demographics communicates their different needs. And it is the full gamut of things you can think of. And it's a difficult problem. And in many ways the VA has an impossible task to do given the limited resources that are available.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso praised the commission for its outreach at the fair. "I'm thinking, how do they get to these people? How does the public find out? And sometimes people have mental health issues. They have PTSD, they don't know where to turn, they get within themselves."

Regarding communication, Temple said, "Senior caregivers still read the local paper. That's where they get their information. They don't know how to use email or social media. And if they did, they don't want to use it."

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CALVERT COUNTY FAIR

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Senior Citizen & Special Needs Day: 9am – 4pm free admission and free bagged lunch (for Calvert Co. citizens) for seniors and special needs persons

Entertainment performing at various times throughout the day: Urias Daredevil, Aerial & Acrobatic Thrill Show • Big Bee • Chainsaw Carvings by Joe Stebbing Jr. • MD Agricultural Showcase Trailer • Pure Play Everyday

- 5:00 pm Carnival Opens (Wristband Night)
- 6:30 pm 4-H and Open Swine Show (Show Ring)
- 7:00 pm Calvert County Idol (Pavilion)
- 9:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close
- 10:00 pm Calvert County Fair and Carnival Closes for the night

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Youth Day: Calvert County Public Schools closed - youth under 18 free until 4:00 p.m.

"Canned Food to Feed the Hungry" Accepted at Gate from Youth

Entertainment performing at various times throughout the day: Urias Daredevil, Aerial & Acrobatic Thrill Show • Big Bee • Chainsaw Carvings by Joe Stebbing Jr. • MD Agricultural Showcase Trailer • Pure Play Everyday

- 9:00 am 4-H and Open Goat Show (Show Ring)
4-H and Open Sheep Show (Show Ring)
- 6:00 pm Southern Maryland Mini Pullers (Tractor Pull)
- 6:00 pm Southern Maryland Boot Scooters (Pavilion)
- 7:00 pm Calvert County Idol (Pavilion)
- 9:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close
- 10:00 pm Calvert County Fair and Carnival Closes for the night

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Entertainment performing at various times throughout the day:

Urias Daredevil, Aerial & Acrobatic Thrill Show • Big Bee • Chainsaw Carvings by Joe Stebbing Jr. • MD Agricultural Showcase Trailer • Pure Play Everyday

- 9:00 am 4-H and Open Cattle Show
- 10:00 am Carnival Opens
- 1:00 pm Corn Hole Tournament
- 5:00 pm 4-H Livestock Auction Registration
- 6:00 pm 4-H Livestock Auction (Show Ring)
- 7:00 pm Horse Pull (Track)
- 7:00 pm Calvert County Idol (Pavilion)
- 9:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close
- 10:00 pm Calvert County Fair and Carnival Closes for the night

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

Entertainment performing at various times throughout the day:

Urias Daredevil, Aerial & Acrobatic Thrill Show • Big Bee • Chainsaw Carvings by Joe Stebbing Jr. • MD Agricultural Showcase Trailer • Pure Play Everyday

- 10:00 am Fair Main Gates Open
- 10:00 am Antique Tractor Pull
- 10:30 am Calvert County Fair Children's Contest (Main Hall)
- 1:00 pm Horseshoe Pitching Contest
- 1:00 pm Chesapeake Country Cruizers (Pavilion)
- 3:00 pm 4-H and Livestock Awards Program
- 3:00 pm Music Fest Country Gentlemen Tribute Band (Pavilion)
- 5:00 pm Exhibit Buildings Close
- 6:00 pm Calvert County Fair and Carnival Officially Close for 2023



Thanks to the Calvert County Fair Board and all the volunteers that make the County Fair so special.

- Senator Jack Bailey

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What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their Sept. 20 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.



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

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

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

4) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed 75,099 sf of disturbance for commercial retail space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

5) CSPR-142988, **St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department**, located on Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard, on a 5.076-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village District Subarea B. This project will have public water but will utilize a private septic system. Proposed 4.1 acres of disturbance for demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a two-story, 40,280-sf fire & rescue service building with eight double loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

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

1) SD-142770, **Lusby Villas**, Lot 1, located on Lusby Parkway in Lusby. One commercial lot proposed on one parcel consisting of 24.87 acres, Zoned Lusby Town Center, Village Residential Office District, Tier I. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted January 26, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett

2) SD-142999, **Magnolia Ridge**, located on Fox Run Boulevard, Prince Frederick, on a 31.29-acre parcel, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District and will be served by public water & sewer. Proposed 164 Townhouse Units and 96 Apartments with a density of 8.3 units per acre. The project proposes 3.04 acres of recreation area and 12.58 acres of open space. The Preliminary Plan submittal was accepted August 23, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.

Comfort Dog Assists Victims and Witnesses



The Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office, now has the use of a comfort dog to assist crime victims and witnesses when they are required to come to court.

The dog, named "Dougall," is available on a case-by-case basis to provide emotional support to individuals who have experienced a traumatic or tragic event. He is particularly effective with victims of child abuse. Dougall is trained and certified to provide this service.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney



Letters to the Editor

Thanks from Contest Committee

The Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert Contest Committee 2023 would like to thank the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for their generous contributions:

- **Contributions to the Miss Tranquility 2023 and Lord Calvert 2023 Scholarship** – Rosedale Attractions & Shows
- **Scholarship for 1st Runner Up Miss Tranquility and 1st Runner Up Lord Calvert** – The HELP Association, Inc.
- **Flowers** – Floral Expressions
- **Proclamations** – Calvert County Board of County Commissioners
- **Sashes** – A & W Insurance Services, Inc.
- **Tiara** – G & H Jewelers
- **Judge's Gifts** – Calvert County Dept. of Communications and Media Relations
- **Contestant's Gifts** – Blair's Jewelry & Gifts, Calvert County Fair, Inc., and Calvert County Dept. of Communications and Media Relations
- **Emcee** – Sember Lester
- **Judges** – Fern Brown, Kenny Dyson, Louise Stine
- **Essay Judge** – Maureen Sengstack

- **Additional Contributions:** Dr. John Bubser, Glascock & Meenan Insurance Agency, Inc., and Sneade's Ace Home Center, Inc.

We had four contestants in the Contest. Miss Olivia Eyer, sponsored by Sean Bannon Golf Academy, was chosen as Miss Tranquility 2023 and crowned on September 24. Her Court was made up of Kelley Haina, sponsored by Kelkat Carpentry, 1st Runner Up.

Brett Sheranko, sponsored by Robert Sheranko, was chosen as Lord Calvert 2023. His Court was made up of Hank Valentin, sponsored by Patuxent Farms, 1st Runner Up.

Announcements were made throughout the Fair thanking the contributors for their help with the Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert Scholarship Contest 2023 and the names were in the program for the contest.

Thanks again to all the contributors and sponsors. The Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert Scholarship Contest 2023 would not be successful without your help and support. We could not have done it without you!

*Sincerely,
Nancy W. Zinn
Treasurer, Miss Tranquility and Lord Calvert Contest Committee*

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Sept 28

How to Fact Check Online

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
8120 Southern Maryland Blvd., Owings
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Concerned about fake news? Learn how to spot it and stop it from spreading! This interactive workshop will review the ways you can identify misinformation online. Laptops will be provided for those who register online before the event, but cannot be guaranteed for those who decide to drop in. Please call the library at 410-535-0291 or email James at james.angle@calvertlibrary.info for any questions. 410-257-2101.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. This 38' mobile center features 11 computer workstations, smart board instructional technology, satellite internet access, exterior audio visual and broadcasting capabilities; state-of-the-art workforce applications and connectivity for wireless mobile device access. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mobile Health Center from CalvertHealth

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come talk about your healthcare questions or needs because a simple change can make a difference in you or your family's life. Some of the services provided include cholesterol screenings, blood pressure checks, referrals, seasonal vaccinations, and more! For more information to view the full schedule or view an online tour of the vehicle visit them online. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Lawyers in the Library

St. John Vianney
105 Vianney Lane, Prince Frederick
1-3 p.m.

Need help with an expungement? Have civil legal questions? Meet briefly with an attorney to get hands on help. We will also be offering JobSource help with resumes and job searching and information about treatment, recovery, healthy lifestyles, conflict resolution, youth intervention, vocational training and more. Partners include MD Legal Aid, SoMD JobSource, and Healthy Beginnings from Calvert County Health Department and Calvert County Community Mediation Center. No cost. Registration is not required, 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

Children that need some extra help with reading build confidence by reading with teens! With snacks, games, and reading incentives! A program for K-5 graders to practice reading in a relaxed and welcoming group space! Teens get to participate in a meaningful experience by encouraging children and helping them with their reading skills. They can also earn a service hour for school. jess.swain@calvertlibrary.info 410-326-5289.

Sat, Sept 30

Daylily Plant Sale

Asbury Solomons Retirement Community
11100 Asbury Circle, Solomons
9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Get your flower power from over a hundred varieties of unique daylilies. \$10 per bag--CASH ONLY-- For more information, call 410-394-3491

Garden Smarter: The Utility of Volunteer Plants

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

Make a purposeful connection with some of the many volunteer plants that appear in our home gardens. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Oct 5

Sea Squirts: Otters and Friends

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

Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
Wed. through Sun., the month of Oct.
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour cruise on the river aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. If there is a cancellation due to inclement weather, you will be notified by the crew prior to the cruise. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children – infant through 12 years.

Dee of St. Mary's Dockside Tours

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturdays, the month of Oct.
1 – 4 p.m.

Step aboard the museum's sailing skipjack for an up-close tour of her 56 ft. deck with crew members during the off-season. Learn how watermen dredge for oysters, hoist the sails, and navigate the waterways of the Chesapeake. Included with museum admission.

Upcoming

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Museum admission is FREE all day.

One of Southern Maryland's longest running festivals celebrates its 45th year. This year's event will feature a weekend's-worth of fun, all in one day. Festivities include toy boat building, live music, boat rides, crafts, art vendors, and more!

Enjoy grabbing a bite to eat from a variety of food vendors on site. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

Monster Market

Annemarie Sculpture Garden
and Arts Center
Saturday, October 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Admission to the market area is free

Do you relish all things weird, wild, and wonderful? Do you like quirky, funky, bizarre, and off-beat stuff? Do you love Fall and all things Halloween-related? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, then this is the market for you! Let's indulge our love of autumn and the utterly monstrous with this over-the-top Monster Market featuring lots of treats inspired by the season. Well-behaved pets on a short leash are welcome; rain or shine event; no smoking or vaping. Food and drink will be available. Details: www.annmariegarden.org

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

To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County Times will make every attempt possible to publish late content, but cannot guarantee so. Letters may be condensed/edited for clarity, although care is taken to preserve the core of the writer's argument. Copyright in material submitted to the newspaper and accepted for publication remains with the author, but the County Times and its licensees may freely reproduce it in print, electronic or other forms. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of letters. The County Times cannot guarantee that every letter or photo(s) submitted will be published, due to time or space constraints.



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Outsourcing (abbr.)
- 4. Post
- 8. German city on edge of Black Forest
- 10. “___, but goodie”
- 11. Spiced stew
- 12. Passionately
- 13. Monetary units
- 15. Group of living organisms
- 16. Organic compound derived from ammonia
- 17. High honors
- 18. 5-year-olds’ classes
- 21. Swiss river
- 22. Old woman
- 23. Cash machine
- 24. A way to soak
- 25. Hair product
- 26. Deride
- 27. “The Blonde Bombshell”
- 34. Cause to become insane
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Supported with money
- 37. Type of equation
- 38. Court officials
- 39. Indian god
- 40. Rids
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Units of ionizing radiation
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Native of Slovakia
- 2. Deli meat
- 3. Fibrous substance in fungi
- 4. Cutting
- 5. Vedder and Van Halen
- 6. Horror comic novelist
- 7. Rulers of Tunis
- 9. Shaped like a circle
- 10. Make a pig of oneself
- 12. Aphorism
- 14. Witness
- 15. Single Lens Reflex
- 17. Freshwater North American fish
- 19. Nautical ropes
- 20. Leg (slang)
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. Moved quickly on foot
- 25. Fix-it shops
- 26. Type of bread
- 27. Repaired
- 28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. German city along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Get away from
- 34. Village in Mali
- 36. Djibouti franc

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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5	9	8	2	6	7	3	4	1
7	2	3	1	9	4	5	6	8

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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.

Fri, Sept 29

Leprechaun Lilly's Kids Consignment Sale

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
Leonardtown
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Leprechaun Lilly's 2023 Fall/Winter Kids & Teens Consignment Sale

Fri, Sep 29, 9AM-8PM—Public Sale, No Registration Required

Sat, Sep 30, 9AM-2PM—Half Price Day, No Registration Required

Help at the sale and shop early on Thursday night.

Nearly 20,000 gently used and new items at bargain prices!

LeprechaunLillys.com for more information and find us on Facebook at facebook.com/LeprechaunLillys.

Home School, Fire Prevention Event

Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free event for the community. We will be providing a Fire Prevention presentation. Each Fire Prevention topic such as "Stop

Drop, Cover your Face and Roll" will have discussion then a demonstration of the topic. Lots of audience participation will be encouraged. Following the presentation attendees will have a tour of the department with opportunities to have close up access to apparatus, trying on fire gear and other opportunities. Free light refreshments and fire prevention goodies bags will be distributed. Please RSVP by using email at firepreventionofficer@mvfd or seniorpalm-tree@aol.com.

Sat, Sept 30

Community Yard Sale

George F Dr., Mechanicsville
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Yard Sale! Tools, household items, furniture, vintage collectibles and more!!

Cruisin Southern Maryland 100 Mile Car Cruise & Car Show

Charlotte Hall Park & Ride
37750 Golden Beach Rd., Charlotte Hall
7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All Vehicles invited, cruise through three Southern Maryland Counties. Begins at 9:00 am at the Golden Beach Park & Ride and arrival at the last stop is estimated to be 2:30 pm at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home with a car show. Registration begins at 7:30 am. Maps and route info will be provided upon arrival. Optional Poker Run available for an additional \$10.00 per entry. Registration Fee is \$30.00 per Vehicle, includes free Cruisin' Southern Maryland Event T-Shirt for the first 150 vehicles. Pre-Registration by Sept. 15 www.CruisinSOMD.com (Rain date Oct. 1 weather permitting) Phone 240-538-4266

Cornhole Tournament

2nd District Social Hall 45245
Drayden Rd., Valley Lee
Noon

Registration at 12:00 p.m.—Bags Fly at 1:00 p.m.

Event will be inside!

Pre-registration is \$20 per person or \$25 at the door.

Register on Scoreholio / Contact Robin at 240-577-0270

Prizes for the top 3 teams!

Food, Drinks and Beer will be for sale!

50/50 Raffle & Auction

All proceeds to benefit 2nd District

Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad to continue to keep our community safe.

A Taste of St. Mary's

On the Square in Historic Leonardtown
1p.m. to 4 p.m.

Samples of restaurant, catering specialties and beverages will be available for purchase from our very own local businesses. Activities for kids and free entertainment. Admission and parking are free. Chance to win gift certificates from area restaurants and caterers. Vote for the People's Choice "Best"!

Vendor Spaces and sponsorships are still available.

For more information: info@smcchamber.com, call 301-737-3001, or visit smcchamber.com.

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit association of businesses and organizations working together to create a thriving economy for St. Mary's County and Southern Maryland. In accordance with these goals, the Chamber and its members are interested and involved in the well-being of the entire community. For further information on the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce, please contact the Chamber office, 301-737-3001 or our website smcchamber.com

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Tri County Livestock Auction
1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the Month – Auction begins at 4 PM
Located Off MD Rt. 6 West – Charlotte Hall, MD

Grocery Auction – Mother Catherine Academy
Thursday, October 12, 2023 – 6 pm
38833 Chaptico Road – Mechanicsville, MD

So. MD Fall Harvest Auction
Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 4 pm
Mums; Pumpkins & Fall Produce; Quilts; Locally-Raised, USDA Inspected Meats; Locally-Crafted Furniture; More
Westfield Farm Arena – 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mech., MD
We purchase hogs, beef, and lamb from Charles County and St. Mary's County 4H Livestock Auctions and have them processed at the Sudlersville Meat Locker (USDA facility). Packages will be vacuum-sealed and frozen. **Offering a variety of meat packages including steaks, roasts, hamburger, pork chops, ham steaks, sausage, bacon scrapple, and lamb.**
Bring your coolers!
A So. Md Auction Event supporting our local growers, producers & craftsmen!

Mechanicsville Vol. Rescue Squad Community Auction
(Chicken Dinners Available)
Friday, October 20, 2023 – 6 pm (Doors open at 4:30)
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville, MD (Moose Lodge)

So. MD Farm & Country Christmas Auction
Saturday, December 9, 2023 – 9 am
Local Handcrafted Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces; Local Grown Poinsettias; Handcrafted Quilts; Furniture & Crafts; Painted Signs & More
Westfield Farm Arena – 26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mech., MD
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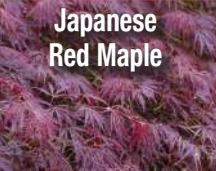
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All Perennials BUY 10 or More SAVE 10% OFF		Super Pack of 50 Bulbs ONLY \$29⁹⁹ ea.	

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		Premium 3 gal. Landscape size Ornamental Grasses BUY 5 or More SAVE 20% OFF	

TIME TO PLANT TREES		TIME TO FRUIT TREES	
 Japanese Red Maple	 Grape Myrtle	 Peaches	 Apples
Trees BUY 4 or More SAVE 20% OFF		Fruit Trees BUY 4 or More SAVE 10% OFF	

TIME TO PLANT SHRUBS		TIME TO PLANT NATIVE TREES	
 Itea	 Nandina Domestica	 Red Maple	 Magnolia
3 gal. Landscape size Shrubs BUY 5 or More SAVE 25% OFF		Any Native Tree Over \$75* SAVE \$25⁰⁰ OFF	

*Visit trees.maryland.gov to download a coupon valid for \$25 Off the purchase of any Native Tree priced at \$75 or more. There is a list of all qualifying trees on their website.
Calvert County residents can use their county tree coupon of \$35 Per Tree.
YES you can use both coupons and SAVE up to \$60 PER TREE.

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Oakville Garden Center & Landscape Project Center
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★ ST. MARY'S COUNTY **Library**



Libraries Closed for Indigenous Peoples Day and Columbus Day

All three locations of the St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Monday, October 9 for Indigenous Peoples Day and Columbus Day. All three locations will be open on Tuesday, October 10.

Lexicon: Quest

An event for people of all ages who love comic books, science fiction, fantasy, and superheroes! Join us at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 14 from 12 - 4:30 p.m. for trivia, an obstacle course for kids, a cosplay contest, workshops, and prizes! More details on www.stmalib.org.

Intermediate 3D Printing

Interested in designing 3D models and 3D printing? Join us at Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, October 10 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. as we cover the browser-based 3D modeling program, TinkerCAD, as well as how to use PrusaSlicer to prepare files for 3D printing. Some experience with 3D print technologies is recommend, but not required. This is an in-person class

held in the Computer Lab and Maker-space. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Bad Art Night: Teen Edition

Break all the rules you've ever learned about art! Create something new and totally unique using miscellaneous art materials. No talent required! We'll provide artistic inspiration but you are welcome to bring your own project to create. Leonardtown Library on Wednesday, October 11 from 5 - 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Top 13 Most Wanted Songbirds

What are the top 13 most wanted feeder birds in Southern Maryland? What types of bird feeders and foods do each of these birds prefer and how can you attract them to your yard? Join us virtually on Thursday, October 12 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in this talk with Barb Whipkey, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Lexington Park and LaPlata, to learn more about the habits of these Top 13 Songbirds! Register on www.stmalib.org to receive a Zoom link; the Zoom link will arrive via email one to two days before the program.

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

In Remembrance

Harold Hunt, 88



Joseph "Harold" Hunt, 88, of Charlotte Hall, MD, passed away on September 18, 2023, with his son Tim and his wife Yvonne by his side.

Harold was born on February 19, 1935, in Pomfret, MD to the late Joseph Anthony Hunt and Catherine Louise Langely.

He was a graduate of LaPlata High School in 1953. After graduating he enlisted in the Army National Guard during the Korean War. Harold had several jobs other than a farmer's son and was a grocery clerk at A&P, an oil burner mechanic for SMO, and then his life of fire service. He enjoyed the NASCAR races with his friends when they would fly a private plane to attend them. He had his own plane and was an avid pilot. Harold also enjoyed gardening and giving his harvest to the neighborhood friends and making sure his yard was in immaculate condition along with his Christmas lights. He loved having steamed crabs with his friends and family on weekends and golfing with his sons and his brother Bo. His side hobby was working on small engines and conversing with his neighbors. He could also be known as a jokester and during Halloween would sit at his home's front door as a statue and scare people.

Harold's fire career started when he joined the Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department in 1964 and worked his way up with schooling to the rank of Fire Chief. He remained Bryans Roads Fire Chief for 5 1/2 years and was President for one year. During his time as Fire Chief he became the first "County" Fire Chief by the Charles County Volunteer Fire Association. He obtained Life Membership from the Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department. During that time, he went to work for the U.S. Government at Indian Head for two years and transferred to Fort Myers in Virginia as a federal firefighter. Later moved to Quantico, Virginia as the Chief of Fire Prevention and Investigative Division for nine years. His final government journey with the fire service was when he moved to the Government Printing Office in Washington, DC as the Fire Marshall. He retired in 1990 with 29 years in the Federal Government. He joined the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department in 1989 to still serve his community and became a Life Member of the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a past member of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. After retiring he still had to be in the community and went to work for Bussler's Ford and Cartwrights Texaco. Harold was diagnosed with dementia 13 years ago and passed away from complications from COVID.

Harold is survived by his wife Elizabeth "Libby" Canter Hunt whom he had 40 wonderful years; sons, Joseph Hunt Jr. (Darlene) of Waldorf, MD, Timothy Hunt (Yvonne) of Bryans Road, MD, Barry Hunt of Marbury,

MD; stepchildren, Diane Johnson of Hollywood, MD, Garry Johnson (Sandie) of Mechanicsville, MD; siblings, Shirley Mae Scott (Louis (D)), Mary "Jean" Coombs (Howard (D)), Elizabeth Louise "Betty" Cooksey (Warren), Robert Keith "Bo" Hunt (Betty (D)), Helena "Ann" Coombs (D) (Reggie), James Allison "Jimmy" Hunt (Cecily (D)); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Harold loved his dogs.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 25, 2023, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department, 15245 Prince Frederick Road, Hughesville, MD 20637, with Fireman's Prayers at 7:00 p.m. A funeral service will be on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department. Interment will be at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Pallbearers will be Jason Hunt, Robert "Bo" Hunt, Tony Hunt, Steve Winkler, Cliff Scott, and Jerry Coombs. Honorary Pallbearers will be Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department and Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department.

Special thanks to Mary Julien and Jennie Copsey for their support during this time.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, PO Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727.

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

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

Nancy McKay, 73



Nancy Marie McKay of Arlington, Virginia passed away on the 12th of September.

Nancy was born to the late Joseph Calvert and Selma McKay on February 5, 1950 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

She worked for and with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for more than 40 years as a civil service employee in USAID/Washington; as a Foreign Service Officer in Africa and Washington; and as a part-time contractor for more than ten years. Although she started as a Secretary, she worked to get her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. so that she was able to advance to senior levels of the Agency. Although she worked on a wide range of development activities, the focus of her career was development activities in Africa, particularly, food aid and private sector development. After she retired in 2002, she worked to bring in new staff to USAID and to mentor this new staff.

Nancy met Donald Joseph Buschbaum in 1978. He was the love of her life and they were married in January 1980. Donald died in May of 1992. She is survived by her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate her life on Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Olde Breton Inn, 21890 Society Hill Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Gifts in honor of Nancy's memory should be made to an organization involved in international development or the environment.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Kevin Johnson, 60



Kevin Barry Johnson, 60, of Waldorf, MD, passed away on September 20, 2023.

Kevin was born on March 11, 1963, to Larry Toby Johnson and Roxanna Faye Sisler Johnson.

Kevin was a draftsman in patent reproduction. He married his beloved wife, Aimee Knightley on September 5, 1986. Together they had 2 children, Matthew and Kaitlyn.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Aimee; son, Matthew Spencer Johnson of Waldorf, MD; daughter, Kaitlyn Jean Johnson, MD; and husband Wayne Munday of Waldorf, MD; grandson, Noah Tucker Munday of Waldorf, MD; brother, Kyle Brent Johnson of Accokeek, MD; and sister, Karen Belinda Panciera; as well as many dear nieces and nephews and beloved friends.

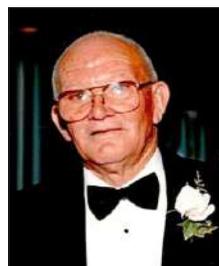
The family will receive friends for Kevin's Memorial Gathering on Thursday, September 28, 2023, from 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. with a Memorial Service at noon at Brinsfield Funeral Home & Crematory, 30195 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

In lieu of flowers, please share a kind word with a stranger in Kevin's name.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, Charlotte Hall, MD

Bill Lavender, 94



William Edward Lavender (Bill) of Leonardtown, MD left his earthly life to be with his Lord on September 20, 2023, at the age of 94 years.

Bill was born in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1928. His parents were Leona Mae Potter Lavender and Charles William Lavender. His siblings were Gladys Lavender Guy, Dorothy Lavender, and Charles William Lavender, Jr., all who predeceased him.

Bill lived for years on Saint George Island. After high school he learned the trades of carpentry and brick laying. Being employed with Dobry Construction Company and Duke and Frazier, Inc. over the years. Bill

left his mark on many of the homes and professional buildings in St. Mary's County. Some years later, he became a civil service employee and spent many years working at Webster Field in Saint Inigoes, MD as a woodcraftsman-retiring in 1995.

After retirement, Bill continued his love for woodworking in his shop with his hobbies-duck carving, decoy crafting, and model boat building. He also enjoyed recreational activities on the water. He continuously could be seen riding his John Deere and keeping his landscape in prestige condition to match the neighboring Breton Bay Golf Course.

Bill is survived by his wife of 65 years, Alice Dudley Lavender, whom he married on June 14, 1958 at St. George Island Methodist Church; his sons, Bruce Lavender and his wife, Susan, of Poughkeepsie, NY, Keith Lavender and his wife, Jo, of St. George Island; and a daughter, Jane Knott and her husband, Guy, of Leonardtown, MD. Bill has been blessed with two grandchildren, Matthew Lavender-Knott and MacKenzie Mead; plus three great grands, Colie Bateman, Connor Lavender-Knott, and the newest family member one year old, Evelyn Brooke Wimberly.

After his physical health issues slowed Bill down to a much lower gear, he enjoyed reading, puzzling, and bird watching-and of course spending time with his loving family. Bill was a member of St. George Island Methodist Church and the Thomas J. Shryock Masonic Lodge.

The family would like to thank Dr. Charles Benner and his medical group and all the physicians of the Shah Medical Associates and staff for their kind, professional services shown to Bill for so many years.

Bill spent the last month of his earthly life at the Hospice House of St. Mary's after being discharged from St. Mary's Hospital. Our thanks and appreciation go out tremendously to the doctors, nurses, and the fine staff members of both organizations for their love, kindness, and services.

The family is also grateful for the help and support of a long-time friend, Beth Cargill Reece.

Serving as pallbearers will be Bruce Lavender, Keith Lavender, Matthew Lavender-Knott, Glenn Guy, Mark Guy, and Christopher Morgan. Honorary pallbearers will be Guy Knott and MacKenzie Mead.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: First Saints Community Church, P.O. Box 95, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Services and interment will be held at St. George Island United Methodist Church on Friday, September 29, 2023. Visitation from 10 am to noon. Followed by funeral services at noon.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

FALL 2023



Fall Living
in Leonardtown

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors and partners noted below for helping to make these exciting Fall events possible!

Fall Events & Happenings:

The 5th Annual Scarecrow Stroll Contest

Beginning October 6, 2023

Octoberfest First Friday

Beginning October 6, 2023

Fall Bar Crawl

October 6, 2023

Bruderfest

October 7, 2023

The Tractor Parade

October 8, 2023

Coastal Arts Market

October 14, 2023

Vertigo Red Concert

October 14, 2023

Friends of the Poor Walk

October 21, 2023

(Rescheduled Date)

The Halloween Movie Fest

October 21, 2023

The 48th Annual Veterans Day Parade & Memorial Ceremony

November 11, 2023

Christmas on the Square & Tree Lighting Ceremony

November 24, 2023

Small Business Saturday

November 25, 2023



Learn About Upcoming Fall Events & Activities:

Visit LeonardtownMD.com/LeonardtownAE

Continued from pg. 9

Savor Solomons Food Truck Festival

Saturday, October 7
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Savor Solomons Food Truck Fest! Food trucks will be in two locations: the Tiki Bar and at No Thyme to Cook in Solomons.

Fall Family Fun Day

Sunday, October 8
12 - 1:30 p.m.
Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave.,
Chesapeake Beach

Drive Thru Only Event Hosted by the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. One goodie bag per child in vehicle. \$50 Amazon gift card for one lucky winner! Please note event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather conditions. 410-257-3892

9th Annual Craft and Vendor Show

Saturday, October 14
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Huntingtown United Methodist Church
4020 Hunting Creek Rd., Huntingtown,

Come see the wares of our local, talented crafters and vendors. Get a head start on your Holiday shopping. You'll see: hand-made jewelry, painted Christmas decor, knitted and crocheted items, glass art, soaps, oils, handcrafted woodworking, Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay, Tupperware, Origami Owl and much more!

14th Annual CalvertHealth Breast Cancer 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, October 14
Check-in begins at 7 a.m./ Warm-up 8 a.m.
Solomons Medical Offices
14090 HG Trueman Rd., Solomons

This is a great opportunity to support your community while connecting with friends and family for a great cause! Guaranteed t-shirts for all registrations before September 24, all registrations after will provided a t-shirt on a first come, first served basis. Cost: \$40 early bird or \$50 race day registration, 410-414-4570

Fall Art Show

Saturday, October 14
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Southern Maryland Sailing Association
14490 Solomons Island Rd, Solomons

Fall art show hosted by the Calvert Artists' Guild, Inc.

Historical Cooking Workshop

Saturday, October 14
10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard

Use traditional cooking techniques to recreate receipts (recipes) from the 18th and 19th centuries, using fresh, seasonal ingredients. This workshop is appropriate for ages 13 and up! Cost: \$20-\$25.

6th Annual Spirits & Steeds Fall Festival

Saturday, October 14
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 Flint Hill Road, Owings

Sip and savor exquisite tastings from a variety of breweries, wineries and distilleries. Dance along with the Nightlife Band or enjoy a performance from O'Grady Quinlan Academy of Irish Dance. Shop through our 50+ artisans & craft vendors or grab a bite to eat from available food trucks. Meet some of our horses in our new Meet-N-Greet area. There's plenty of activities, games, and fun for the whole family. Please see event for tickets details. Tickets Cost: \$20/attendee or \$25/attendee drink ticket; Free for children 15 years and younger.

Halloween in the Garden

Saturday, October 21
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Annmarie Sculpture Garden
and Arts Center
Advance timed-entry tickets required

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

Experience Calvert Festival

Saturday, October 21
12 p.m.
North Beach

Enjoy family fun activities and all the things that make Calvert County the place to visit! Start with family fun activities and continue throughout beautiful North Beach "The Jewel of the Chesapeake Bay". Taste the flavors of Calvert-great seafood, locally brewed beer, vintage wine, children's activities and more! Shop local businesses and enjoy the history and views that makes Calvert County so unique. Come early, stay late! Rain Date October 22. FREE

Halloween Drive-Thru

Friday, October 27
6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Hallowing Point Park
4755 Hallowing Point Rd., Prince Frederick

Bring the family to enjoy a drive through the park to enjoy Halloween displays. Various stops along the way will be sponsored by CCPR, local organizations and local businesses. Children up to age 12 will receive a small pumpkin and other goodies while supplies last! FREE, no registration required. Please note: entrance to the park for this event will be from Jibsail Road. FREE. 410-535-1600 ext. 8200

Hound of the Town

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

A costume parade just for dogs and dog lovers! This dog costume parade will take place on the boardwalk. Owners will walk

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

Boo Bash

Sunday, October 29,
Registration is from 2:15 - 3 p.m.
Panel and judging begins at 3 p.m.
North Beach Pavilion
9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach

Family fun in North Beach! Children's costume contest (registration 2:15-3:00 p.m. on the pavilion), followed by parade and judging and trick or treating at local businesses. 301-855-6681.

American Indian Heritage Day

Saturday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard

Celebrate 10,000 years of history and culture with activities, educational demonstrations, native dancers and more! FREE

Celebrating 10 Years in Business

**SEMI-ANNUAL
CONSIGNMENT
AUCTION**

2-DAY SALE • ONLINE & LIVE

OCT. 13 • 8:30AM
Vehicles • Farm Equipment
Heavy Equipment

OCT. 14 • 8:30AM
Antiques • Flowers • Tools • Vintage Cars
Mowers • Lawn Equipment • and More

See Equipment at EquipmentFacts.com

TAKING CONSIGNMENTS NOW



HAYESAUCTIONSERVICES.NET
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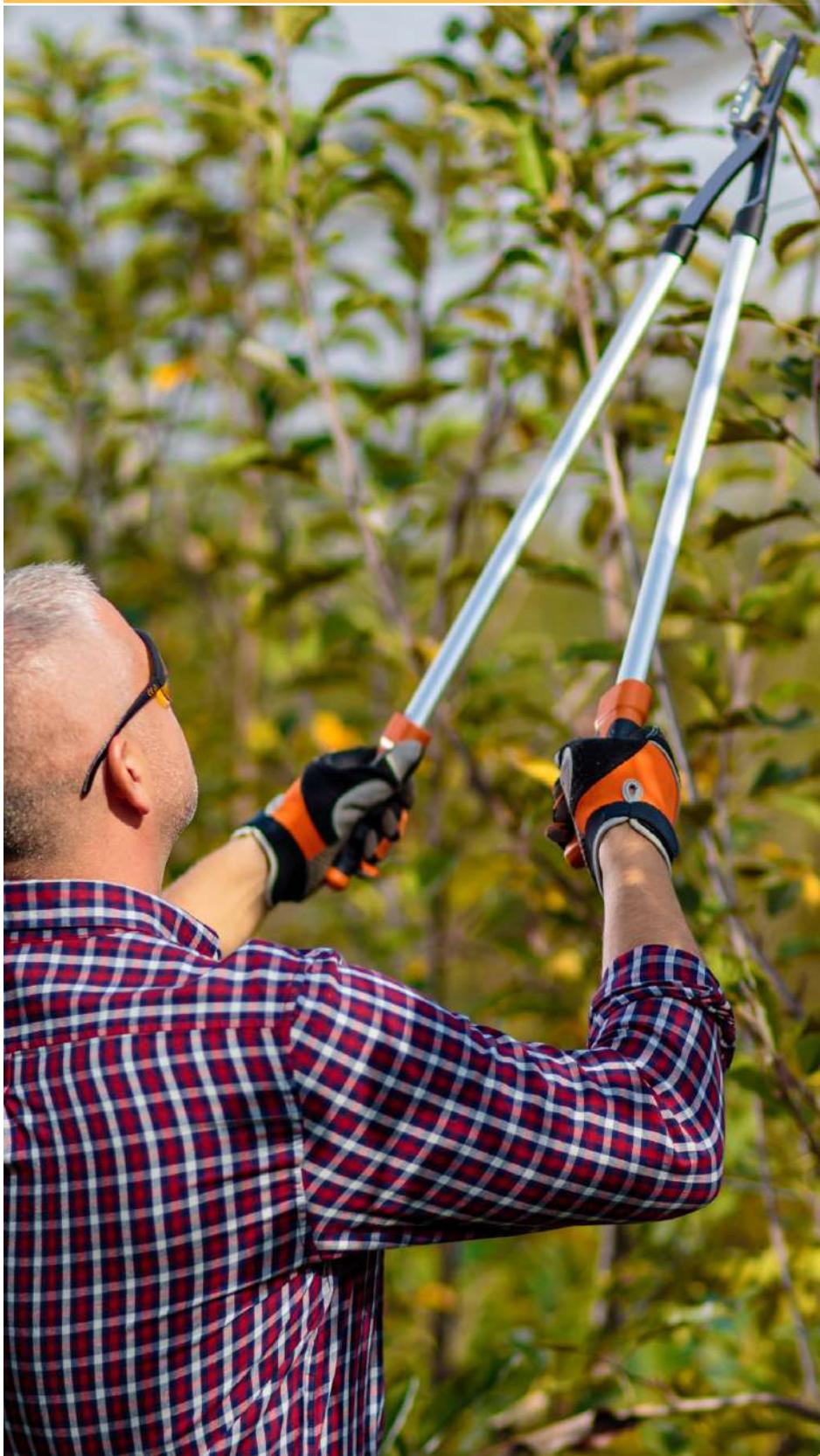
LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS
SERVING CALVERT & ST. MARY'S COUNTIES

ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY THURSDAY & ONLINE AT COUNTYTIMES.NET

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert Co.



In addition to overhead lines, SMECO has many underground electric lines. Call **Miss Utility** at **811** before you dig.



Stay safe around power lines



As we slide into fall, many people are finishing projects around the house and yard in preparation for the coming winter months. It's important to stay safe and be aware of overhead power lines. Look up.

- Never climb power poles or transmission towers.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- Keep equipment away from overhead lines when carrying ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning tools.
- If you are doing work close to power lines—such as trimming trees, working on your roof, or doing exterior renovations—keep yourself, your ladder, and anything you are handling a safe distance from the power line.
- Contact SMECO to disconnect power if you are doing work that requires close contact with overhead lines attached to your home.
- Use a licensed electrician for all electrical work.
- Plant trees away from power lines.



Download our free mobile app or use our texting service to report an outage or pay your bill.
smeco.coop/services



CALVERT Fall Fun CALENDAR

Harvest Festival 10-Year Celebration

Sunday, October 1
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Horsmon Farm
1865 Horsmon Farm Ln., St. Leonard

Fridays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. [September 23 through October 29]

Family fun on the farm includes farm animals, pumpkin patch, hay rides, mazes, rubber duck races and much more! See event page for link to purchase tickets. 443-532-5761

Cost: \$12.00/Child ages 2-12 (sm. pumpkin incl. while supplies last); Kids under 2 free; \$10.00/adult.

2nd Annual Invasives Festival

Sunday, October 1
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard

A fun-filled free day of DIY and hands-on activities all about removing and repurposing invasive species. Come create your own baskets, straw mats, laundry detergent and much more, all from invasive plants and

insects! Celebrate all of the ways to reuse unwanted plants and animals! Festival will be held at The Pavilion.

Pumpkin Carving Night

Wednesday, October 4
4 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tettimers' Produce Stand at Rolling Acres Farm
3305 St. Leonard Road, Port Republic

Carve your pumpkin right where you purchase it! Carving supplies will be provided. 443-532-7891, Cost: Purchase pumpkin at the farm, carving supplies will be provided.

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Saturday, October 7
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
Museum admission is FREE all day

One of Southern Maryland's longest running festivals celebrates its 45th year. This year's event will feature a weekend's-worth of fun, all in one day. Festivities include toy boat building, live music, boat rides, crafts, art vendors, and more!

Enjoy grabbing a bite to eat from a variety

of food vendors on site. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

Lower Marlboro Freedom Day

Saturday, October 7
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church
6519 Lower Marlboro Lane, Owings

Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings

As the War of 1812 raged into the summer of 1814, British troops sailed up the Patuxent River in a bid to take Washington, D.C. On their way, they stopped at the port of Lower Marlboro in what is now Owings to commandeer supplies and offered freedom to local enslaved men and women in exchange for their service to the British war effort. Fourteen people won their freedom that day, on what we now commemorate as Lower Marlboro Freedom Day.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to enjoy the fall weather while celebrating our local history and heritage. Free Parking.

Festivities include:

- Speakers
- Entertainment
- Food and exhibits

- Walking tours

Maryland Department of Natural Resources will host a free fishing at the pier; under 16 years old do not require a fishing license; those older than 16 should apply for their license before the event. A valid Maryland fishing or crabbing license is required. 410-535-5327

Monster Market

Saturday, October 7
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Annemarie Sculpture Garden and Arts Center
Admission to the market area is free

Do you relish all things weird, wild, and wonderful? Do you like quirky, funky, bizarre, and off-beat stuff? Do you love Fall and all things Halloween-related? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, then this is the market for you! Let's indulge our love of autumn and the utterly monstrous with this over-the-top Monster Market featuring lots of treats inspired by the season. Well-behaved pets on a short leash are welcome; rain or shine event; no smoking or vaping. Food and drink will be available. Details: www.annemariemart.com

Continued on pg. 11

You're Invited!
Bröderfest 2023
Saturday, October 7th

The Lineup:
11 AM Parade
Leonardtwn Square

At the Bru:
Fresh Pint Band
Beer Tasting
Weiner Dog Races
Games & Prizes
Frosty Beverages
Excellent Eats

Register for dog costume contest & races at the bRu by Oct. 6th!

BRÜ Brudergarten Beer Garden
22725 Duke Street, Leonardtown, MD
www.brudergarten.com

2023 Bowles Farms Corn Maze
"Celebrating 23 Years Of Getting Lost In The Corn"
2023 Maze Theme: **Think Pink**

www.BowlesFarms.com

Location
Rt.234 and Pincushion Rd
22880 Budds Creek Road
Clements, MD 20624
301-475-2139

Enjoy...2 Phase Maze
Giant Slides, Kids Play Area
Barn Yard Animals
Food & Refreshments
Large Covered Pavilion
Inside Restrooms
Pumpkins For Sale

Farmer's Daughter Cupcake Shop

Fall Season Runs
Sunday - Oct 1st through Sunday - Oct 29th

Hours Of Operation Information
Friday's: By Appointment Only (School/Daycares Only)
9:30AM to 1:30PM
Saturday's: 10:00AM to 6:00PM
Sunday's: 10:00AM to 5:00PM

Admission Rate
\$15.00 Per Person (3 and Under Free)

Clean - Safe - Out Door Fall Fun
NO PETS ALLOWED
Fall October Fun!

55TH ANNUAL

**NEW
LOCATION
FOR 2023**

Blessing *of the* Fleet

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND

47414 OLD STATEHOUSE RD • ST. MARY'S CITY, MD 20686

Celebrating Local Waterman & the Heritage of St. Mary's County

Featuring family entertainment, local food, art and craft vendors, waterman of the year award, blessing ceremony, evening concert and fireworks

- 12pm-4pm Car Show
- 12pm-4pm The Maryland Dove is Open to Visitors
- 12pm-5pm Pony Rides and Petting Zoo
- 12pm-5pm Water Taxi
- 12pm-7pm Crafters are Open
- 12pm-9pm Food Trucks are Open
- 1pm Welcome, National Anthem
- 1:15pm Boat Blessing, Waterman of the Year
- 1pm Blue Sky Puppet Show in Kids Tent
- 2pm Gracies Guys and Gals
- 3pm Blue Sky Puppet Show in Kids Tent
- 4pm Vertical Dance Group
- 5pm-6:30pm Out of Order and Friends
- 7:30pm-9pm Amish Outlaws
- 9pm Fireworks Display



OUT OF ORDER & FRIENDS



AMISH OUTLAWS

**HOSTED BY THE
7TH DISTRICT OPTIMIST CLUB**

The Blessing of the Fleet is a time-honored tradition of blessing the boats of the Southern Maryland watermen.

Facebook.com/BlessingofTheFleetSOMD



Continued from pg. 5

\$4 per child/ HSMC Members \$3. One accompanying adult free. Full-day admission included.

Leonardtwn Summer Music Festival

Saturday, October 14
8 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Leonardtwn Wharf

Spend the day lounging by the water's edge, taking in some live music, and eating at one of the neighborhood eateries. Whether you want to relax in a beach chair or hang out in the square, the Town of Leonardtown is the perfect place to do so with friends and family. Music by Vertigo Red (8 - 11 pm)

Lost City

Saturday, October 21
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City

Come join HSMC for a FREE Trick-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza! Explore the Maryland Dove, chat with pirates, get your fortune told, and play games. Don't miss out on this spooktacular event!

Lost City activities will end at 8:30 p.m. Donations are appreciated.

For more information call 301.994.4371 / 301.994.4372 or visit the website at HSMCdighistory.org/visit/calendar/.

Parking is available off of Old State House Rd, St Mary's City, MD 20686

U.S. National Oyster Festival

Saturday, Oct. 21 - Sunday, Oct. 22
St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown

At the National U.S. Oyster Festival, you can enjoy oysters, live music, artisan beer, and more over the course of the weekend. Oysters can be eaten raw, scalded, grilled on the grill, on toast, on the half shell, stewed, naked, cooked in savory sauces, in salads, and even in desserts, in almost any form you can think of.

What festival is complete without a bit of competition? With the Oyster Shucking Competition, see the best oyster shuckers in the country compete for the title of U.S. National Oyster Shucker. With the U.S. Oyster Cook-Off, you can see who can prepare the best oyster dish.

Hearth Cooking Workshop: Gingerbread Past

Saturday, November 11
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City

Join HSMC and learn more about the surprising history of the sweet and spicy treat. This informative, interactive workshop will provide you with hands-on experience in preparing gingerbread using two historic recipes and cooking techniques. After the baking is complete, you'll have the opportunity to sample your delicious creations.

Ages 12 & older

Cost: \$30 /HSMC Members \$25

Registration required, payment is due upon registration

Info / Register: email hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov; 301.994.4371 / 301.994.4372

Veterans Day Parade

Saturday, November 11
Town Square, Leonardtown

The Commissioners of Leonardtown and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County invite the public to salute America's Veterans at the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Leonardtown. The parade steps off from St. Mary's Ryken High School at 10 a.m., proceeds through Town and is immediately followed by a Memorial Ceremony in Leonardtown Square. For more information contact: brandy.blackstone@leonardtwnmd.gov or 301-475-9791.

Hearth and Home

Friday, Nov. 24 - Saturday, Nov. 25
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City

Join Historic St. Mary's City for one last open weekend of the year in 2023 and take a leisurely walk through the beautiful museum grounds. Breathe in the crisp fall air and enjoy the comforting smells of home, as Historic St. Mary's City interpreters prepare historical meals inspired by the lifestyles of English colonists and Indigenous people from the 1600s.

Bring a canned good for Chaplin House and save \$1 on admission.

General admission. Free for members.

Info: 301.994.4370 or email info@hsmc-dighistory.org
www.HSMCdigsHistory.org

Southern Maryland
HERITAGE FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 7 & 8 **CELEBRATING WHAT MAKES SOMD UNIQUE**
12 PM - 5 PM

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD TRUCKS - BEER - WINE
ARTISAN VENDORS - DEMONSTRATIONS
EXHIBITS - KID-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

ADMISSION
ADULTS: \$25 IN ADVANCE - \$30 AT THE GATE
YOUTH (13-18): \$10
KIDS 12 AND UNDER: FREE

44300 SOTTERLEY LANE, HOLLYWOOD, MD

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Historic
SOTTERLEY
CIRCA 1703




Horsmon Farm's

Harvest
Festival




www.horsmonfarm.com

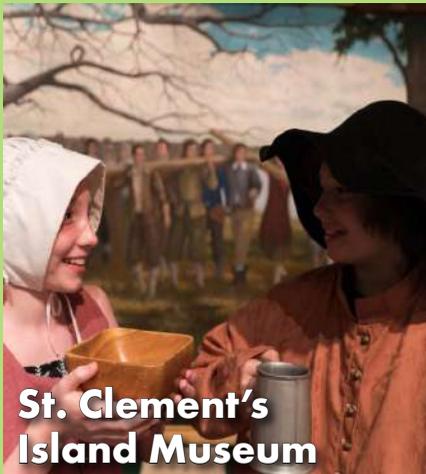
A Calvert County Fall Tradition



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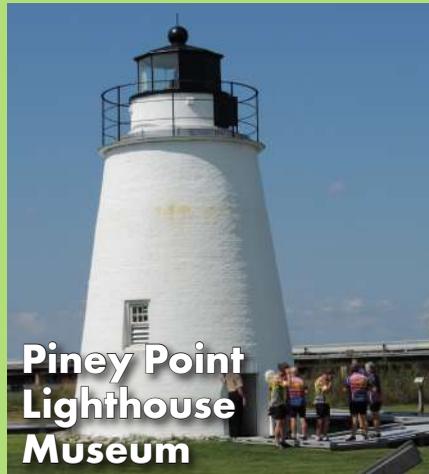
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AUTUMN IS THE PERFECT TIME TO VISIT ST. MARY'S COUNTY MUSEUMS



St. Clement's Island Museum

38370 Point Breeze Road
Colton's Point, MD 20626
Open Daily, 10a.m. – 5p.m.
Facebook.com/SCIMuseum
301-769-2222



Piney Point Lighthouse Museum

44720 Lighthouse Road
Piney Point, MD 20674
Open Daily, 10a.m. – 5p.m.
Facebook.com/1836Light
301-994-1471



Old Jail Museum

41625 Courthouse Drive
Leonardtwn, MD 20650
Open Daily, 10a.m. – 5p.m.
Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum
240-925-3427

FREE ADMISSION



Drayden African American Schoolhouse

18287 Cherryfield Road
Drayden, MD 20630
Open select days or by appointment
Facebook.com/DraydenSchool
301-994-1471



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THE HAUNTING AT PINEY POINT



FREE

All Ages
Welcome

MORE INFO

SCAN ME!



October 27 & 28
5PM - 9PM

A FAMILY FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN EXPERIENCE

ST. MARY'S Fall Fun CALENDAR

DME Racing Fall Nationals @ Maryland International Raceway

Friday, Sept. 29 – Sunday, Oct. 1
27861 Budds Creek Rd., Mechanicsville

The Xxtreme Dragbike Association ends their season with the 31st annual DME Racing Fall Nationals at the Maryland International Raceway. The event features the Orient Express Pro Street class that run speeds over 230 mph in only 6 seconds, and the “Running of the Bulls” Grudge Program on Saturday night with the baddest Grudge racers in the game!

Over 700 Professional, Sportsman, and Grudge motorcycle racers will also be in competition all weekend long, battling it out for over \$90,000 in cash purse at this event. And don't forget the vendor midway will be full of great deals on motorcycle parts, accessories and apparel.

Admission tickets must be purchased at the gate. An adult weekend pass is \$45, or an adult 1-Day pass is \$25. A Junior (12-15) weekend pass is \$20, or a Junior 1-Day pass is \$10. Kids 11 & under are free.

Sunset Cruises

Friday, Sept. 29 – Saturday, Sept. 30
Point Lookout Marina

16244 Millers Wharf Rd., Ridge
Admission: \$35

Admire the stunning scenery of the St. Mary's River with Captain Phil aboard the Lisa S., a 48-foot vintage Chesapeake Bay charter boat. This small-group cruise departs from Point Lookout Marina and takes you on a stunning ride past historic St. Mary's City.

Bring your favorite snacks, drinks, and adult beverages aboard and enjoy the wonderful sights and sounds of nature. Or, stop in SALT Waterfront Kitchen, conveniently located at the marina, before or after your cruise for a hearty meal and refreshing drinks.

Cruises welcome guests aged 12 and up and are available most Fridays and Saturdays from June-October.

Blessing of the Fleet

Saturday, September 30
12 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City is proud to be the backdrop for the 7th District Optimist Club 2023 Blessing of the Fleet, which celebrates St. Mary's County's ties to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the watermen who work its waters. Blessing of the Fleet commemo-

rates the time-honored tradition of blessing the Southern Maryland watermen's fleet of boats.

The event will feature family entertainment, local food, art and craft vendors, a blessing ceremony, an evening concert, and a fireworks show!

Band line-up:
5 – 6:30 p.m. Out of Order
7:30 – 9 p.m. Amish Outlaws
Fireworks begin around 9 p.m

Octoberfest First Friday Weekend

Friday, Oct. 6 – Sunday, Oct. 8
Leonardtown
Admission: Free

Vote for your favorite scarecrow decorated by Leonardtown businesses in the 5th Annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest, don your Lederhosen and watch the Brüderfest Parade, and visit area businesses for Octoberfest events and activities (including the Brüderfest Celebration at Brüdergarten)!

Southern Maryland Heritage Festival

Saturday, Oct 7. – Sunday, Oct. 8
Historic Sotterley
44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood

Experience the unique heritage and history of Southern Maryland on the beautiful grounds of Historic Sotterley. This two-day festival features skilled artisans, cultural foods, a variety of spirits, live music, demonstrations, children's activities, and family fun. Whether you're familiar with the area or are visiting for the first time, you are welcome to join in learning and celebrating what makes this area so rich in culture and community.

Little Explorers: Going on a Leaf Hunt

Wednesday, October 11
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation
47621 Old Cove Rd., Lexington Park

It's unbe-leaf-able how many different types of leaves there are. You and your toddler are invited to join HSMC and take a leaf hunt - scouring the museum grounds for leaves large and small! Little Explorers will listen to a story, stretch and wiggle to music, have time for play, and create a craft with their leaf findings.

For pre-school children; ages 3-5 years old and an accompanying adult.

Continued on pg. 7

Sue Ann

ARMITAGE

for JUDGE

I'm proud to have had a career dedicated to service, from providing free legal assistance to active-duty military at Naval Air Station Patuxent River to helping clients of the Family Advocacy Center.

As your Circuit Court Judge, I'll continue this commitment to serve, ensuring justice, safety, and fairness for all.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DONATE,
PLEASE VISIT VOTEARMITAGE.COM

By Authority of Friends of Sue Ann Armitage, Eric Sweeney, Treasurer




**AWE!
SHUCKS!**



IT'S TIME FOR THE 57TH ANNUAL U.S. OYSTER FESTIVAL

Presented By The Rotary Club of Lexington Park

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

10AM - 6PM

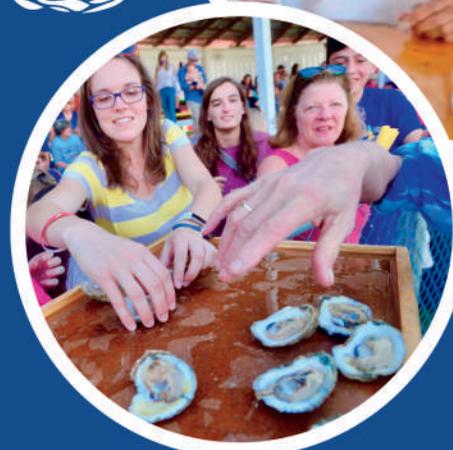
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

11AM - 6PM

SINGLE DAY TICKETS \$15

TWO-DAY PASS \$20

KIDS UNDER 10 FREE



U.S. OYSTER SHUCKING CHAMPIONSHIP

NATIONAL OYSTER COOK-OFF



LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD & ARTISAN VENDORS



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



St. Mary's County Fairgrounds
Leonardtown, Maryland

TICKETS AND MORE INFO AT
VISITSTMARYSMD.COM/OYSTERFEST-2023

SCAN FOR
INFO!



Sotterley to Hold Southern Maryland Heritage Celebration



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For decades Historic Sotterley Plantation in Hollywood has been doing its part to preserve St. Mary's County history and culture — memories of both good and bad — from war and peace and slavery to freedom, living off the land and the water.

Now Sotterley is preparing to host, for the first time, a Southern Maryland Heritage Festival bringing in the history and culture of the entire region for a weekend starting Oct. 7.

"We want to reach across the counties... there will be a lot of people from different museums from around the region" said Nancy Easterling, executive director at Sotterley. "Pretty much all of our activities will be family oriented and friendly for small [children's] hands."

Demonstrations at the two-day festival will include blacksmithing, how to fashion decoy ducks and even crabbing.

"We'll even have a demonstration for people who've never gone fishing," Easterling said.

Stuffed ham demonstrations will be a key

part of the festival; one of the key aspects of Southern Maryland food culture is this dish that has its start in St. Mary's County, which harkens back to days when families lived in close proximity to each other and ate what they raised on their own lands.

In those times, hams were more plentiful than many other meats and cabbage, kale and hot spices stuffed into it after being deeply brined made for a meal suitable for large family gatherings.

Antique artifacts such as tools and other trappings of life in Southern Maryland from yesteryear will be on display for visitors to see and learn from, Easterling said.

The plantation's saw mill equipment will also be open to the public so they can learn about some of the other economic activities workers at the centuries-old plantation engaged in to make a living there.

Musical performers, food vendors and even a magic show for children are scheduled.

Easterling said the event is set to take place rain or shine.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Blessing of the Fleet Gets A New Venue



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After more than five decades of holding the Blessing of the Fleet celebration at the St. Clements Island Museum in Colton's Point, the 7th District Optimist Club will be holding the celebration at Historic St. Mary's City this weekend.

The temporary move, which leadership at the club announced earlier this year, was necessitated by the impending demolition of the current museum.

"That has not happened," explained County Commissioner Mike Alderson, a member of the 7th District Optimists, at the Commissioners of St. Mary's County meeting Sept. 26. "We had already made the plans to make the move and we have to follow through with those plans."

"It's not going to be permanent at St. Mary's City."

Despite the change, Alderson was confident that the single day event — Sept. 30 — would still be a success.

"Just come out and hopefully, we'll have a great weekend," Alderson said. "It's a great community event and we look forward to hitting a different population of the county."

Gates open at noon this Saturday, with

the event featuring family activities and exhibits from local craft vendors and food.

The new Maryland Dove will be open to visitors that day and two musical acts — Out of Order and Friends and the Amish Outlaws will be performing at night, followed by a fireworks display at 9 p.m.

The event closes at 10 p.m.

This celebration began 55 years ago as a way for the local Catholic church to reach out to the community by blessing the many fishing vessels that plied the local waters for seafood; though that fleet has dwindled several fishing vessels still come out for the blessing each year.

Normally a two-day affair, the celebration has been compressed to a single day this year.

Plans to demolish the aging St. Clements Island Museum are still in effect but have been delayed.

The demolition will make way for a new museum with two floors and additional displays focusing on a broader and deeper interpretation of the history of St. Mary's County, particularly the indigenous people who called it home before the arrival of English colonists in 1634.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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beautiful autumn.*

- Judge Amy Lorenzini



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By Authority: Keep Judge Amy, Alesha Boyd, Treasurer

Southern Maryland

Fall Fun





Letters to the Editor

Saints in St. Mary's

I am grateful, as a new resident of Leonardtown, to find so many helpful people, including apartment leaders Erin and Teresa — oh, and the ever-neighborly Billy. Transit bus drivers are friendly and informative, and here's a shout-out to driver Dave for his input on three-wheel motorcycles (two on the front, for stability). Let's not forget E-biker Jess on versatility and low-cost possibilities at the MedStar St. Mary's Hospital bike rack.

Then there was the most extraordinary thing, when Jake, Salonga and their baby proffered a ride home to a man and his groceries after a long wait outside a store.

I hope I got all the names right, because there really are a lot of saints in St. Mary's County.

*Craig Walker
Leonardtown*

Overlooked Bridge Options

I see again all the discussion of "building a new bridge at Solomons". Again, as a resident of Calvert County and someone that uses the current bridge, I will re-iterate some alternatives that never seem to be discussed.

First the current bridge may need maintenance, but with appropriate maintenance should last for many more years. Among the changes that would be included is limiting the weight and type of vehicle allowed to use that route.

Second, the only reason the current bridge is so appreciated is the nice view it provides from the shore as well as for the passengers crossing it. IT should also be mentioned that the design of the current bridge was not for graceful beauty but for the need for larger US Navy vessels to enter a now closed, non-existent test facility just upriver

Its degradation rate would likely be long postponed if only cars and light trucks were allowed to use it.

That Route 4 needs a better crossing is not debated, but I again suggest that a suitable bridge could be built at a slightly more northerly location in the Lusby Area of Calvert and carrying traffic to the appropriate location in St. Mary's County to meet MD 235, north of current MD 4.

On the Calvert side much of the land in

that area is already owned by the County. This would reduce acquisition cost for the access.

On the St. Mary's side, a landing location could be defined where the distance from the river would avoid minimum disruption to meet MD 235. Such an appropriate location could also protect existing state and county park and recreation areas from encroachment by other developments.

The chosen location would require a bridge that should be 4 lanes and as the river is not as deep there, reduced cost and difficulty of construction would be possible. The boat/ship's channel would require a gradual elevation and descent on the other side (either way) to permit sailboats and the occasional larger vessel with similar height wheelhouses or other vertical equipment to pass under it.

On both connections at RT's MD 4 and MD 235, appropriate cloverleafs or "flyovers" could be built.

This would maintain the beautiful sunset views at Solomons and St. Mary's locations while enjoying a crabcake as well as an additional, efficient crossing. Both counties would benefit from some version of these suggestion.

*Respectfully suggested,
Aurelio Azpiaz*

A View From The BLEACHERS



OUR BETTER SELVES

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.
Contributing Writer

The local Doppler radar looked benign last Saturday morning. Light rain bands passed through D.C. and others loomed across the northern neck of Virginia, but Southern Maryland was precipitation free. This was a surprise, given the warnings and promised weather calamity from tropical storm Ophelia. But the visual was deceptive.

A wider perspective revealed a massive system spreading rain from South Carolina to western Pennsylvania. When set in motion, the image suggested this day would be best spent on the couch watching college football.

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke those words a long time ago. It came to mind when considering the stark difference between Ophelia's narrow and expanded radar imagery. It's fascinating how seemingly unrelated things connect.

Very different conclusions can be drawn from a simplified, micro or immediate consideration — a singular experience, a day or even a year — of an issue as opposed to broad, long-term analysis. As a stock investor will tell you, growth isn't linear; markets rise over time, but they do occasionally fall.

The arc of social progress has encountered recent headwinds. The FBI reported a 35% increase in hate crimes in 2021. African Americans were the most likely to suffer from race-based crime; incidents against Asian Americans were also disproportionately high. Sikhism and Judaism were the most victimized religions. Hate crimes based on sexual orientation increased sharply, and gay and transgender victims were the most likely to be murdered.

A reflective pause to consider that last paragraph is appropriate. Sobering. Disturbing. Infuriating. Words that come to mind. One that didn't: surprise. These statistics offered no revelation. For a window into society's pre-existing fear and consequential anger, see Bud Light.

There is, as always, hope. Sports are, despite obvious flaws, fabulously integrated (at least on the field); performance — not appearance, race, national origin or belief system — remains the ultimate determinant of advancement. The best player in baseball is Japanese (Shohei Ohtani). A Serbian (Novak Djokovic) is the greatest men's tennis player of all time and the reigning NBA Finals MVP (Nikola Jokic). The face of the NFL is biracial (Patrick Mahomes). Women's sports have never been better or more popular. The WNBA is having a moment and its best player just happens to be lesbian (New York Liberty star Brianna Stewart). While typing this piece (a tip of the cap from the universe?), news broke that Haley Van Voorhis, a safety for Shenandoah University, had just become the first female non-kicker to appear in a college football game.

Despite the hate crime statistics and palatable sense of national tension, these examples indicate a progressive, increasingly tolerant world. Another recent sports event offered additional, macro-level evidence — a widened Doppler view, if you will — of social progress and Dr. King's moral arc. After Coco Gauff won the U.S. Open a few weeks ago, Billie Jean King was among the on-court luminaries. King, after winning the 1972 U.S. Open, demanded equal pay for the women's champion. A year later, the same year King beat Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match, and 50 years before Gauff's championship, the women's and men's champions received the same prize money.

More time travel: Gauff's victory occurred over 20 years after Serena and Venus Williams took over women's tennis. At the time, the Williams's were more prepared to dominate the sport than the sport was ready for two dynamic, proud and unique African American talents from Compton, California to dominate it. Thanks to the Williams's, Gauff's victory occurred in a very different world; her U.S. Open title was less a celebration of race and more about her being proof of the Williams's legacy and the opportunity Gauff now has to influence young girls around the globe.

This is all evidence of progress. Slow. Inconsistent. But undoubtedly measurable progress. That it comes from sports should not surprise; our games, while imperfect, have consistently been a leader on inclusion and acceptance, an example of our better selves and proof, even in the most challenging moments, that Dr. King's quote is undeniable fact.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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Individual: \$95 | Couple: \$180
Sponsor: \$340 each, \$410 per couple
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12-Oz., Selected Borden American Singles
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16.3-Oz., Selected Pillsbury Grands! Biscuits
2/\$6



15-Oz., Whole Milk Or Skim Galbani Ricotta Cheese
2/\$6

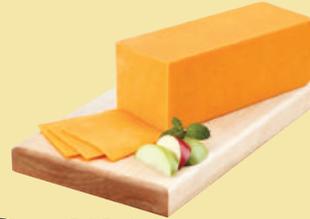


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19.89 10-Oz. Cans 24-Pack Bud Light



14.99 12-Oz. Cans 18-Pack Miller Lite



10.99 12-Pack, 10 Oz. Cans Coors Light



15.99 12-Oz. Cans, Select Variety 12-Pack Twisted Tea



42.99 1.75L Crown Royal



28.99 1.75L Jim Beam



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18.99 1.75L Smirnoff Vodka



9.98 750ML Cooks Brut & Extra Dry Champagne



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7.98 750-ML, Selected Wines Cupcake Wines

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5.99 Delicious! Shrimp Skewer

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Large Crisp Iceberg Head Lettuce **2/\$3**

Creamy Ripe Hass Avocados **4/\$5**

Greenhouse Grown Beefsteak Tomatoes **1.68** Lb.

5-Lb. Creamy White Potatoes **3.98**

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2/\$5 128-Oz., Selected Hawaiian Punch

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5.48 6-Ct. Big Roll Bounty Essentials Paper Towels

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WED 27	THURS 28	FRI 29	SAT 30	SUN 1	MON 2	TUES 3
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PRICES GOOD FROM September 27 THRU October 3, 2023

WE ACCEPT:

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

Health Department Launches Digital Portal

The St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) has partnered with Maryland-based technology firm WellCheck to launch the St. Mary's Health & Wellness Portal for community services. Community members can now be easily connected to local services that address health, wellness, and social factors affecting a person's ability to achieve better health. The cloud-based, HIPAA-compliant WellCheck portal is accessible from any digital device and does not require downloading applications. It includes a directory of free or reduced-cost community programs and services supporting better health care access, personal finance skills, conflict mediation, mental health, substance use recovery, and many other needs.

Free or reduced-cost local services offered by the health department and other community service providers are linked in the portal, allowing providers to browse and cross-refer clients/patients to these services electronically in a time-efficient and user-friendly process. Community members also have direct access to the portal to refer themselves. Community service providers registered in the system can also manage incoming referrals, appointments,

and check-ins through it. These community providers would also get notification when referrals they make to other services have been completed.

"This is an incredible resource for our community members, healthcare workers, and community service organizations," said Dr. Meena Brewster, St. Mary's County Health Officer. "Finally we have an efficient and user-friendly way to get our community members connected to local services supporting their health and overall well-being."

"This comprehensive Health & Wellness Portal provides easy access to the community while increasing utilization for the localized programs and services that are available," said Chris Nickerson, CEO of WellCheck. "Building and leveraging technology for the incredible community service providers of St. Mary's County has been a prodigious experience."

The directory of local programs/services will continue to grow as more community service providers enroll in the free system. For more information about WellCheck please go to wellcheck.us.

For more information about St. Mary's County Health Department please go to smchd.org.

Rotary Club Donates to Local Soup Kitchen



Left to Right: Julie Randall, President Elect Rotary Club of Lexington Park; Kristine Millen, Director St. Mary's Caring; Wanda Smith, President, Rotary Club of Lexington Park; Jane Sypher, Director of Charitable Projects Rotary Club of Lexington Park. Photo courtesy of Walt Gardiner, Lexington Park Rotarian

September 11th, 2023 was an energetic evening at the St. Mary's Caring facility (20331 Point Lookout Rd. Great Mills, MD 20634) as local Lexington Park Rotarians came together for their bi-monthly club meeting. Kristine Millen, director of St. Mary's Caring, was gracious enough to host the club for a dinner / field trip. [The prevalence of food insecurities within our own community is something that should not be taken lightly and is exactly what we are trying to do something about.] Stated Connie Gunn, club Secretary, for the Lexington Park Rotary Club

At our field trip club meeting, we learned about the history of this wonderful non-profit; (St. Mary's Caring). As well as

the success stories which have helped to make their presence and charitable contributions to our community possible. They are achieving their primary goal: Feeding those in need. "It is with great honor and pride that the Rotary Club of Lexington Park is privileged to support this fine charity." Said Wanda Smith, Club President, for the Lexington Park Rotary Club

Food insecurities are one of the larger focal points for our club and we are honored to have had an opportunity to present St. Mary's Caring with a considerable donation (\$15,000) to aid in their efforts within our local community. Jane Sypher; Director of Charitable Projects

Pet OF THE WEEK



MEET PUPKIN

What is a dog's favorite book?
Harry Paw-ter and the Sorcerer's Bone!

Hello, my name is Pupkin. My Care Center Pals say I'm a CHARISMATIC 2-YEAR-OLD male hound mix who effortlessly combines HANDSOMENESS with a playful sense of HUMOR. With my strikingly BEAUTIFUL BROWN EYES and my infectious, ever present SMILE, I'm an irresistible canine companion seeking a LOVING NEW HOME! My FUN LOVING, endearing personality and CHARM make me the perfect addition to any family. I promise LAUGHTER and JOY in abundance for those fortunate enough to welcome me into their lives. Come meet me during adoption hours! Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat. 10am-3pm. and we will have an ULTI-MUTT FRIENDSHIP! BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! 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>



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AMATEUR HOUR

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Small Tactical UAS Program Office Welcomes New Leadership

A new program manager stepped into command for the Navy and Marine Corps Small Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems program office (PMA-263) during a change of command ceremony Sept. 21 at Naval Air Warfare Center Webster Outlying Field, St. Inigoes, Maryland.

During the ceremony overlooking the St. Mary's River at Unmanned Test and Evaluation Squadron (UX) 24, Gregg Skinner took over command from Col. Victor Argobright, who will retire after 29 years of military service.

"Today we celebrate not only a command tour, but also a career of service," said Rear Adm. Stephen Tedford, who oversees the Program Executive Office for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons. "Understanding the challenges presented by today's world events, PMA-263 has enhanced the warfighters advantage through innovation, imagination, and experimentation with an unyielding drive and commitment to provide our forces with the very best of capabilities."

During Argobright's tenure, he expedited the operational and developmental test of the Tactical Resupply Unmanned Aircraft System

(TRUAS) and oversaw the first production contract awarded to get a much anticipated logistics resupply capability into the hands of combat logistics battalions in the field.

He spearheaded the opening of two new Family of Small UAS (FoSUAS) training facilities for the Navy stationed on both the east and west coasts. These are the first two dedicated Navy facilities for training naval UAS operators and serves the Naval Special Warfare, Navy Expeditionary Warfare and Explosive Ordnance Disposal communities.

Argobright's team also managed the divestment of the RQ-21A Blackjack. They not only exceeded their scheduled goals by fully divesting of all RQ-21A Marine Corps assets last year, but also maintained readiness rates above 90 percent mission capable throughout the process.

"This has been an incredibly rewarding tour for me," Argobright said. "I owe a great deal thanks for the hard work and dedication of the entire PMA-263 team. You accepted every challenge and always put the needs of warfighter first. It has been an honor to work with men and women who perform at a consistently high level. PMA-263 is a program

office that works as a team and I am extremely proud of what you have accomplished."

Gregg Skinner, a Long Island, New York native, graduated from Dowling College of Oakdale, New York with a bachelor's degree aeronautics and management. He spent 22 years with the U.S. Marine Corps flying the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter and V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and retired as a lieutenant colonel. After military service, he spent several years with Bell Helicopter.

Since returning to government service, Skinner took a position with Commander Fleet Readiness Centers where he was an integral part of leading NAVAIR's Naval Sustainment Strategy-Aviation, Global Sustainment Vision shaping concepts and readiness initiatives. He went on to serve as the assistant Program Executive Officer for Sustainment with Program Executive Office Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault, and Special Mission (PEO(A)) before continuing to his most recent role as Product Support Management, Aviation for the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Sustainment.

In his new role, Skinner will manage



a complex portfolio of more than 16 different unmanned systems fielded globally and will lead training operations for all service branches.

"To our special operators, Sailors and Marines. I promise to honor your commitment for battlefield success with intensity and propensity for action that will help keep you and our great nation safe." Skinner said.



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Sheriff's Deputy Assaulted During Threat Investigation

On Monday, September 25 deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were conducting a threat investigation in Leonardtown, MD, and while interviewing Demetri Kavon Gross, 28, also of Leonardtown, they discovered he had an open warrant through the Maryland State Police for Driving While Suspended.



Demetri Kavon Gross

Deputy First Class Alexander Wynnyk and Deputy First Class Richard Wilhelm attempted to place Mr. Gross in custody, but the suspect backed away and resisted arrest, and a physical altercation ensued, causing the Deputies to fall into a chain link fence, resulting in damage. Additionally, DFC Wynnyk suffered repeated blows to the head from Mr. Gross's closed fist.

Following the struggle, Mr. Gross was placed under arrest, transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, and charged with the following offenses:

- Felony Assault Second Degree-Law Enforcement Officer
- Assault Second Degree
- Resist/Interfere with Arrest

- Failure to Obey a Lawful Order
- Malicious Destruction of Property <\$1000

DFC Wynnyk was treated for abrasions and a concussion and released from MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

Leonardtown Death Under Investigation

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to Abell's Wharf recreation area in Leonardtown for the report of a deceased adult female on the sand near the water's edge.

evidence of foul play.

The decedent, identified as Cecelia Louise Garner, 71, has been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, MD, for an autopsy.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) also responded and are conducting an ongoing investigation. At this time, there is no direct

Anyone with information about this event is asked to contact Corporal Taylore Nauman at 301-475-4200, ext. 8109, or taylore.nauman@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Identity Sought for Person of Interest

On Friday, September 15, 2023, at approximately 7:00 PM, the subject pictured entered Ollie's in Lexington Park. While in the store, the suspect loaded an "NFL Blitz Legends" arcade game into a shopping cart and then exited the store with the arcade game, making no attempts to pay.



The suspect is described as a black male wearing a dark-colored cardigan, black joggers, light-colored tennis shoes, and braided hair in a half bun.

Anyone with information about the identity of the suspects and or this incident is asked to contact Dep. D. Hersh #343 at Dianne.Hersh@stmaryscountymd.gov or call 301-475-4200 ext. 8155. Case #51469-23

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.

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Man Sentenced to Ten Years in Prison for Felony Assault on a Child

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Devonte Arnez Shubrooks, 29, of California, MD, was sentenced to 25 years, with ten years of active incarceration for a May 1, 2022, incident involving the strangulation of an 11-year-old child.

On March 9, 2023, after a three-day jury trial, a St. Mary's County Jury convicted Mr. Shubrooks of felony first degree assault.

At the sentencing hearing, the State requested Mr. Shubrooks be sentenced to the maximum penalty of 25 years in prison. The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines called for a sentence between a range of two years to seven years. The Court departed upwards above the sentencing guidelines range and imposed a sentence of 25 years with ten years to serve in prison.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens



Devonte Shubrooks

of St. Mary's County. Detective James Bare of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead detective.

The Honorable Joseph M. Stalanonis presided over the case.

Lexington Park Man Sentenced to 20 Years in Prison for 2022 Stabbing

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Frederick Lee Weems, Jr., 44, of Lexington Park, Maryland, was sentenced to 35 years with 20 years of active incarceration for an incident involving a stabbing.

On January 8, 2022, at approximately 3:16 a.m., deputies with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to Great Mills Road in Lexington Park for a reported stabbing. Officers made contact with the victim, who was bleeding profusely. The victim advised that Mr. Weems forced entry into his apartment and stabbed him multiple times.

At a sentencing hearing, Mr. Weems was sentenced to the following:

Felony first degree assault: 25 years, with 15 years to serve in prison; AND

Second degree assault: ten years, with five years to serve in prison, running consecutive to the felony first degree assault charge.

"No one should ever have to experience the horror of having their home broken into in the middle of the night. I hope this sentence brings a measure of peace to the lives of the victims and their loved ones now that this violent offender is finally being held accountable for his actions and is no longer a risk to our community," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling.

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines



Frederick Weems, Jr.

called for a sentence between a range of six and 17 years. At sentencing, the State requested Mr. Weems be sentenced to the maximum penalty of 35 years in prison. The Court imposed a sentence of 35 years with 20 years to serve.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah Proctor, Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County. Detective Warren Forinash of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead detective.

The Honorable Joseph M. Stalanonis presided over the case.



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Old Pennies Bar Demolished



An aging bar long vacated — Pennies Bar — in Leonardtown was torn down Sep. 27 with the property owner saying they may have investors interested in potential restaurant and retail stores for use on the site in the future.

Vehicle Fire Leads to Discovery of Deceased Man

On Wednesday, September 20 Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) responded to a report of a vehicle fire in Drayden. Upon arrival, firefighters from the Second District Volunteer Fire Department reported to deputies they had extinguished the blaze of a 2011 Ford Ranger and discovered an unidentified deceased male in the driver's seat.

Authorities from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the SMCSO Criminal Investigations Division (CID) were called

to the location to initiate an investigation.

The name of the victim is being withheld pending positive identification.

The Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit has assumed the investigation.

Anyone with information related to this event is requested to contact Corporal Shawn Shelko via email at shawn.shelko@stmaryscountymd.gov or by telephone at 301-475-4200, Ext. 8147.

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New Grocery Store Signed for Shopping Center



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The owners of the former Millison Plaza in Lexington Park, now known as Pax River Village Center, have confirmed that the national grocery chain — Aldi's — has signed a contract to open a store in the to-be-revitalized shopping center.

David Ross, president of Atlantic Realty, confirmed Aldi's has signed the lease agreement and hopes to open by the end of next year in the heart of Lexington Park.

Ross said his company plans to come before the county planning commission

with a revised site plan to redevelop one of the county's oldest shopping centers by November.

"It will be fast and furious and we're really excited," Ross said of plans to move ahead quickly with the redevelopment.

A new building will be constructed to house the Aldi's grocery store, Ross said, and it will front Route 235 at a foot print of 19,432 square feet.

Additionally, a Starbucks store will be incorporated into an already existing storefront to be modified with a "military theme," Ross continued. That new Starbucks coffee house will be approximately 2,500 square

feet in size, he said.

The 17.8-acre site is valued at \$8.6 million, according to state land records but the sale price was listed at \$10.3 million.

The shopping center was first constructed in 1974, nearly 50 years ago.

Local elected leaders and community planners have expressed excitement at the prospect of long-desired revitalization at the aging center.

Ross has said in the past that his company wants to keep as many businesses in the shopping center there now into the future.

The plan also calls for the demolition of the remains of the hotel there, once known

as the Belvedere Motor Inn; much of that has already been taken down.

Ross has also said that the overall plan calls for the reduction of the overall square footage of the center so that it can be in accord with the aircraft installation compatible use zone (AICUZ) — an agreement between the county government and the U.S. Navy restricting development to certain levels near the Patuxent River Naval Air Station.

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Bridge Traffic Levels Show Little Growth

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Despite population increases in both St. Mary's and Calvert counties over the past 10 years the number of vehicle trips on the Gov. Thomas Bridge, which joins the two counties spanning the Patuxent River, has remained relatively flat.

The data from the Maryland State Highway Administration is important in light of the question over how the community might get a replacement for the bridge. An out-of-state construction and operation firm — United Bridge Partners (UBP) — is taking their case to the public in both St. Mary's and Calvert counties that they can build a new bridge in about three years with no upfront cost.

The only thing they would require, says their CEO Doug Witt, would be a toll to use the bridge in perpetuity while the company operates it.

The latest data shows that in 2013 there were an average of 29,022 vehicles on bridge each day from Monday through Friday; the totals were somewhat less when the weekends were factored in.

By 2022, those numbers had only increased to 29,315 vehicles per day for the five-day work week.

There were peaks and valleys in those numbers: in 2016 the bridge capacity reached a high of 31,402 vehicles and dropped to 25,453 vehicles a day in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2010 Calvert had 88,737 residents but that rose to 94,513 by 2020, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In St. Mary's there were 105,151 residents in 2010, rising to 114,877 over the next 10 years.

While UBP claims they would keep tolls low, they admit they would eventually raise them, but that rate increase would be part of a contractual agreement between them and both counties.

Their estimate for building the bridge has been expressed at \$300 million.

The bridge spanning the Patuxent River has been classified as functionally obsolete by the Maryland Department of Transportation but still safe to travel, making it a low priority for any funding for redesign much less new construction.

Del. Todd Morgan (Dist. 29C), who represents both St. Mary's and Calvert counties, said the state had hard questions to answer regarding getting a new bridge.

"The question becomes, from a safety point of view, is it going to be safe to travel for the next 20 years?" Todd Morgan said. "If not, what are the state's plans for replacing it?"

Should the state replace it, would it then be with a state-mandated toll, he asked.

"People are paying taxes," Morgan said. "What are you getting for your tax dollars?"

The two counties are also disproportionately affected by the gas tax, Morgan said, as they area lacks significant public transportation compared to more urban jurisdictions.

"The ball truly is in the state's court," Morgan said.

Del. Matt Morgan (Dist. 29 A) said a toll bridge might be the only option to get a new bridge; even a state-built one might have a toll



on it despite being built with tax payer funds.

Still the state could not do it without getting help.

"We need a new bridge," Matt Morgan said. "It would be helpful if our federal partners, including our congressional delegation, would come up with some funding for this."

"It's major infrastructure for the region." He was critical of Gov. Wes Moore for seeking billions of dollars in federal aid to rebuild the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway despite a citizens group that has vowed to fight the plan, while seemingly not consider the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge which has broad support locally for a replacement.

The governor also plans to have a toll on the American Legion Bridge.

Matt Morgan said residents had much to consider with whether they wanted a toll from a private company or from the state.

"Do you think they [the state] would rebuild the [Gov.] Thomas Johnson Bridge and it not have a toll?" he asked. "That seems to be where they are going with their projects."

The North County delegate said there were no easy answers to the issue.

"I don't want it to be a toll bridge but we need to be realistic," Matt Morgan said.

U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer said he was confident that Moore would keep up the maintenance of the local bridge.

Hoyer also said that the congressional delegation had brought home funding for the continued operation of the bridge in an earmark.

"The Maryland Delegation prioritized securing the first new funding in over a decade for the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge because we strongly believe that Marylanders deserve safe and secure infrastructure," Hoyer said in a prepared statement. "For eight years under the previous gubernatorial administration, this critical thoroughfare was neglected despite repeated flags of concern from myself and other local officials."

"I'm grateful that Maryland now has a governor who has already demonstrated his commitment to maintaining and securing our infrastructure. Amidst their work to navigate the existing budget deficit left to them by their predecessors, I am confident that our current governor and his statewide team will do what is necessary to ensure the structural integrity and functionality of the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

State To Investigate Clements Intersection

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of a serious vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 242 and Route 5 in Clements last week, the Maryland Department of Transportation will be observing that section of road for the next three months with an eye towards mitigating safety problems there.

County Commissioner Mike Alderson made the announcement this week at the Sept. 26 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

"E-mails and phone calls started almost immediately," the District 3 commissioner said about the crash, which injured a young male student who attends nearby Chopticon High School. "We've known for years that that intersection could be problematic and as of now MDOT will be conducting a 90-day survey ... of that intersection to come up with possible solutions to mitigate issues in that area."

The was a simple solution to the problem of high-speed related car crashes there, he said.

"The most dynamic solution we have right now is for people just to obey the speed limit," Alderson said. "It's 30 miles per hour down that hill both ways."

"Just do 30 miles an hour, it's not that big a deal."

The student who was injured had to be



Photo courtesy of Mechanicsville VFD

airlifted out to receive medical treatment, Alderson said.

"It's not going to put that much impact on your life... to slow down for that quarter-mile stretch [of road,]" Alderson said. "Who knows, you might be the one who has to make the left turn out of Colton's Point Road to go northbound on [Route] 5 that gets wacked by a dump truck doing 65 miles an hour down that hill."

Northbound Route 5 approaching the intersection with Route 242 has a downward slope, while the roadway slopes upward after a motorist continues north through the intersection.

The roadway is only a single lane each way.

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COMMISSIONER MIKE ALDERSON ON THE BLESSING OF THE FLEET AT HISTORIC ST. MARY’S CITY



LOCAL 3
Bridge numbers flat for a decade



LOCAL 5
New grocery store signed for shopping center



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's has plenty of events and activities this fall

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**Leonardtwn Bar
Demolished**

**Fall
MEANS FUN
IN ST. MARY'S**