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For a full list of activities and events, flip to the **Leonardtown First Friday Itinerary** in this Newspaper or visit: www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events



St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**School Board Candidate
Debate Cancelled**

**Commissioners Present
Legislative Proposals**

**Fall Home & Garden
Guide Inside**



56TH ANNUAL

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Blessing *of the* Fleet

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GATES OPEN AT NOON

- 12pm–5pm** Crafters Open
Pony Rides and Petting Zoo
Water Taxi to St. Clements Island
Maryland Dove Open to Visitors
Viking Axe Throwing and Crafting
Facepainting
- 12pm–9pm** Food Trucks Open
- 12pm** Mystic Caravan Dance Troupe
1pm Welcome & National Anthem
1:10pm Joey Tippett & the California Ramblers
2pm–4pm Live radio broadcast by STAR 98.3FM
2pm Blessing & Waterman of the Year Award
3pm Gracie's Guys and Gals Dancers
4pm Out of Order and Friends
6:15pm Meg Phillips
7pm Six Gun South
9pm Fireworks

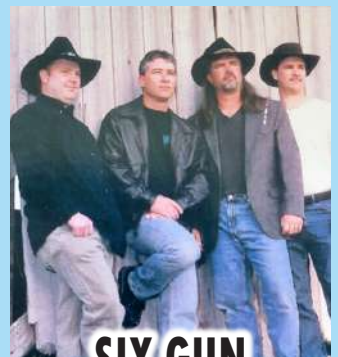
Featuring family entertainment, local food, art and craft vendors, waterman of the year award, blessing ceremony, concerts and fireworks



**JOEY TIPPETT
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**OUT OF ORDER
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**SIX GUN
SOUTH**

**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](https://www.facebook.com/BlessingofTheFleetSOMD)



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“WE CAN’T DO AN EMPTY CHAIR FORUM.”

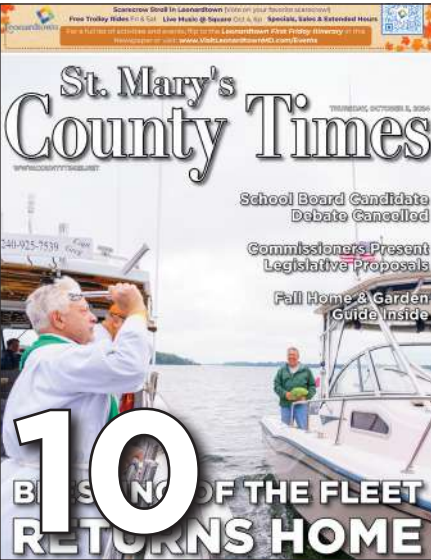
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VP KATHLEEN WERNER ON CANCELLING TWO SCHOOL BOARD FORUMS



LOCAL 5
Donations being accepted for hurricane victims



LOCAL 9
Countdown to Maryland's 400th Anniversary kicks off



ON THE COVER
Blessing of the Fleet this weekend

WEEKLY FORECAST

<p>THU, OCT 3</p> <p>AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 74° Lo: 60°</p>	<p>FRI, OCT 4</p> <p>Mostly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°</p>	<p>SAT, OCT 5</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 56°</p>	<p>SUN, OCT 6</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 61°</p>
<p>MON, OCT 7</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 54°</p>	<p>TUE, OCT 8</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 51°</p>	<p>WED, OCT 9</p> <p>Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 52°</p>	<p>THU, OCT 10</p> <p>Mostly Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 52°</p>

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1 p.m.

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11 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, contact Sarah Miller

Website: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/healthfair

Phone: 301-475-4200, ext. 1073

Email: sarah.miller@stmaryscountymd.gov

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BOE Candidate Debates Scuttled

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Two candidate forums scheduled by the St. Mary's County League of Women Voters have been cancelled because one candidate said they could not participate, leaving the other candidate without a public platform in that one instance.

Kathleen Werner, vice president of the local league chapter, said school board incumbent Mary Washington, who has been on the board about 27 years, has declined to participate in an upcoming forum; this led to the league cancelling the public forum spot for her opponent David Drys.

Werner also said candidate Elena Brewer has said she had a prior commitment, thus leading the league to shut down the forum time for her opponent incumbent Cathy Allen.

The reasons the league could not allow a candidate to participate in its forum without their opponent present were set in league policy, which in turn was directed by rules set by the Federal Elections Commission (FEC) governing such public forums or debates.

"We can't do an empty chair forum," Werner told The County Times.

The FEC's rules state that if the league were to allow such a debate it would be considered an in-kind contribution to the candidate who showed up from the league.

Werner agreed that the situation was "not necessarily" fair "but those are the rules we have."

The only school board candidate forum that remains is the one between Brandie Edelen and Josh Guy who are competing for incumbent Jim Davis's seat; Davis declined to run this election.

Though several candidates would be denied a public, broadcast forum for their campaign platform for school board, Werner said, those same candidates had the opportunity to share their platforms during the primary election campaign months ago.

The league recorded those public forums, Werner said, and they were available for viewing on the internet.

Drys was offered an opportunity to speak at the debate that was to be held tonight, Oct. 3, but only before or after in private conversations with attendees and not for public broadcast, Werner said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

St. Mary's Rallies for Hurricane Victims



American Legion Post No. 255, one of the drop-off locations for donations

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Several community groups in St. Mary's are gathering donations of critical items to assist the survivors of Hurricane Helene, particularly in North Carolina, after the storm devastated whole towns and has been blamed for more than 130 deaths over the weekend.

The American Legion Post No. 255 in Ridge and the Ridge Lions Club are both collecting donations that will be sent down this Friday to victims in North Carolina.

Donations are being accepted at the legion building in Ridge and at the Knights of Columbus Hall near the intersection of Route 5 and Route 235 through the afternoon of Oct. 4 where they will then be taken by truck to the storm site.

The local groups are partnering with a Texas-based group called Operation Airdrop, Inc. which has been coordinat-

ing the delivery of emergency supplies to six states ranging from Florida to Virginia; many residents in Western North Carolina were stranded after their roads were washed out by the storm and waited desperately for relief aid.

The latest death count has reached about 150 across six Southeastern states; thousands have been displaced and are living in shelters.

The rainfall in parts of North Carolina reached two feet or more since the middle of last week when the storm first hit.

"It's so important that we're helping because someday that could be us," said Commissioner Eric Colvin at the regular business meeting of the board Oct. 1 in Leonardtown. "All it would take is a strong hurricane to come up the Chesapeake Bay and we'd be in the same boat."

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Countdown to Maryland's 400th Anniversary Begins

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The two iconic Maryland sailing ships — the Maryland Dove and Pride of Baltimore II — set sail together down the St. Mary's River this past weekend.

It marked the countdown of the next 10 years to the celebration of Maryland's 400th year as one of the oldest states in the union and one the original English colonies in the New World dating back to 1634.

One of the local organizers of the event said it would be challenging to get ready for the celebration with even a decade to prepare.

"I'm on the committee that's going to set up the statewide celebration for this in 2034 and it is a daunting task to live up to," said Commissioner Mike Alderson this week.

The two vessels made their way down to Point Lookout State Park and back, Alderson said, noting the significance of the coming celebration of Maryland's founding.

The lead up to the statewide celebration is not being left up to chance; an entire legislative package passed in 2020 guides the effort called the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission.

The legislation includes requirements for the forming of a non-profit organization to raise funds to support the celebration of Maryland's founding; Alderson said this step was added to relieve the burden



on taxpayers to foot the bill for the entire celebration.

The law also requires a comprehensive historical curriculum for teaching about the founding and proceeding 400 years in Maryland in state schools, Alderson said.

The commission comprises two members of the Senate, according to the legislation, two members of the House of Delegates; the Secretaries of Budget and Management, Commerce, Natural Resources, Planning, and Transportation (or their designees) as well as representatives from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, the Maryland

Commission on African American History and Culture, the Historic St. Mary's City Commission, and the Maryland Rediscovery 400 Initiative; and five members with relevant interest or expertise appointed by the governor.

The celebration will have a particular focus on St. Mary's and the legislation requires the commission to provide leadership for and coordinate economic development opportunities in and around St. Mary's City specifically.

"Everything is going to kick off from down here," Alderson said, noting he was asked to be part of the commission by Sen.

Jack Bailey (R-Dist. 29) because he was a resident of the 7th District, which is where the locus of the original English landing occurred.

"The Ark and The Dove both landed here," Alderson said. "We didn't want to lose the connection to that history."

The focus of the history of the founding of Maryland often focuses on the development of St. Mary's City which was founded shortly after the initial landings in St. Clements Island.

Over the past several years perhaps the most significant single discovery at St. Mary's City was of the palisade wall of the initial fort settlement before the construction of the actual city settlement began.

The discovery helps provide a focus for how the settlers and native peoples first interacted.

The study of St. Mary's Fort is part of a larger initiative titled People to People: Exploring Native-Colonial Interactions in Early Maryland. Created as a collaborative effort between Historic St. Mary's City and Piscataway tribal participants, the project includes archaeological excavations at the fort and indigenous sites near the fort, interpretation and exhibits of native and colonial culture, and public programming about life in the region in the years prior to and during the early seventeenth century.

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Friday, October 11, 2024 – 6 pm (Doors Open at 4:30 pm)
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Commissioners, Delegation Meet Over Legislative Proposals

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

State lawmakers representing St. Mary's met with county commissioners this week to see what legislative proposals they would support in the General Assembly and those they would not.

Del. Matt Morgan immediately questioned a bill from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County that would authorize them to sell more than \$90 million in bonds to fund public construction projects.

The county contends that the amount it is requesting to be able to borrow would carry it through the next two capital construction budgets.

"\$94 million, it is a big number," Morgan of District 29A said. "I'd really like to see it come down."

The total debt for the county as of 2018, Morgan said at their annual joint meeting Oct. 2 in Leonardtown was already \$72 million.

"By fiscal 2027 the total county debt balloons to \$260 million," Morgan said. "It almost quadruples in about eight years."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt countered by saying that in the past several years the county's taxable base has increased by over \$2 billion and the county's revenues have increased by about \$100 million.

"You make a good point delegate," Hewitt said. "But I think our debt is being well managed because we keep below our 2



Del. Matt Morgan

percent and 10 percent limits we put down."

Del. Todd Morgan (R-Dist. 29C) said the state delegation had cautioned commissioners not raise teacher salaries recently to match what was being mandated by the Blueprint for Education, otherwise known as the Kerwin Report, as they had time to spare.

"You all went ahead and did it," Todd Morgan said.

The two legislative bodies discussed other proposals such as giving the county more flexibility in the granting of dog licenses, allowing for businesses to hold more than one type of alcoholic beverage license and prohibiting roadside solicitations by so-called "panhandlers."

The delegation must now vote on which bills they will openly support in the General Assembly.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Funds Approved for Green Holly Renovations

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education approved the use of approximately \$9.1 million in state funding this week for renovations and improvements to Green Holly Elementary School.

The project is focused on the roof of Building A of the facility and the heating, air conditioning and ventilation (HVAC) of Building B, project planning documents state.

Green Holly Elementary School is one facility but is one of the largest in the school system; it provides educational services for special needs students.

The school board voted unanimously to apply the funds to the project at their Sept. 25 business meeting; the funds came through the state's Healthy Schools Facility Fund.

The project was slated for funding through the traditional state capital improvements program in fiscal 2025, but, explained Kim Howe, the school system's capital projects director, based on the concerns of funding



levels in 2025, staff submitted the project through the Healthy School Facilities Fund in fiscal 2024.

This approval process occurs outside of the normal budget cycle, requiring approval of the budget authority by the Board of Education and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

The decision for the final approval of the funding must now go to the county commissioners.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Join Us for The Mission's
6th Annual Benefit
Dinner & Silent Auction



When: Thurs., Oct. 17, 6 to 9 p.m., doors open 5:15

Where: Bay District Firehall,
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For tickets, visit SeekingShelter.com

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Event benefits The Mission, serving the homeless
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Blessing of the Fleet Returns Home



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The 7th District Optimist Club is bringing back its annual Blessing of the Fleet to the grounds of the St. Clements Island Museum in Coltons Point this weekend for a one-day event.

Dan Dozier, organizer of the iconic event this year, said the decision was made to reduce the span of the event from two days to one as the work to prepare for it continued to grow while the number of volunteers had not quite kept up.

But the club was committed to the event, which is their largest fundraiser of the year and has been for the past 56 years.

"It will be filled with family fun and entertainment," Dozier told The County Times.

This year the event returns to its roots at the grounds of the museum and just off the shore of St. Clements Island, the landing site of the first English colonists in 1634.

There will be events for children, Dozier said, crafters and vendors, local food vendors — including seafood — as well as four

live bands playing throughout the day.

There will be water taxi transports operating to and from St. Clements Island as well with tours of the lighthouse there available for visitors.

The Maryland Dove is set to dock there at the island and tours on board the newly constructed vessel will also be available.

At 2p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 5 the actual blessing of the fleet will take place, the tradition being that the fishing fleet would come out to have their work blessed by the local Catholic priest.

The size of the fishing fleet that arrives is much smaller than in the first days of the event — at that time hundreds of vessels would crowd local waters to receive their blessing.

The 7th District Optimist Club will also announce the award for the winner of the Waterman of the Year at the Blessing of the Fleet.

The event will conclude with a bang at 9 p.m. Oct. 5 with a nighttime fireworks show.

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Leonardtwn Man Arrested for Assault *Unregistered Handgun Recovered*

Patrol deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office arrested Davonn Lionell Atkins, 25, of Leonardtown, on Thursday, September 26, 2024, on an open warrant for first-degree assault and recovered an unregistered handgun.

Acting on a tip about Atkins's location, Deputies were patrolling the area of Sunnyside Road and Pin Cushion Road in Leonardtown when they spotted Atkins driving a vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. After taking Atkins into custody on the outstanding warrant, deputies searched his car and located an unregistered loaded handgun. Further investigation revealed that Atkins did not have a permit to carry the weapon.

Atkins was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. He has been charged with wear, carry, and transport of a handgun on his person, possession of a loaded handgun on his person, possession of a loaded handgun in a vehicle, and handgun wear, carry, and transport on public roads.



Davonn Lionell Atkins

Sheriff's Office Investigating Animal Cruelty Complaint

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to an animal cruelty complaint at approximately 8:09 a.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at the intersection of northbound Route 5 and Route 242 in Morganza. A caller reported seeing an individual in a silver SUV, possibly a Toyota, throwing several kittens—eight or nine—from the vehicle.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered one deceased kitten at the scene but were unable to locate any others.

The Sheriff's Office is requesting anyone who may have been traveling in this area at

that time and may have witnessed this incident to contact Deputy First Class Nicholas Hill at 301-475-4200, ext. 8078, or by email at Nicholas.Hill@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

Legal Notice

REQUEST FOR BIDS EAGLE HARBOR TOWN HALL OFFICE RENOVATION

Scope:
The Town of Eagle Harbor is requesting sealed bids for the Townhall office renovations located at 23308 Hawkins Dr. Aquasco, MD. 20608.

Scope includes the following:
Provide all necessary labor, materials, supplies, equipment for the Townhall office renovations which includes but not limited to demolition, construction, mold remediation and renovation of approximately 960 sq ft of office and workstation space.

For additional information you must refer to the full RFP which can be found on the Eagle Harbor website at <https://www.townofeagleharborincmd.org>.

Suspect Sought in Attempted Car Theft

Patrol deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) responded to a motor vehicle theft report in the 21000 block of South Essex Drive in Lexington Park at approximately 10:44 a.m. Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

Upon arrival, the victim told deputies her vehicle was locked and running while she briefly entered a business. When she returned, she witnessed two individuals attempting to enter her car forcibly.

The victim provided descriptions of the suspects, and deputies from multiple SMCSO divisions launched an extensive search; one suspect was found in a nearby residential area. Following a brief foot chase, Jaden Xzavier Mason, 19, of no fixed address, was apprehended. A subsequent search of Mason revealed suspected crack cocaine and a fixed-blade weapon.

Mason was charged with attempted theft of \$1500 to less than \$25000, possession of burglar's tools with intent to use in the commission of a crime, CDS: possession – not cannabis, CDS: possession of paraphernalia, and related charges. The suspect was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center to await a bond hearing.



Jaden Xzavier Mason



Unidentified second suspect

The investigation continues, and the second suspect, described as a young black male wearing a white T-shirt and jeans is being sought.

Those with information about this incident are asked to contact Deputy Joseph Senatore at 301-475-4200, ext. 8163, or by email at Joseph.Senatore@stmarycountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

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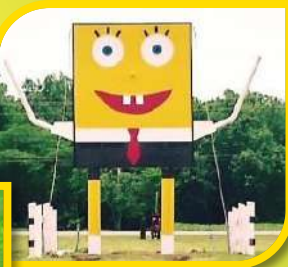
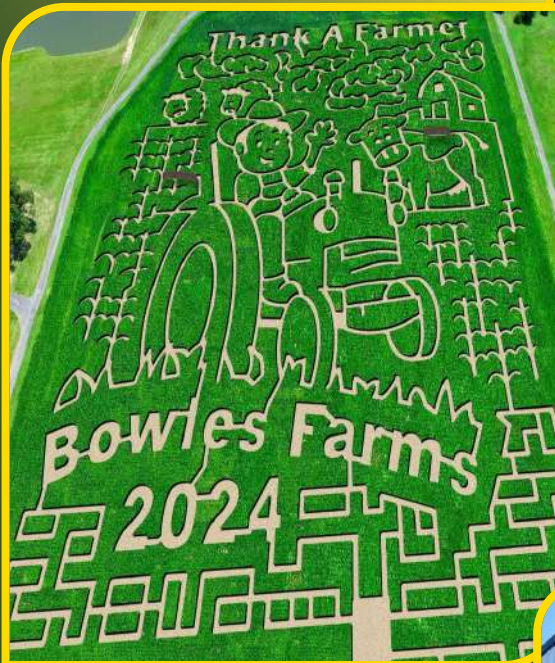
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What's Happening this Weekend:

Sunday, October 6:
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**Fall Season runs through
Sunday, October 27th**

Saturdays: 10:00am – 6:00pm

Sundays: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)

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Letters to the Editor

MCAP rankings are 'lipstick on a pig'

The September 19th news article "St. Mary's Tops State on MCAP" reported what amounts to the St. Mary's Board of Education and school administration "putting lipstick on a pig" regarding the 2023-24 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program testing results.

Overall, 29.1% of St. Mary's Co. public school students are proficient in Math and 54.9% proficient in reading and writing (ELA - English Language Arts). In comparison, the state-wide average is 24.1% and 48.4%, respectively.

The Board and Superintendent took solace in the county being above the mediocre state averages. "It's better than most," said School Board member Mary Washington. This is an example of linguistic positive and negative connotations, such as something being "not that bad" instead of "not that good."

At the September 11th School Board meeting, regarding the MCAP results, Superintendent Scott Smith said, "It's not where anyone wants to be." Who is to blame? On the school system's website is written, "Through the policies they make, Board members are ultimately responsible for the success or failure of local public education."

Typically, criticism of the state testing distracts attention away from the performance of

the school system. By any grading standard, the St. Mary's County Public Schools are failing, which has been evident for decades based on state testing preceding MCAP. The effects of recent COVID-related closed schools and alternative learning have simply made a preexisting bad situation worse.

The tipping point in a child's education is achieving proficiency in reading, writing and math upon completion of the third grade. Therefore, the focus must be on the elementary schools. The MCAP average proficiency in the county's third-grade classes is 44% in math and 47% in reading and writing. This is a deficiency that impairs learning in the subsequent grades.

The third grade proficiency of individual county elementary schools ranges from 18% to 67% in math, and 22% to 64% in reading and writing. The academic "achievement gap" is in part demographically related, which academia has termed an "opportunity gap." However, the school system is not without faults.

If elected to the School Board, I will advocate for a "back to basics" policy emphasizing reading, writing and math in all grades, but with a strong emphasis on pre-K to third grade. Everything else is of secondary importance.

Brandie Edelen

'Stop hiding and face the voters'

As the challenger to Mary Washington, our so-called representative who has been in office for 27 years, I am outraged by her refusal to participate in the public forum for St. Mary's County Board of Education sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County NAACP Branch 7025, the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland and the St. Mary's County Library. Additionally, she has not attended any other candidate forums or public discussions this election season. It seems Ms. Washington believes her name recognition is all she needs to win, rather than facing the people she supposedly represents. This blatant disregard for the democratic process and the voters of our community is unacceptable.

Let's be clear: Ms. Washington's refusal to engage with voters shows a complete lack of respect for the very people who have kept her in office for nearly three decades. If she thinks she can coast through this election without answering tough questions or explaining her record, she is sadly mistaken.

Our community deserves better than a politician who hides behind her name rather than standing on her record and ideas.

Ms. Washington's actions tell us one thing: she's grown too comfortable in her position and thinks she's entitled to it. But democracy doesn't work that way. Every candidate, especially a long-term incumbent, should be willing to face their constituents, defend their decisions, and offer a vision for the future. Her refusal to do so is a slap in the face to every voter in this community.

I'm here to say enough is enough. It's time for new leadership that actually listens, engages, and represents the interests of the people—not someone who relies on decades-old name recognition to get by. I challenge Ms. Washington to step up, stop hiding, and face the voters like a real leader. If she refuses, it only proves she's not the representative we need any longer.

*David Drys
BoE District 4 Candidate
Hollywood, MD*

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Sonobuoy Testing on Heavy Lift Helicopters Expands Capabilities

Recent successful testing of hand-launched deployments of sonobuoys from a CH-53E Super Stallion have expanded the capabilities of the aircraft, providing increased flexibility for the U.S. Navy to support Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) in the joint environment. Similar testing will soon do the same for the CH-53K King Stallion.

The successful deployments of sonobuoys from a heavy lift helicopter showcases the aircraft's flexibility and the changing payloads the aircraft will take on as the CH-53K replaces the CH-53E in the fleet.

"The H-53 is purpose-built to carry heavy loads, but that's not the limit of our operational relevance," said Col. Kate Fleeger, Program Manager, Heavy Lift Helicopters Program Office (PMA-261). "This test is just one example of the untapped capabilities of the H-53. Future payloads and the evolution of the H-53 in the battlespace are limited only by our imagination."

PMA-261, Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two One (HX-21) and Air Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems Program Office (PMA-264) at Naval Air Station



Hand-launched deployments of sonobuoys from a CH-53E Super Stallion showcases the aircraft's flexibility and various payloads the heavy lift helicopter can take on.

Patuxent River, Maryland, conducted the sonobuoy tests, which were overseen by Adam Chesser, H-53 Lead Test Engineer, and performed over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Virginia.

"We evaluated the procedures and

separation characteristics to ensure the sonobuoys would not strike the aircraft when launched," said Chesser. "Clearing the heavy lift aircraft for sonobuoy deployment creates another level of redundancy for the Navy and provides more resources and

flexibility to complete the mission."

The successful tests were also accomplished with a significant savings in time and money, according to Joe Pham, Assistant Program Manager for Test and Evaluation at PMA-261.

"By exploring and using an alternative test range option to alleviate scheduling and funding constraints, we were able to execute the test on time and save cost to the program," he said.

PMA-261 manages the cradle-to-grave procurement, development, support, fielding, and disposal of the entire family of H-53 heavy lift helicopters.

PMA-264 plays a critical role in developing, acquiring and sustaining airborne ASW systems and sensor requirements for the Fleet, the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft program office, the H-60 Helicopter program office, the Persistent Maritime and the Unmanned Aerial Systems program office, and the Navy and Marine Corps Multi-Mission Tactical Unmanned Air Systems program office.



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This month's special at the Good Earth Natural Food Store is the **Poison Apple Smoothie**! This eerily delicious drink is made with fresh, organic apples, kale, and bananas, date syrup, and house-made Chai spices in a base of hydrating coconut water.

Sales and specials throughout Shephard's Old Field Market

The **6th Annual Scarecrow Stroll** begins. Come see over 80 Scarecrows on display and vote for your favorite at VisitLeonardtownMd.com/scarecrowstroll



Friday, October 4

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center for FREE tours and extended hours for First Friday

5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Audience Participation Drum Circle with SoMar Drummers at the St. Mary's Arts Council

5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Drumline presented by SoMar Drummers at the St. Mary's Arts Council

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Shoefly Soul and FarmForkSoul food truck on site

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

9 p.m. Jersey Shore Dance Party with DJ Ondre and Skybox Sensei at The Rex Theatre

Saturday, October 5

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba class at Port of Leonardtown Winery Park

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Touch a Truck fundraiser for the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department at the carnival lot

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Booking signing by with Jim Grace at Fenwick Street Used Books

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center

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2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at the ort of Leonardtown Winery featuring Joe Parsons and The Jamaican Grill food truck on site

5 p.m. - 10 p.m. Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

Sunday, October 6

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Bubbles for Boobs at Spice Studio with proceeds going to Laura’s Wish Foundation

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tea and Treats Tea Party at the Port of Leonardtown Winery

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Book signing with Christina Merklinger at Fenwick St. Used Books

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Antique Tractor Parade with proceeds going to Christmas in April

2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Live music at Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Doc Lohn and Rips Dogs, Chips & Sips



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12:30 PM at bRü:
Winners announced

1-3 PM:
Beer tasting

2 PM - 11 PM:
Weiner Dog Races
Food & Drinks
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6 PM:
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Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day November 9

Clean out your barn, basement, garage, and other home storage areas in preparation for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day!

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will offer Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Andrews Landfill, located at 44837 St. Andrews Church Road in California, Maryland. This event provides the opportunity for residents to safely dispose of potentially toxic or dangerous materials.

Hazardous waste items accepted for col-

lection include acids, ammonia, bleach, cleaners, fuels, gas/oil mixtures, gasoline, household and lawn pesticides, mercury thermometers, photography chemicals, pool chemicals, solvents, wood preservatives, paint thinners and alkyd (oil-based) paint. Unacceptable items include ammunition, asbestos, explosive materials, latex paint, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, radioactive materials, and picric acid.

For more information, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/dpw or contact DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3550.

Bow Hunting Restricted at Elms Beach Property



St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) is announcing changes to bow hunting access on county-leased acreage at the Elms Beach property.

Effective immediately, hunting is no longer permitted on the 85 acres of land leased by St. Mary's County from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), located at 19350 Back Door Road in Lexington Park, MD. DNR has discontinued the pilot bow hunting program and withdrawn permission for hunting in this area.

Hunters and local organizations with permits for this area have been notified directly. "No Hunting" signs have been posted to ensure public awareness of updated restrictions. While hunting is no longer allowed on the acres leased by the county, hunting remains available on the 545 acres of the Elms property managed directly by DNR. For information on public DNR hunting lands, visit <https://dnr.maryland.gov/wild->

<https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/elmsbeachmasterplan.pdf>

St. Mary's County remains committed to the long-term use of the leased acreage for environmental education and expanding public access to waterfront recreation. Additional improvements at the Elms property are progressing through the approval process, and SMCG looks forward to continuing to enhance opportunities for outdoor education and recreation for the community. Residents are encouraged to learn more and view the Elms Beach Master Plan online at <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/docs/elmsbeachmasterplan.pdf>.

A map of the area showing where hunting is now prohibited is included with this announcement for reference. For more information, please contact our Department of Recreation and Parks via email to web-trac@stmaryscountymd.gov or by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800.

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Four Things to Know About Kitchen Renovations

Kitchens are often described as the most popular room in a home, and that's not mere conjecture. A 2022 survey from House Digest asked participants to identify the room they consider most important in their homes, and roughly 41 percent chose the kitchen.

Residents tend to congregate in kitchens in the morning and then again in the evening when meals are prepared and, in homes without formal dining rooms, eaten. With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder that the 2022 U.S. Houzz & Home Study: Renovation Trends found kitchens to be the most popular interior room to upgrade. With so many people interested in kitchen renovations, the following are four things homeowners should know about these popular improvement projects.

1. Expect to spend some money. Most home improvement projects require a significant financial investment, but kitchen renovations are among the more expensive undertakings. The overall cost of a project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including homeowners' preferences, but HomeAdvisor estimated the average kitchen remodel in 2023 cost between \$14,611 and \$41,432. Homeowners considering an upscale kitchen remodel may receive six figure estimates for such projects.
2. Expect a good return on investment. If sticker shock settles in when receiv-



ing an initial kitchen remodel estimate, perhaps it can help homeowners to know that such a project may provide a strong return on investment (ROI). According to Remodeling magazine's "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," a minor kitchen remodel provides a 96 percent ROI. A major kitchen remodel mid-

range (49 percent) and a major kitchen remodel upscale (38 percent) did not provide as notable a ROI.

3. Expect the project to take some time. Kitchens are large rooms with a lot of components, so renovating these spaces can take some time. Estimates vary depending on the size of the

room, the scale of the remodel and the materials chosen, but Angi reports a kitchen remodel for most homes takes six weeks to four months. That's a sizable window, and it reflects the likelihood that unforeseen issues like supply chain interruptions or the discovery of mold will arise at some point during the renovation. Though it's impossible to determine precisely how long a project will take before it begins, homeowners renovating their kitchens may want to plan for the project to take two months if not longer.

4. Expect to use your kitchen during the renovation. If the timeline of a renovation is scary, homeowners should know they will likely be able to use their kitchen even after the project begins. Though the room might not remain a popular gathering space once the work starts, Angi notes kitchens are typically out of commission for around six weeks during a renovation. That still requires some pre-planning in relation to meals, but it also suggests homeowners won't be without a kitchen for months on end.

Kitchen renovations are popular projects. Homeowners who know what to expect before such projects commence can make it through a renovation more smoothly.



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Warning Signs a Bathroom Needs Work

Homeowners know that the work involved to maintain a home is never done. The end of one project has a tendency to roll into the planning of another, and so it goes for years on end.

Fortunate are the homeowners who get to choose when to begin a renovation project, but it's far more common that homeowners spot an issue and then realize it's time to renovate. When it comes to bathrooms, which can be among the more expensive spaces to renovate in a home, homeowners can keep an eye out for various signs suggesting the room needs a remodel.

- **Mold and mildew:** Mold and mildew is perhaps the most glaring sign a bathroom needs to be renovated or remodeled. Mold and mildew pose a notable threat to human health, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that molds can cause allergic reactions. Individuals sensitive to mold may develop symptoms that mimic reactions to outdoor allergens like pollen, including sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and dermatitis (skin rash). Mold also can trigger asthma attacks in people allergic to mold who have the condition. Mold can grow in poorly ventilated bathrooms, such as those without a fan or ones in which fans are not working properly. Mold and mildew will return if it's merely scrubbed away, so the underlying cause of mold must be addressed to prevent its return.
- **Small signs of fading:** Stains, peeling paint, cracked paint, and gaps in grout



are small signs of fading that indicate a bathroom is in need of renovation if not a complete remodel. These issues also can serve as warning signs of larger issues, such as water issues and structural problems, so they should not be merely written off as minor problems or eyesores.

- **Rising water bills:** Some signs a bathroom could use a little TLC are not necessarily confined to the room itself. If water bills are rising significantly and do not align with price increases or an uptick in water consumption, homeowners may have leaking pipes. Such
- pipes might be beneath a bathroom sink or behind tiled walls. Discoloration on the walls, peeling paint or wallpaper and/or a musty odor may indicate leaks inside a bathroom wall. If coupled with rising water bills, these signs could be indicative of a significant issue that requires immediate attention.
- **Issues with tiles:** Cracked or damaged tiles in the shower and bathtub or even on the floor are unsightly and also pose a safety hazard. Cracked floor tiles can lead to slips and falls, which can be especially harmful to older residents. And cracked tiles within the shower and

tub area can indicate water problems behind the walls or general disrepair. Such issues should be addressed before they escalate into something larger.

- **A dated vibe:** Of course, some issues affecting a bathroom are not necessarily health or safety hazards but more an affront to homeowners' grasp of current styles and trends. If walking into a bathroom unintentionally feels like stepping backward into a bygone era, then it's probably time to consider a renovation or remodeling job.

Various signs can indicate to homeowners it's time to consider a bathroom renovation.

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Tips to Transform Your Living Room into a Go-To Viewing Space



Watch parties are wildly popular. Whether it's a gathering for the big game or a group of friends anxious to see the latest episode of a favorite television show, watch parties have become a fun way to enjoy special events with family and friends.

Many bars and restaurants have recognized the popularity of watch parties and looked to capitalize on the trend, particularly for sporting events. Watch parties can make for a fun night out, but homeowners can do much to make their own living room a go-to spot for the next big game or series finale.

- Expand seating space, if necessary. Of course, guests for the big game or movie night will need a place to sit. Homeowners who love to host can determine their ideal gathering size and then work to ensure their entertaining space has enough seats to accommodate everyone. Multifunctional furniture can help if space is limited. For example, some stools that are typically used as footrests can be repurposed as seats when guests arrive and an upholstered coffee table can provide an additional space for guests to sit. Another option is to work with a contractor to add a built-in window seat or bench beneath a picture window.
- Convert an existing space into an open floor plan. A 2023 survey from Rocket HomesSM found that more than half of individuals surveyed preferred open layouts to traditional layouts. Open layouts can make living spaces feel more airy and less claustrophobic, and such designs also make it easy to accommodate more guests. Homeowners can speak with a local contractor to determine ways to convert living spaces into open floor plans.
- Invest in your internet. Whereas cable television used to be the go-to option when watching sports, movies and

television at home, streaming platforms have now taken over, as many, including Peacock, Amazon Prime and Netflix, are now even broadcasting National Football League games. Homeowners who want to host watch parties must invest in high-speed internet and perhaps even a new router to ensure games and shows are not interrupted by the dreaded spinning wheel or issues that can arise if internet speeds are slow. If necessary, relocate the router to the living room to reduce the risk of streaming interruptions.

- Reconsider your lighting scheme. If movie nights or television shows dominate your watch party schedule, some recessed lighting in the living room can reduce glare and reflections on the screen once a movie or show begins. Recessed lighting above a mounted television can illuminate the screen so everyone can see it but won't appear in the screen and adversely affect what viewers can see.
- Consider upgrading your television and sound. It goes without saying that a television is wildly important when hosting a watch party. The experts at Best Buy note that 8K resolution is the highest resolution available in the television market. Such devices provide an extraordinary viewing experience, but they also can stretch homeowners' budgets. A 4K television won't cost nearly as much, and these devices also provide superior image quality. When a new television is paired with a premium soundbar, viewers can settle in for a memorable game day or movie night experience.

Homeowners can embrace various strategies to make watch parties an extraordinary experience for themselves and their guests.

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Dining Room Conversion Ideas



Many homeowners can undoubtedly take a stroll through their homes and find at least one space that could be repurposed to provide more functionality. Real estate professionals know that such sentiments are not uncommon, and many point to formal dining rooms as spaces that have fallen out of favor in recent years.

Formal dining rooms were once common in newly built homes, but the pivot toward open concept floor plans left it up to homeowners to decide if such spaces were for them. In a 2017 book published by the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press, authors used cameras to monitor life in many people's homes, including how they used each room. The authors concluded that formal dining rooms were rarely used for eating. If that sounds a lot like home to many current homeowners, then it might be time to consider some ideas to convert formal dining rooms to make these spaces more functional.

- **Home office:** Though the percentage of professionals working remotely has dipped considerably since the end of the pandemic, hybrid working is perhaps among the more lasting work-related byproducts of COVID-19. In its Global State of Remote and Hybrid study published in early 2024, the career networking resource LinkedIn noted that 13 percent of jobs posted to the platform were for hybrid positions. That means millions of workers can still utilize an accommodating home office space. A formal dining room can be converted to provide such a space, and the good news is that such a conversion need not require extensive renovations. A fresh coat of paint, an additional outlet or two and perhaps a new overhead lighting fixture can instantly transform the space at minimal cost.
- **Reading room/library:** Homeowners who dream of having a designated space for quiet reading can convert

a little-used formal dining room into a space to curl up with a good book. Some comfortable armchairs, built-in bookshelves and perhaps an expanded floor-to-ceiling window overlooking a side or backyard can help homeowners create a home library that will be the envy of any avid reader.

- **Studio space:** If there's a resident yogi and/or artist living under the roof, then converting a dining room into a yoga or art studio, or perhaps even a hybrid space for those who enjoy both activities, is a no-brainer. A yoga studio conversion may not require as much investment as a kitchen overhaul or bathroom renovation, but an ideal home yoga space requires more than a mat and room to stretch. The Yogapreneur Collective notes that flooring in a yoga studio should be non-slip, easily cleaned, durable, sound-absorbing, and low maintenance. The Yogapreneur Collective asserts that different flooring materials may be ideal for certain types of yoga, noting that cork flooring is a go-to choice for professional studios that offer hot yoga. Similarly, the right flooring for an art studio may depend on the artist's preferred medium, whether it's oil painting, arts and crafts or another artistic pursuit. But any artist knows that a floor that's easy to clean is perhaps best for a home art studio.
- **Additional ideas:** Some additional ways to repurpose a dining room include a gaming room for avid gamers, a memorabilia showcase for collectors or a pantry for foodies who love to cook but need some extra space to store ingredients and tools of the trade.

If a formal dining room is only utilized on occasion, homeowners may want to consider the many ways to convert such spaces into areas that are more usable every day.

Tips to Make Guest Rooms More Welcoming



Millions of celebrants welcome family and friends into their home as overnight guests each holiday season. Hosting loved ones during the holiday season is a selfless act that enables families to create the kind of lasting memories that make December such a special time of year.

As hosts prepare their homes for loved ones this holiday season, they can consider these tips to make guests rooms as welcoming as possible for friends and family.

- Check the bedding and replace, if necessary. It's easy to overlook the comfort of bedding in a guest room, particularly since hosts may never sleep in their own guest rooms. When furnishing a guest room, it's not unheard of to repurpose an existing mattress from an owner's suite or another room and use for guest room bedding. Though that's acceptable, it's necessary to periodically inspect a guest room mattress to make sure it's still comfortable and supportive. If not, replace the mattress. A mattress topper, a new comforter and a new set of soft sheets also can make guest room bedding more comfortable.
- Clear out the clutter. Guest rooms can easily become depositories for old furniture and other items, which can create a cluttered and less than welcoming atmosphere in a space. Give each guest room a thorough once-over before guests arrive, removing pieces that might be creating a claustrophobic vibe. Keep in mind that guests will bring luggage, so a less cluttered space with ample room for their bags can make it easier to settle in.
- Take a cue from hotels. Hotels ensure

guests have ample creature comforts at their fingertips. Holiday hosts can do the same when welcoming loved ones into their homes. Provide ample bed and bath linens, ensure the room has ample lighting so guests can read at bedtime and get dressed in plenty of light in the morning. A foldable luggage rack is another nice touch that can keep guests from having to dig through their suitcases on the floor.

- Add an armchair where possible. A spacious guest room allows hosts to provide some extra creature comforts. If the room allows, place a comfortable armchair and side table in the space so guests can read a book or catch up on the news on a tablet or smartphone. A comfortable, quiet and secluded place to sit provides guests a respite from the hustle and bustle of a home filled with holiday guests.
- Install window coverings, if necessary. A feeling of privacy is another important creature comfort guests will appreciate. Replace existing window treatments if they do not provide adequate privacy or if they do not keep the elements out in the morning. For example, a room that is sun-soaked by early morning each day may make it hard for guests to get sufficient sleep. Some blackout curtains or a new set of blinds allows guests to determine the amount of natural light that will greet them each morning.

Some simple tips can help holiday hosts turn their guest rooms into welcoming spaces for their loved ones.



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A View From The BLEACHERS



LIFE CYCLE

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Where has the time gone, my fellow Southern Maryland dwellers? This column first appeared in The County Times in early 2008. How old were we back then, my dear readers? Unnecessary details. Let's just call it "younger", shall we? Gray was a less prominent color in our lives. Aches and pains were fewer. More beer could be consumed without consequence. But think of the wisdom gained since then. A consolation prize, I suppose...

Sports viewing offers no escape from the many logged years on Earth; it further galvanizes my significant conversion of oxygen into carbon dioxide. As the band Bush suggested in their classic song "Machinehead", "Breathe in, breathe out." Roger that: Have been, are and hope to continue to for years to come. So yes, sports. Hardly a game goes by where there isn't a player named that leaves me thinking, "I remember when his father played." Or there is a coach who causes the mind to wander back to their playing career. The roll call is long and distinguished. Steph Curry (son of Dell). Patrick Mahomes (son of Pat). Cam Heyward (son of Craig "Iron Head"). Arch Manning (Grandson of Archie, nephew of Peyton and Eli). Marvin Harrison Jr. Bobby Witt Jr. Coaches? Dan Campbell (Lions). Rod Brind-Amour (Hurricanes). Craig Counsell (Cubs). Jason Kidd (Mavericks). Aaron Boone (Yankees). I'm graying further just by typing this out.

All this time traveling brought one team to mind: the Washington Capitals. They weren't the first local professional team I saw live (Orioles). Back when football was king in D.C. and the team had another name, I loved the Burgundy and Gold more intensely. But of "my teams", I've loved the Caps more consistently and seen them more live than any other – and it isn't close.

On October 12th, the Caps' 50th season will begin. There have been many changes in recent years. Scarce few players remain from the 2019 Stanley Cup winning roster – just five years ago, a lifetime in professional sports. Whether the Caps improve from their token playoff appearance last year is equal, if not oddly secondary, to another storyline: Alex Ovechkin's pursuit of Wayne Gretzky's goals scored record. Ovechkin enters the season with 853 goals, 41 shy of Gretzky's 894.

As a kid, I attended Caps games at the old Capital Centre and rooted for a team without much history. I remember looking to the rafters and seeing just one retired number: Yvon Labre's #7. I knew little of Labre, only that he had served as the team's first captain during the 1970s. Over the years, company has arrived for Labre's jersey. Rod Langway's #5, Mike Gartner's #11 and Dale Hunter's #32 now hang in Capital One Arena.

Oddity: I met Labre at an Ocean City pool in 2006. His granddaughter and my daughter were surrounded by floats and attempting to swim. My Caps floppy hat gave me away. Admittedly, I didn't recognize Labre, but we had a memorable exchange about Caps history and the yearning for a Stanley Cup. At the time, the team was on the rise and Ovechkin was just a pup. I could sense his optimism, and I trust he could sense mine. But there was palatable caution in our words, the consequence of a player's and a fan's shared heartache.

All these years later, it's hard to believe the magic carpet ride the Caps and Ovechkin have provided. But the end is near. Life cycles with teams and athletes are finite. Ovechkin is 39. The careers of long-time teammates Nicklas Backstrom and T.J. Oshie are likely over. What's left? Gretzky's record, more retired numbers (19, 74, 77?, 43?, 70?) and Ovechkin's Hall of Fame induction. Then...memories...

Such is the fleeting time between special teams, iconic athletes and fans. Such are the cornerstones of life – experiences, relationships, friendships, parenthood. In the moment, it is sometimes hard to understand the context of what's happening, where it's going and what it all means. That comes in time. And time we've certainly had with Ovechkin – enough to know that whatever remains is to be cherished. That's all those years, gray hairs and acquired wisdom talking.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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In Remembrance

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

Rose Spalding, 94



Rose Lorraine Spalding, 94, of Leonardtown, Maryland, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, in the home she and her husband, built over 75 years ago. Their

home was a source of constant love and laughter, extending beyond the family to embrace many within the community. In her final days, she was tenderly cared for by so many she herself had nurtured, and whispered words of love were spoken softly as she left this world to reunite with God and her beloved husband.

Born on May 30, 1930, in Washington, D.C., Rose was the eldest child of Blanche Virginia and Fredrick Fletcher Cowan. She was born at the height of the depression, and she grew up during World War II. She was an athlete and a lover of the arts. Rose taught swimming and painted the murals at Anacostia High School, where they were proudly displayed for over fifty years. Though she was awarded a four-year scholarship to George Washington University's Corcoran School of Art, Rose ultimately followed in her mother's footsteps, working for the MaBell Telephone Company in its commercial arts department.

Rose met Tom in Southern Maryland, where her family's summer home in White Point sat across from the Goddard farm where Tom was raised. After becoming a devout Catholic, she and Tom married in 1949, creating a life filled with love and faith. Together, they raised nine children who flourished in a home bursting with warmth and laughter. Rose took great pride in her children's welfare and education, turning motherhood and homemaking into an art form. She and Tom's home became a refuge for anyone in need, and they were pillars of love and faith in their community. Though we will deeply miss her, Rose will live on in the hearts and minds of all she touched.

She is survived by her nine children: Suzanne Alexander (Dan), Deborah Spalding (the late Michael Morton), Karen Spalding, Catherine Fenwick (Scott Cooley), Thomas Spalding Jr. (Tammy), Clara Stokel Spalding, Fredrick Spalding, Patrick Spalding (Angel), Michael Spalding (Mary), John Spalding (Valerie), 18 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with prayers held at 6:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Joseph Cwik on October 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Our Lady's Catholic Church

– Medley's Neck, 41410 Medley's Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow the Mass in the church cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be her grandchildren.

The family kindly requests that if you feel so inclined, donations can be made in Rose's honor to Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

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

Emory Lawrence, 83



Charles "Emory" Lawrence, 83, died September 29, 2024, in Hughesville, MD surrounded by his loving family. He was born October 14, 1940, in Leonardtown, MD.

He was the son of

the late Mary Elizabeth Bailey Lawrence and Francis DeSales Lawrence of Coltons Point, MD. He was the loving husband of the late Barbara Jean Lawrence to whom he married on April 16, 1971 and spent his life raising three children.

Emory was a lifelong St. Mary's County resident and was a graduate of Margaret Brent High School Class of 1958. He served in the U.S. Air Force in Phalsbourg France as an Air Policeman from October 1960 - September 1964. Prior to the service, Emory worked alongside his siblings at their father's grocery store in Coltons Point, MD. After the service, he ran the 21 Club in Hollywood, MD and then met Barbara in 1971. After they married, Emory began working at Besche Oil Company and then eventually changed careers to sell insurance until he retired. They raised their three wonderful children in Hollywood, MD who have all continued to embody his lessons and values which is evident in their love for their families. Emory was known for holding a great conversation and treating every

person he met with the same respect regardless of stature. He never met a stranger and many of his clients and co-workers became his lifelong friends. He enjoyed playing baseball and softball and helping with his children's sporting events and hobbies. He often traveled to Dover with Barbara to hit the slot machines. Enjoyed a good cigarette, bluegrass and country music, reading a good historical book, and attending his grandchildren and great grandchildren's activities and sporting events, whom he was very proud of.

He was preceded in death by his sister: Barbara Ann Colson and brothers: Jimmy Lawrence of Leonardtown, MD, George Elliott Lawrence, Sr. of Barefoot Bay, FL

He is survived by his brother: William (Marcie) Lawrence and sister Rose White; Children: Joseph "Joey" (Janet) Lawrence of Chaptico, MD, Vincent "Scott" (Bridgette) Lawrence of California MD., and Karrie "Missy" (David) Wood of Hughesville, MD; Grandchildren: Megan (Keith) Lawrence, Gina (Brian) Adkins, Kelly (John) Simmons, Todd (Jessica) Lawrence, Chris (Sarah) Lawrence, Miranda Wood, Hannah Lawrence, Greg Lawrence; Great Grand Children: Devante and Desiree Barnes, Dillion Adkins, Amaya and Amare Mackall, Taelor Adkins, Conor Lawrence and Callum Lawrence.

The family will receive friends on Saturday October 5, 2024 at the Brinsfield Funeral Home located in Charlotte Hall, MD from 9-11am, service at 11am, and Interment followed in Charles Memorial Gardens.

Pallbearers will be Keith Mackall, Brian Adkins, Christopher Lawrence, Todd Lawrence, Gregory Lawrence, and Devante Barnes.

Honorary Pallbearers are Dillon Adkins and Keith Amarie Mackall

In lieu of flowers, Contributions may be made to the Charlotte Hall Rotary Foundation PO Box 681 Charlotte Hall MD 20622. Funds will be used to support local projects in St. Mary's County.

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

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



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Dad, Susan & Tracy



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In Remembrance

Joe Quade, 77



Joseph L. Quade, Jr., of Clements, MD, passed away on September 29, 2024, surrounded by his family. Joe died of a rare blood cancer at the age of 77. He was a St. Mary's

County resident all his life. Born to the late Joseph and Eleanor Quade on September 23, 1947, he was the eldest of five children.

Joe married his high school sweetheart, Teresa (Morgan) Quade, on April 19, 1969, at Sacred Heart Church, Bushwood, MD. Together they celebrated 55 years of marriage and 4 ½ years of going steady. He was blessed with two children, Joseph L. "Lenny" Quade III and Dorothy Leann Quade Howe (J.J.). In addition to his wife and children, Joe is survived by his siblings, Carroll Quade, Karen Boszko, Kevin Quade (Sherry), and Sharon Lacey (Tony), his grandchildren, Brandon Tyler Quade, Joseph L. Quade IV, Leah Morgan Quade, Christina Howe Canan (Gage), and Trevor Howe, and his great grandchildren, Bjorn and Jade Canan. Joe was a very devoted, kind, and caring man to his family, and always wanted the best for them.

Joe was a member of the last graduating class of Margaret Brent High School 1965. He was then drafted in 1966 by the United States Army, where he served two years. During this time, he served in Vietnam and earned the status of sergeant and received several medals; the Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal.

Joe spent his working career with Steuart Petroleum in Piney Point, MD for 23 years and Burch Oil Company in Hollywood, MD for 25 years. He could talk for hours with friends about cars, trucks, and NASCAR. He enjoyed his magazines and newspapers.

You will live on in the hearts of everyone you have loved. When your body shall cease, your soul will still be with us. I swear by my hope of heaven, you will not be parted from us.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM with Father Kevin Fields officiating.

Serving as pallbearers will be Mike Kalnasky, Danny White, Glen Cullins, Wade Wood, Jim Gray, Mike Wathen, Charlie Pilkerton, and Kevin Gray. Honorary pallbearers will be Brandon Quade, J.L. Quade, Leah Quade, Christina Canan, Trevor Howe, and Sarah Bowman.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hospice of St. Mary's, the 7th District Vol. Rescue Squad, or Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD.

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

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

Vaughn McCall, 87



Vaughn Irvin McCall, 87, passed away on September 29, 2024 in Charlotte Hall, MD. He was surrounded by his wife and family. He was the loving husband of Nettie

MaDora McCall, cherished father to four children, five step children, and grandfather to numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Born on October 16, 1936 in Boston, Massachusetts, he was the only son of the late Edwin McCall and Inez Epps McCall.

Vaughn was an Air Force Combat Veteran with over 20 years of service. His MOS was Egress-ejection seat maintenance and training instructor. In addition to working logistics for the Presidential Helicopter, he also worked for numerous government agencies and sub-contractors. Most recently he worked as a foreign discover analyst with Tekla Research.

Along with his wife, Nettie, Vaughn is survived by his children, Vaughn McCall, Jr. (Becky), Vance I. McCall (Christine), Cash E. McCall (Diane), Shawn Patrick McCall (Christy), William Dooley (Cindy), Ronald Dooley (Kim), and Mark Dooley (Kellie).

Vaughn is preceded in death by his parents and two children, Nettie Ann Russell and Robert Dooley.

Family will receive friends on Monday, October 7, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 with a service being held at 3:00 p.m. followed by Air Force honors. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home of the Disabled American Veterans.

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

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

Don McLeod, 72



Donald Matthew McLeod, "Don", 72, of Leonardtown, MD, formerly of Brooklyn, NY, passed away on September 26, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on August

23, 1952, in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Mary Josephine (Higgins) McLeod and the late Edward McLeod. Don was the loving husband of Paula McLeod, whom he married on March 31, 1973, in Brooklyn, NY. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Anitra McLeod of Leonardtown, MD, Matthew McLeod (Ashli) of Dallas, TX, and Erik McLeod (Melissa) of Longmont, CO, his brother, William McLeod (Eileen) of Freehold, NJ, and two grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his siblings, Edward

McLeod, Jr. and Ann Marie Cacouris, as well as one grandchild.

Don graduated from Nazareth High School in 1970 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Manhattan College in 1974. That same year, he moved from Brooklyn, NY to St. Mary's County, MD. Don was a Safety Officer/Engineer for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for 38 years, retiring in 2012. He most recently was employed at P.A.E as a Safety Officer/Contract Manager for ten years until his retirement in 2022. Don was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

The family will receive friends on Friday, October 11, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home. On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the family will receive visitors from 9 AM to 10 AM with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 AM at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD with Father Ted Hagnauer officiating. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Don's name to any St. Mary's County Volunteer Rescue Squads and/or any animal rescue organization in the tri-county area.

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

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

Bubby Edwards, 84

Luther Dent Edwards, Jr., "Bubby", 84 of Drayden, MD, passed away on October 1, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on June 10, 1940 in Drayden, MD, he was the son of the late Myrtle Edwards and the late Luther Dent Edwards, Sr. Bubby was the loving husband of Mary Edwards, whom he married in St. George's Catholic Church, and who preceded him in death on August 15, 2018. He is survived by his sons, Dennis Edwards, of St. George's Island, MD and Keith Edwards of Fairfax, VA, his siblings, Virginia Cruse of Waldorf, MD, Lola Seidl of Vienna, VA, Shirley Rusell of Tall Timbers, MD, Sandra Donaldson of Great Mills, MD, Carl Edwards of Park Hall, MD, and Ronnie Edwards of Great Mills, MD, and five grandchildren. In addition to his wife and his parents, Bubby was preceded in death by his brother, Philip Edwards and Tommy Edwards.

Bubby graduated from Great Mills High School and was a boat builder and waterman. Most recently, he was employed as a Machinist on the Patuxent River Naval Air Base. He enjoyed spending his free time crabbing and fishing.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Maryland Watermen's Association, 1805A Virginia Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, In Memory of Luther Dent "Bubby" Edwards, Jr.

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

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

Doug Creek, 55



Paul Douglas "Doug" Creek, 55, passed away on July 28th, 2024, at his home in Mechanicsville, MD, surrounded by those who loved him. Born

to Paul D. Creek and Betty E. Crawford-Creek of Martinsburg, WV, Doug grew up in Martinsburg and attended St. Luke's United Methodist Church. A 1987 graduate of Martinsburg High School, Doug was a standout athlete and one of the first inductees into the school's Hall of Fame. That same year, he represented Team USA, earning a silver medal and recognition as the most valuable left-handed pitcher. He continued his athletic career at Georgia Tech, where he still holds all-time records for wins, strikeouts, and innings pitched. Doug was later inducted into the Georgia Tech Hall of Fame. Doug's professional baseball career began after being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals. Over the years, he played for several Major League Baseball teams, including the St. Louis Cardinals, San Francisco Giants, Chicago Cubs, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Seattle Mariners, Toronto Blue Jays, and Detroit Tigers. He also played for the Hanshin Tigers in Japan. After retiring from baseball, Doug became a charter boat captain in Boca Grande, Florida, and competed in fishing tournaments with Team Red Baron. He owned and operated Doug Creek Baseball in Southern Maryland, where he dedicated 15 years to coaching and mentoring the youth of St. Mary's County. Doug also worked with the Cal Ripken Foundation and Team USA, and most recently, he was employed with Guardian, Inc. Doug is survived by his children, Colton D. Creek and Aubrie J. Creek; his brother, Ryan M. Creek, and sister-in-law, Melanie Creek. He is also survived by his Aunt Janet Owens (the late Richard Owens), Uncle Wayne Crawford (Carolyn), Aunt Susie Bartley (Jimmy), Uncle Jimmy Creek (the late Evelyn Creek), and Uncle Jerry Creek (Carol). Doug was preceded in death by his Aunt Peggy Lambert, Uncle Thomas Lambert I, and cousins Thomas Lambert II and Scott Lambert. He leaves behind cousins Jimmy Bartley, Jamie Bartley, Susan Cable, Derrick Crawford, Amber Crawford, Lisa Vigrass, J.L. Creek, Judy Polous, Chris Creek, Robin Creek, and Stephanie Creek. In his final days, Doug was surrounded by his mother, father, brother, Helen, the Kidwell family-Rob, Julie, and Robby, as well as the Guardian team. Doug's life was filled with passion, commitment, and a deep love for his family, friends, and the communities he served. His legacy will live on through those who knew and loved him. He will be greatly missed.

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Double Layer
Carrot Cake

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Pretzel Bites

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4-In. Pumpkin Or
Baked Sweet
Potato Pie

1.00



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30-Pack
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18-Pack
Coors Light

14.99



12-Oz. Bottles
12-Pack
Corona Beer

18.99



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light

20.99



750mL
Basil Hayden
Straight Bourbon

36.99



1.75L
Tito's
Vodka

31.99



1.75L
Grey Goose
Vodka

46.99



1.75mL
Seagram's
VO Whiskey

19.49



1.75L
Bacardi White
Rum

21.99



1.75L
Tanqueray
Gin

36.99



1.75 ML.
Evan Williams
Straight Bourbon

24.99



750mL
Grand
Marnier

37.99



750mL
Suntory
Toki Whisky

67.99



1.75mL
Johnnie Walker
Red Label

37.99



750mL
Knob Creek
9-Year Bourbon

34.99



1.75L
Absolute
Vodka

27.99



1.75L
Hornito's
Tequila

39.99



750mL
Dominio de
Puntum Wine

6.99



750mL
Mionetto
Prosecco

12.99



750mL
Domaine Bousquet
Cabernet Sauvignon

7.99



750mL, Selected
XXL
Wines

11.49



750mL
Line 39
Merlot

8.49



750mL
Francis Coppola
Chardonnay

9.99



1.05L
Clos Du Bois
Chardonnay

14.99



750mL
Port Of Leonardtown
Black Forest Waltz

15.99



750-ML, Selected
Duplin
Wines

8.49



750mL
St. Michaels
Winery Sweet Rose

10.99



750mL
1924 Double Black
Cabernet Sauvignon

11.99



750ml
Cupcake
Decadent Red

9.49



750mL
Harvey & Harriet
White Blend

25.99



750mL
Caposaldo
Moscato

12.99



750mL
Campo Viejo
Brut Rose

8.49



750mL
Catena
Malbec Wine

19.99



Wine of the Month

750mL
Vint By
Robert Mondavi

7.99

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Oct 3

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

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

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625 for more information.

Fri, Oct 4

Prime Rib Dinner

Hollywood VFD
24801 Three Notch Rd, Hollywood
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

\$25 per plate, dine-in or carry-out. Menu: prime rib, baked potato, green beans, salad, roll.

DJ entertainment. Cash bar available. Brown bag auction and 50/50 raffle.

Prisoners of War at Point Lookout (Living History Program)

Point Lookout State Park
11175 Point Lookout Rd., Scotland
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please make sure you come inside the park. The private displays outside the park is NOT part of this event.

This event will represent the period of October 1864 when Point Lookout was experiencing an overcrowded prison. It will highlight the life of both prisoners, guards,

and civilians as the tide of the war is beginning to favor the United States.

Sat, Oct 5

Multi-Family Yard Sale

Baptist Church Rd & George F Dr.,
Mechanicsville
8 a.m. to Noon

Vintage items, tools, furniture, fall/holiday decor, household items, lawn equipment, linens, toys, office supplies, pictures/frames

St. Marys Co. Genealogical Society Event

Leonardtown Library and on Zoom
23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

An in-person/hybrid meeting. 10am -11am will be an in-person tour of the library's Maryland Room which houses our Society's records along with guidance on how to make the most of them in your family search. 11am to Noon will transition to a ZOOM presentation on "Searching Historical Maps". This will be led by Eric Benson (ST, Mary's Co. Geographic Info. Systems Mgr.) and Tim Benson (webmaster for our society.) They will demonstrate the new Interactive History Map available one the county's website.

Go to smegsi.org/eventListings.php?nm=61 for the Zoom Link.

Bruderfest 2024

Der Brudergarten
22725 Duke St., Leonardtown
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Join us for a day of live entertainment, food, drinks, dog-friendly contests, and games for the humans too!

Follow the Brudergarten Beer Garden at Shepherd's Old Field Market Facebook page to stay up-to-date with Bruderfest info!

Here are a few of the features you can look forward to experiencing at Bruderfest:

- Beer tasting with visiting brewers
- Weiner dog races
- German dancers & entertainment
- Human games & prizes
- Live music with HydraFX at 6 PM
- Epic eats
- Beer!
- More beer!

Lederhosen and Dindls encouraged!

Rain or shine! Family friendly daytime event! Must be 21 and older after 7 PM to stay and play.

Sun, Oct 6

Purse and Bags Bingo

Mechanicsville Vol. Fire Department
28165 Locks Hill Rd., Mechanicsville
Noon to 3 p.m.

Join us for our Purse Bag Bingo Admission is 40.00 dollars for more information please contact Sherry 240 249 5808 or visit or website at MVFD.com. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Tea Party

Port of Leonardtown Winery
23190 Newtowne Neck Rd., Leonardtown
10 a.m. to Noon

Indulge in a delightful morning filled with delicious, animal-free treats and a variety of carefully curated teas, catered by Baked + Brunched: bakedandbrunched.com/. Whether you're a long-time Vegan or just curious about plant-based options, this event is perfect for anyone looking to enjoy a

unique and tasty experience. **Registration required.**

Each ticket includes: tea sandwiches (with GF option); pasta salad or green salad (with GF option); sweet or savory scones with cream & jam; sweets (with GF option); spring or sparkling water; herbal teas; (1) ticket for a glass of POL wine or slushy; free parking.

Upcoming

Fall Yard Sale

7th District VRS Auxiliary
Rescue Squad Annex Building
21533 Colton Point Road
October 5-12
Saturday Hours – 8 am to 12 pm
Sunday & Weekdays – 10 am to 2 pm

Fill a 13-gallon size bag for \$10.00 Many assorted items have been donated and too many to mention by name.

Kids Bingo (Ages 5 – 15)

7th District VFD Auxiliary
21660 Colton Point Road
Saturday, October 12
Doors open 1 pm, bingo at 2 pm

Cost: \$10.00 (Includes 10 games, 4 specials and a door prize ticket). Halloween costumes optional! Bingo prizes will be various gift cards and other items for door prizes. Children must be accompanied by adult. Refreshments available for sale.

Reservations recommended. For more information or to make reservations, call Nicki at 240-298-5026 or email at nhammett12@gmail.com. Check out the Auxiliary's Facebook page at "Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary" for event information.



What Storm, What Thunder Discussion & Journaling

Join us to discuss this year's One Maryland One Book selection, *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy. We'll explore the book's themes and enjoy journaling together, creating fun prompts to inspire creativity at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, October 9 from 5 – 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

An Evening with Nnedi Okorafor, Author of Wakanda Forever

Hear from author Nnedi Okorafor, winner of the Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy Awards, and a TEDGlobal speaker! Leonardtown High School on Friday, October 11 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. The event will also be available virtually on zoom. Register on www.stmalib.org. Ms. Okorafor is the author of the comic series LaGuardia, Wakanda Forever, and Black Panther: Long Live the King, and novels such as Binti, Akata Woman, Shadow Speaker,

and more. Join us at Leonardtown High School's auditorium or online through Zoom. Ms. Okorafor will be signing books after the presentation, books available for purchase at the event.

LexiCon: Legends

Join us for an adventure-filled day as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Dungeons and Dragons with a TTRPG-themed LexiCon! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 12 from 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We have a day full of action and excitement planned for you, dear adventurer! Join us in the morning for a "Heroes in Training" obstacle course and stay for an afternoon full of speakers, weapons demonstrations, miniature figure painting, trivia, and more! Then, stay for our cosplay contest where first place wins a prize! Register for the cosplay contest online at www.stmalib.org or at the door - we look forward to seeing all of your amazing costumes!

All the Dirt on Native Seed Collecting

Learn the tricks of the trade for collecting, cleaning and storing native plant seeds for your home garden or to share! Leonardtown Library on Saturday, October 12 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Harvesting your own seeds saves you money and gives you more variety in your garden. Marlene Smith, president of Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, and Molly Moore, president of Southern Maryland Audubon, will teach you the difference between shakers, beaks, cone heads, and more. Weather permitting, we will collect seeds from the Front Yard Garden, then will guide you in cleaning and packaging seeds to take home. We welcome beginners as well as experienced seed collectors. Register on www.stmalib.org.



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61				62					63					
64				65							66			
67				68							69			

- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Separate with an instrument

5. State clearly

11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon

14. Broad in scope

15. Lacking social polish

16. Amount of time

17. Frame

19. Automobile

20. Caps

21. High school dances

22. Utilize

23. Checked

25. One-sided

27. Having an extreme greed for wealth

31. Potted plants

34. We all have one

35. Lake north of the Kalahari

38. Unidentified flying object

39. Aging persons

41. Small amount

42. Mother of Perseus

44. Ornamental waist box

45. Officials

46. Uncertain

49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish

51. Extensive, treeless plains

55. Your consciousness of your own identity

56. Consumer advocate Ralph

60. Notable Spanish sports club

61. Body part

62. One's responsiveness

64. Woman (French)

65. Ready and willing to be taught

66. Muslim ruler title

67. Unhappy

68. Gradually disappeared

69. Able to think clearly
1. Brushed

2. Water sprite

3. Ones to look up to

4. Monetary units

5. We all have one

6. Marine invertebrate

7. One who institutes a legal proceeding

8. Outer

9. Parallelograms

10. Uncomfortable feelings

11. Cross to form an X

12. Remove

13. Some pages are dog-__

18. Capital of Ukraine

24. A citizen of Denmark

26. Eighth month (abbr.)

28. Hindu queens

29. Acids structurally related to amino acids

30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien

31. Wet dirt

32. Russian city

33. Observed

36.irate

37. Travelers need them

39. Musical composition

40. Auction

43. Form of "to be"

45. Women

47. Inspire with love

48. Think Japanese ankle sock

49. Appears

50. Old World lizard

52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina

53. Protein involved in motion

54. Rosalind Franklin biographer

57. Popular 1920s style art __

58. __ Blyton, children's author

59. Abnormal breathing

63. A place to rest

7					2		4	3
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B	E	S	T			S	C	I			P	V	A		
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P	A	L			E	Y	E			M	E	S	A		

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

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Fri, Oct 4

First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum
1–4:30 p.m.

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

Roaring 20's Cruise aboard the *Witchcraft*

Calvert Marine Museum
3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Step back in time to the roaring twenties on the *Witchcraft's* Prohibition Day Cruises, where flappers and dapper gents alike will revel in the glitz and glamour of an era shrouded in secrecy and extravagance. Guests are invited bring their favorite speak-easy provisions and bootlegged spirits. Cost is \$60/person; max 6 people per charter. Must be 18 or older to cruise.

Sat, Oct 5

Pirate Cruise aboard the *Witchcraft*

Calvert Marine Museum
3 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Don your finest pirate attire and set sail for a swashbuckling adventure ye won't soon forget! Mates are invited to haul along yer favorite grub and grog. Cost is \$60/person; max 6 people per charter. Must be 18 or older to cruise.

Sweet Treats Bake Sale

Ace Hardware
1750 Prosper Ln., Owings
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bake Sale benefitting the Humane Society

of Calvert County. There will be treats for purchase for you and your four legged best friend. thehumanesocietyofcalvertcounty.org

20th Year Celebration

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 Flint Hill Rd., Owings
3-7 p.m.

Join Freedom Hill Horse Rescue for a celebration of its 20th anniversary. The celebration will include, tours, a demonstration, horse interaction, games for children and more. There will also be a tack sale in our loft. Come out and support the rescue and learn about horses and what programs FHHR offers to the community. The event is free but donations are always welcome.

Sun, Oct 6

Southern Maryland Bluegrass with David Parmley Band

Calvert Elks 2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
2 p.m.

Best known for his talent standing next to his Dad, Don Parmley, in a band that brought the new generation to their feet back in the 70's when they made their move from California to the Washington, DC area. That band was the Bluegrass Cardinals. David Parmley has since led his own solo career with bands such as Continental Divide and the Cardinal Tradition. After a short break from the road, David has made a comeback with a new sound and new look asking the question, So Wha'd I Miss?."

Wed, Oct 9

Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? The Calvert County Office on Aging is partnering with ServingTogether to provide support twice a month, every second Wednesday and fourth Friday. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Visit <https://servingtogetherproject.org/calvert> for more information.

Ongoing

Adult Grief Support Programs

North Beach Senior Center
9010 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach
Wednesdays, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4.
1 to 2 p.m.

Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
Tuesdays, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.
2 to 3 p.m.

LGBTQIA+ Groups:
John & Cathy Belcher Campus
90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena
Tuesdays, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10
6 to 7:30 p.m.

Calvert Pines Senior Center
450 W. Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
Tuesdays, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.
1 to 2 p.m.

Burnett Center for Hope & Healing
4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick,
Tuesdays, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17.
4 to 5 p.m.

Drop-In Grief Support Groups are open to anyone grieving. Groups offer participants an opportunity to share their feelings and obtain support from others who are experiencing loss. There is no fee. These groups will meet at the North Beach Senior Center on first Wednesdays and at the Southern Pines Senior Center on second Tuesdays. Drop-In Grief Group for LGBTQIA+ is for members of the LGBTQIA+ commu-

Upcoming

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, Oct. 12
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Come celebrate the Patuxent River at the original fall event held since 1978! We are so excited to announce that this year the Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman will give a talk from the main stage at 11 a.m. This event includes live music, food and drink vendors, makers of homespun goods, a petting zoo, FREE boat rides, toy boat building, displays and activities celebrating the river! Explore the museum grounds to visit dozens of nonprofit and community groups that help keep our area a wonderful place to live and play! Museum admission is FREE to all during the event!

COSMIC Symphony Concert

Chesapeake Church
6201 Solomons Island Rd, Huntingtown
Saturday, Oct. 12
3 p.m.

Radiant Rhapsodies will feature some of the most well-known rapturous works in music, including Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody and Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. COSMIC will be featuring acclaimed pianist and Southern Maryland Native Baron Fenwick. Free, no ticket required.

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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.



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Bayside History Museum Celebrates 20 Years



The Bayside History Museum invites you to join us on Sunday, October 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. for our 20th Anniversary Open House! Scout masters from the old Camp Roosevelt and a gentleman who attended Camp Chesapeake in 1953 will be on hand to talk about scouting. Carter Gray is featuring his 30+ year collection of Calvert County police & fire department badges. There will also be live acoustic music by Ward McClung and Bruce Rider, unique scavenger hunts, a trivia contest, and raffle drawings at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

About the Museum

The mission of the Bayside History Museum is to educate the public and visitors about the natural and cultural history of North Beach, Chesapeake Beach and surrounding beach communities through Display case from museum collections, preservation, conservation, research, exhibits and related programming.

The museum is located at 4025 4th Street in North Beach.

Shine a Light to Support Veterans with Operation Green Light

Calvert County invites all residents and businesses to show support for military veterans during the week of Nov. 4-11, 2024. Join us in lighting buildings and homes in green to raise awareness and express our profound thanks for the sacrifice and service of our veterans.

Operation Green Light, a nationwide initiative spearheaded by the National Association of Counties, unites counties across the country to support those who have bravely served in the armed forces. This campaign serves as a powerful platform to increase awareness about the unique challenges faced by veterans and the wealth of resources available to them.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to participate by changing at least one light bulb in their home or building to a vibrant green. This can be as simple as replacing an exterior or interior light that neighbors and passersby see. By shining a green light, we

send a clear message to our veterans that they are not only seen but also deeply appreciated and supported.

To assist residents in showing their appreciation, the Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) will be distributing green light-bulbs at the Calvert County Fair located at 140 Calvert Fair Drive in Prince Frederick, from Sept. 26-29, 2024. For more information on resources for Calvert County veterans visit the VAC webpage at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/VAC and follow the Community Resources Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CalvertCommunityResources.

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

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of September 16, 2024 – September 22, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,968 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 66
- Disorderly: 12
- Domestic: 26
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 60
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 905
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 30
- Traffic Complaints: 70
- 911 Hang Ups: 97
- ARRESTS: 59



Melissa Anne Quillen

CDS Violation: 24-72055 On September 17, 2024, DFC Plant initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for multiple traffic violations in the area of Heritage Blvd. and Traditional Way in Prince Frederick.

Upon making contact with the driver, **Melissa Anne Quillen**, 38 of Leonardtown, Quillen advised she did not have her driver's license in her possession. Further investigation revealed K9 Atlas conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert for narcotics. A vehicle search revealed a lock box containing 5 metal bowls with heroin residue and cotton balls, two foil folds with burnt heroin residue, a used needle, and other drug paraphernalia. Quillen was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Joseph Jose Brown

CDS Violation: 24-72503 On September 18, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle with stolen tags in the area of Rt. 2 and Kent Road in Sunderland. Contact was made with the occupants, driver **Joseph Jose Brown**, 57 of Sunderland, and passenger **Tusheena Nicole Brooks**, 34 of Huntingtown. Further investigation revealed a plastic tube with two rock like substances

(suspected crack cocaine) and a plastic bag with a white rock like substance were located inside the vehicle. Brown was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft: Less than \$100 from a Motor Vehicle. Brooks was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Barbara Ann Magruder



Kimberly Marie Hamm



William O'Brian Kennedy

CDS Violation: 24-72475 On September 18, 2024, Detectives with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle after observing multiple traffic violations along Fairground Road in Prince Frederick. Upon making contact with the driver, **Barbara Ann Magruder**, 46 of Prince Frederick, a bag containing Alprazolam was observed in plain view. Magruder advised she had just exchanged pills with a female identified as **Kimberly Marie Hamm** in a red Pontiac. A search of Magruder's vehicle revealed a cut plastic straw with residue, a

dollar bill containing a blue powder, and a clear plastic Ziploc style bag containing a white residue. Magruder was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Distribution, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Narcotics. Moments later, detectives observe the suspect's red Pontiac to have a cracked windshield obstructing the driver's view. A traffic stop was initiated on the Pontiac in the area of Safeway gas station located at 240 West Dares Beach Rd. in Prince Frederick. Contact was made with the occupants, driver **William O'Brian Kennedy**, 45 of Chesapeake Beach, and passenger **Kimberly Marie Hamm**, 44 of Chesapeake Beach. Investigation revealed Hamm met with Magruder and exchanged pills. A K9 search of the vehicle revealed a pill bottle of Alprazolam (the same pills seized from Magruder), 36 Ambien pills, a suboxone strip, a cut straw with white residue, 2 Oxycodone pills and 3 cell phones. A search of Kennedy revealed a cut plastic straw as well as a plastic container containing a white powdery residue (suspected Oxycodone). Kennedy was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Hamm was transported and charged with CDS: Distribution, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 24-73016 On September 20, 2024, DFC Hendrickson responded to the



Christina Lynne Worley

Worley was observed laying in the bushes huffing from cans of paint. Worley was advised to stop huffing and refused to comply, then continued to abuse the can. Worley was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charge with CDS-Inhaling a Harmful Substance and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/ Lawful order of a Law Enforcement Officer.



Jennifer Leigh Johnson

Theft: 24-71757 On September 16, 2024, Deputy Gadwill responded to Rt. 4 and Rt. 260 near the Calvert/Anne Arundel County line, for the report of a stolen tags. The suspect vehicle was located on Rt. 260 near Cox Road and a traffic stop was initiated. Contact was made with the driver, **Jennifer Leigh Johnson**, 50 of Montgomery Village. Johnson was unable to provide a valid registration card for the vehicle. Johnson was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft less than \$100 from a Motor Vehicle, Selling/Possessing a Stolen Manufacturer Number, and Possessing a Serial Number for Fraud Purposes.

Theft: 24-72445 On September 18, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the Weis located at 750 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown black female entered the store and placed various items in a cart, proceeded to self-checkout, passing all points of sale without making payment.

Walgreens located at 355 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick, for the report of a CDS Violation. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Christina Lynne Worley**, 61 of no fixed address.

The suspect left the store with one container of crab meat and a lanyard. The estimated value of stolen property is \$124.95.



Gina Patricia Kennedy

Theft: 24-72461 On September 18, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the Weis located at 750 Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick, for the report of a wanted person. Upon arrival, contact was made with a **Gina Patricia Kennedy**, 35 of Owings. Kennedy was known to have multiple active warrants for her arrest. Kennedy had opened a box of face cream and began using it while in the store. The estimated value of stolen property is \$29.69. Kennedy was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Theft less than \$100.00 and served her open warrants.

Theft: 24-73244 On September 21, 2024, Deputy Deinert responded to 6700 block of Ben Creek Road in St. Leonard, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on September 20, unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's towable tube from their dock. The tube is described as a Giant Bubba towable tube, yellow in color, bearing red and green decals, with "WOW" in bold letters. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

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.go

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Letters to the Editor

Prince Frederick Master Plan

The letter below was recently sent to the Planning Commission on behalf of KCC. It outlines our concerns about the draft Prince Frederick Master Plan (PFMP). We urge all followers to get involved in the PFMP adoption process. Even if you don't live in Prince Frederick, what happens there affects all of us since we all drive through there and have experienced the traffic back-ups.

Dear Chairman Toohey and Members of the Planning Commission,

There are still problems with the draft Master Plan that have not been resolved. Despite strong opposition from a majority of the citizens who commented on the first draft of the Prince Frederick Master Plan, despite concerns expressed by several of the members of the Planning Commission and despite clear direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), the second draft still clings to the idea that Prince Frederick has not grown fast enough and needs more high density development.

Under the heading Strategic Direction in chapter 2, the plan still states that "residential development has not materialized at the scale, pace and density needed to create vibrancy in Prince Frederick." There are several other sections in the draft that repeat this argument.

The draft still recommends a set of actions designed to eliminate "impediments" to residential growth. These include eliminating or reducing:

- traffic impact studies,
- on-site recreation requirements,
- the current Transferable Development Rights (TDR) structure,
- fees and
- excise taxes.

These recommended actions are irresponsible. They fail to acknowledge that there are costs related to the amount, location and rate of residential growth – costs that all citizens in Calvert County will be required to bear. A better alternative would be to decide how much more residential development can be accommodated in and around Prince Frederick based upon factors such as road capacity, water and sewer capacity, groundwater capacity, and environmental suitability.

According to a recent staff report, there are currently 1723 dwelling units in the Prince Frederick Town Center. (There were fewer than 300 dwelling units in 1990.) At a recent BOCC regular meeting, staff presented three estimates of future residential development based on a maximum density of 7 dwelling units per acre. Estimates ranged from 2,000 to 5,000 additional units. Staff indicated the figure of 4,000

additional units is the more likely scenario. Since then, the BOCC directed staff to reduce maximum density to 4 dwelling units per acre. Even given that reduction, residential development in the town center itself is likely to more than double. (This doesn't include proposed increases in residential density immediately outside the Town Center.)

We believe strong arguments can be made that Prince Frederick is already nearing capacity:

1. Prince Frederick is already a traffic bottleneck. Several intersections are failing. Traffic often stalls for miles north and south of Prince Frederick.
2. There are no realistic, cost-effective options for increasing highway capacity or traffic flow through Prince Frederick.
3. Calvert County is already the sixth most densely populated county in Maryland and depends entirely on MD 2/4 for north/south access.
4. The topography in and around Prince Frederick is highly unsuitable for intensive development. Soil erosion control techniques have repeatedly failed, threatening water quality in Parkers Creek, Hunting Creek and Battle Creek.
5. Ground water supply within the entire Southern Maryland region is nearing capacity.
6. Public water and sewer may be reaching capacity.

In conclusion, please direct staff to eliminate all wording in the draft that calls for rapid, high density residential growth (such as the wording about "scale, pace and density" quoted above) and all wording that otherwise conflicts with BOCC's recent direction to limit maximum residential density to 4 units per acre.

On October 27, 2021, you "tabled the discussion on the key issues and land use chapters and requested staff to provide information regarding the Town Center's development capacity and residential density..." (Page 22, draft plan). While some of the information has been provided, you still do not have a maximum build-out figure for the Prince Frederick Town Center that is based upon road capacity, water and sewer capacity, groundwater capacity and environmental suitability. Please direct staff to provide this critical information.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Susan E. Dzurec,
Representative for Keep Calvert Country

State 'Expert Review Team' to Visit Calvert

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A state "Expert Review Team" will be visiting Patuxent-Appeal Campus (PAC) Elementary School this school year.

The visits are part of the state's Blueprint for Excellence education reform program.

Chief Operations Officer Dr. Susan Johnson told the school board at its Sept. 26 meeting, "The state determines Expert Review Team visits based on seven criteria." She said since Calvert didn't fall into any of those criteria, PAC was chosen because it was the county's lowest performing school in state math tests (see separate story).

School Superintendent Dr. André Townsel said the school system selected PAC for the visits. The state chooses at least one school a year from each county for the expert visits.

"They're going to be coming in this winter to do that expert review team at PAC Elementary. The principal and our team have already been connecting with the state on what that will look like and setting up dates for that."

Dr. Johnson explained, "The Expert Review Team process includes focus interviews, classroom observations. They meet with teachers, they meet with students, they meet with administration. I don't know if they meet with parents or not. And then they do classroom visits. So, in looking at all that data, what they provide back to the school is a report of what information the focus teams are saying about their experience in the school. And then they're looking in those classroom observations to talk through and



Dr. Susan Johnson

share information about the strategies that they saw – the strengths and weaknesses and areas of growth of our program."

A team visited Huntingtown High School last school year. It was chosen because it was a high performing school. Board Vice President Inez Claggett asked that the board be provided with a copy of the Huntingtown report and the PAC report when it becomes available.

Board member Dawn Balinski said, "I'm so glad they've chosen PAC because I think we all know that school has unique challenges. They're larger than the middle schools down there. And they have split buildings that have very different populations. And so, I'm hoping that this Expert Review Team will probably highlight the issues that are going on at that school. And I'm hoping that we listen very carefully to it."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Pedestrian Struck in Chesapeake Beach

Members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau on Sep. 26 at approximately 8:43 a.m. responded to the area of Bayside Road and Bristol Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian. Upon arrival deputies determined that the pedestrian sustained life-threatening injuries and requested the Crash Reconstruction Team respond to investigate.

A preliminary investigation revealed that a 2017 Toyota 4Runner, operated by Steven O'Neill, 42 of Chesapeake Beach was traveling southbound on Bayside Road. A pedestrian, identified as Chloe Clagg a 20 of Chesapeake Beach, was running

across Bayside Road into the travel lane. Clagg was struck by the 4Runner. Clagg was transported to Capital Region Shock Trauma in serious condition. O'Neill was not injured.

Clagg is a seasonal employee of the town of Chesapeake Beach.

F/Sgt Thomas Phelps of the Crash Reconstruction Team is conducting the investigation of the crash. Anyone who may have witnessed the crash or events leading up to the incident is asked to contact him at 410-535-2800 or by email, Thomas.Phelps@CalvertCountyMD.gov.

Press release fom CCSO

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

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County Times

Calvert Schools Rank High in State Test Scores

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) ranked high in the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) test scores for school year 2023-24 for English and math. The county ranked fourth statewide for English and 5th in math, according to information provided by staff to the school board at their Sept. 26 meeting. The scores were released in late August.

Chief Academic Officer Jacquelyn Jacobs said, "Significant proficiency gaps among student groups persisted in mathematics in all tests combined. Proficiency rates varied widely from 6.3 percent for multilingual learners to 54.6 percent for Asian students. Multilingual students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities had notably lower proficiency rates compared to the overall student population at the state. When we look at a year-to-year comparison at the state level, for most student groups, math proficiency in school year 23-24 remains similar to the previous year. Importantly, no student group experienced a decline in mathematics proficiency at the state level."

Secondary Math Supervisor Joe Sutton said, "Calvert County Public Schools outperform the state in all student groups

except for American Indian and white, with differences of 5 percent and 2 percent. We continue to analyze our county data as a whole and for student groups to ensure every student receives the instruction they need to reach grade level standards."

"In grades three, four, and five, we continue to considerably outperform the state," said Elementary Math Supervisor Julie Morrison.

Sutton said, "In 2022 and 2023, Calvert County Public School students were scoring proficient at a higher rate than the state and the secondary courses as well. For 2024, sixth grade students scored on par with last year's sixth grade students. Seventh and eighth grade proficiency fell slightly Algebra 1 showed impressive growth, moving from 10th place in the state up to fifth place in the state. We're encouraged and excited about the growth at the algebra level, and we're investigating the other grade levels to determine where within those grade levels we were able to make uncommon growth so that we can replicate those results across the district."

Board member Dawn Balinski wanted to know about the continued gap for African American students, "Because it's just so stubborn and it is so apparent that our African Americans are 20, 25 percent lower in proficiency. We just can't seem to reduce that gap. You see any progress in that area?"

Sutton said, "I think that a lot of the work we do with our teachers and leaders is in making sure the mathematical experience is engaging and reaching all of our students."

Statewide, even the highest ranking districts are still showing less than half of the students as being proficient, which led school board member Lisa Grenis to comment, "These scores show little to no improvement over the 2022- 2023 school year scores. Dr. (Andraé) Townsel (school superintendent) I know our teachers and staff are doing an amazing job, but how do you explain these low scores? Is it a shortage of teachers, instructional assistants, or substitutes? Are our teachers spread too thin? Are behavioral issues interfering with instruction?"

Townsel responded, "I do know we've recently modified a policy, for example, young people being engaged in school due to cellular phone use. So, I am encouraged that with more intention to detail, more instructional time, that our scores will increase over time. It is very difficult and complex to grow leaps and bounds, but two-to three-percent incremental growth over the years is realistic."

He added, "Even the best school district in the state are hovering at roughly 40 percent, leaving over 60 percent of their students with the same concern that we have."

In English, Jacobs said statewide,

"Significant proficiency gaps exist among student groups. They persisted in ELA (English Language Arts) for all tests combined. Proficiency rates varied widely from 10.7 percent for multilingual learners to 74.8 percent for Asian students. Multilingual students, economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities had notably lower proficiency rates compared to the overall student population of the state."

Student Member of the Board Grace Minakowski noted that males lag females in English proficiency.

Supervisor of secondary ELA Lauren Grimes said, "That's a national trend, a gender gap in ELA, where female students outperform male students. And I think it's one reason, when we shift to middle and high school, we're really trying to lean into opportunities for making things relevant and authentic. So, can we have options to choose texts by writers? We're interested in topics that we're interested in, and including choice topics to write about so that students, all students, including students who identify as male, can see themselves in the text that they're reading and what they are writing."

At the suggestion of Grenis, a teacher survey will be conducted to elicit thoughts on the state test.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Approves Americans with Disabilities Act Plan

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) have approved an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Assessment and Transition Plan. The plan was presented to the commissioners on Sept. 24. It carries a price tag of \$18,865,856 phased through 2041.

The Department of Community Resources coordinated the preparation of the plan. Special Projects Manager Kieko Nash reported to the commissioners, "This plan, prepared in collaboration with our consultant Bureau Veritas, aims to ensure that all Calvert County Government (CCG) facilities and services are accessible. Bureau Veritas examined CCG policies as they relate to ADA compliance. Bureau Veritas also conducted public facility surveys to assess existing facilities, identifying areas that require improvement.

"They evaluated 140 CCG facilities, assessing both internal and external spaces for accessibility. The assessments focused on identifying barriers and developing a phased plan to address them. Public feedback on the draft plan was solicited for 30 days through online platforms and in public spaces, including parks and libraries, to ensure comprehensive community input.

"Through collaborative strategies, efforts are underway across various departments to address low-cost and low-effort barriers. Additionally, some barriers will be addressed during planned and future capi-

tal improvement projects, reducing the projected cost of barrier removal significantly."

Nash said that Title 2 of ADA "specifically focuses on equal access, where public entities must provide or must ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to all their services, programs, and activities. Public entities are required to make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures to avoid discrimination. Effective communication centers around public entities and their requirements to take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with individuals with disability are effective as communications with others. And this includes providing auxiliary aid such as interpreters, large print materials, braille, cetera.

"Physical accessibility focuses on newly constructed and altered facilities, and they must be readily available and accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities. Existing facilities must be evaluated and barriers to access may be identified and removed to the extent possible."

During the course of the discussion, it was noted that the current county building code may not in some instances ensure compliance with ADA and may have to be modified. That means that the design of the new county office building also may not be compliant.

County Administrator Mark Willis said, "One of the things that we're doing is working through the Director of Public Works and procurement just to make sure that any contracts that we have going out in the future will have a statement in there synced



County Administrator Mark Willis

for the designers to look at what is ADA code. And then we can also work with planning and zoning and our building folks, just to get on the same page."

As to the new administration building and the Twin Beaches Library and ADA compliance, Willis said, "I think we caught it too late to go back and for us to realize that the ADA requirement is not built into the code. So, when you think that you're building it correctly, but you're not. And it could be something as simple as how high a light switch is. So, there's a lot that goes into ADA."

He indicated it may not be too late to fix the problems in the new administration building in Prince Frederick.

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State on Bridge Suicides: They'll Just Go Somewhere Else

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The state's fiscal situation means Calvert County shouldn't expect much in the way of transportation monies for the next fiscal year. That was the message expected and received by the county commissioners during the annual visit to the county on Sept. 24 from Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials led by Deputy Secretary Samantha Biddle.

Even though the funding situation continues to be bleak, the commissioners continue to press for funding for a new Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge. With its price tag approaching a billion dollars, all sides recognize that it'll take a large infusion of federal dollars to accomplish it.

This year Commissioner Mike Hart raised another issue regarding the bridge — suicides. He said, "I have one, which is always the elephant in the room. You can't come here without hearing about the bridge," adding, "Unfortunately mental health is becoming a bigger and bigger issue. That bridge is getting a lot of attention for the wrong reason. I'm trying to be very delicate. Do you guys ever study (it), is there anything to help deter (it), because I've been asked about nets and things of that nature. Is there a part of what you do that at least looks at that? And I don't know if that bridge is on your radar?"

Unfortunately, we're a very small area. So, when it happens, we know the folks and we know the families."

Biddle responded, "We did do an analysis of some different infrastructure-based solutions to try to combat the exact challenge that you're referencing. There are strategies that are used in different structures across the country, but unfortunately what has been found is that even with some of the strategies in place, individuals who are in a mental health crisis may relocate to another location, and a tragedy still occurs. We did evaluate those options. And for the bridge right now, we're not moving forward with any infrastructure-based solutions there. But it is something that we're happy to continue to have a dialogue about because it is a very sensitive topic and one that really impacts communities and families."

She added, "What we are trying to do is see where we can be a partner with those in the mental health field, through the Department of Health and through awareness and access to getting folks the type of resources that they may need."

Biddle noted, "You may have seen over the past few years that there's now a new emergency services number specifically for those who are facing that type of crisis. And we're making sure that all of our signage is updated to get folks not just to an emergency responder, but an emergency

responder who is trained in that sort of crisis communication and management. So, there's 988 signs."

As to an issue raised by Commissioner President Buddy Hance, Biddle said, "We have reviewed the signal timing on 2/4 in Prince Frederick and I have made as many reasonable adjustments as we really can to ensure that it's running as efficiently as possible."

Biddle explained, "Turning to this year's draft Consolidates Transportation Plan (CTP) for fiscal years 2025 through 2030, the department continues to face significant budgetary challenges because of the state's slow economic growth, rising costs of labor and materials and revenues coming in lower than projections. As one example, our motor fuel tax revenues, the Transportation Trust Fund's largest source, have come in lower than projected by about \$350 million. While at the same time, operating costs have increased by \$300 million. As a result of these financial pressures, the department is making strategic investments with our limited resources to further enhance the safety of our system and maintain operations."

District Engineer Kim Tran said regarding the county's top road priority, "We hosted a public open house to show design plans for improvements at key locations along the Maryland 231 corridor. The three locations were at Skipjack Road at Maryland 508, and then along the section from Toye Lane to



MDOT Deputy Secretary Samantha Biddle

just west of Prince Frederick Boulevard. We recognize the importance of the Maryland 231 corridor projects to the county. The draft CTP does note that these projects are subject to potential deferral pending available funds. SHA is committed to keeping you informed on the status of these projects as the process advances. We are currently finalizing the engineering design, and the right-of-way acquisition process will be underway. We will try to maximize the federal aid towards these projects to keep them moving within the six-year CTP."

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“...INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE IN A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS MAY RELOCATE TO ANOTHER LOCATION.”

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DEPUTY SECRETARY SAMANTHA BIDDLE ON SUICIDE PREVENTION BARRIERS



LOCAL 4
County approves ADA plan



LOCAL 5
School review team coming to Calvert



ON THE COVER
State still won't provide jump barriers on Solomons bridge

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 3	FRI, OCT 4	SAT, OCT 5	SUN, OCT 6
AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 74° Lo: 61°	Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 61°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 57°	Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 62°
MON, OCT 7	TUE, OCT 8	WED, OCT 9	THU, OCT 10
Mostly Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 54°	Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 50°	Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 52°	Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 52°

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**Calvert Ranks in Top 5
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**Fall Home & Garden
Guide Inside**

STATE PASSES ON SUICIDE BARRIERS