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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

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**Groundbreaking
Set for YMCA**

**Commissioners Question
Ethics Change**

**Planners Reject
California Carwash**

ST. MARY'S MOURNS JUDGE STAMM

Photo by Melissa Barrick Creative Co.
Courtesy of Jaymi Sterling

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“UNDER BUDGET IS GOOD.”

COMMISSIONER MIKE HEWITT ON COST ESTIMATES FOR THE YMCA



LOCAL 3
YMCA gets good news











LOCAL 3
Planning commission denies car wash



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's loses one of its most respected public servants

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 10	FRI, OCT 11	SAT, OCT 12	SUN, OCT 13
 Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 43°	 Sunny Hi: 66° Lo: 50°	 Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 55°	 Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 61°
MON, OCT 14	TUE, OCT 15	WED, OCT 16	THU, OCT 17
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 45°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 43°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 43°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 61° Lo: 45°

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YMCA Gets A Groundbreaking Date

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The cost estimates for the construction of the planned YMCA in Lexington Park next to the county-owned pool on Great Mills Road have come back slightly under budget, reported Commissioner Mike Hewitt this week, which he said was good news in the long process to get the facility built.

"Under budget is good," Hewitt said during the Oct. 8 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "The project is moving forward."

"They want to move forward with a groundbreaking... Nov. 19."

The groundbreaking ceremony would take place on the same day the commissioners are set to take part in a budget work session for the coming fiscal year 2026, Hewitt said.

"This commissioner has been working on this for over eight years," Hewitt said. "There's



Artist's rendering of the new YMCA to be built in Lexington Park

something about staying with something.

"It's finally going to happen."

The overall cost of the project is anticipated to be \$22 million — \$15 million of that has already been allocated by the county government.

Under the agreement between the YMCA

and the county, the newly-built facility would be owned by the county, while all the programs would be run by the YMCA staff.

The time to build the facility is estimated at 15-to-18 months.

The YMCA of the Chesapeake, which would run the facility, has been on a fund-

raising campaign to assist in the construction of the recreation and community center; officials with the YMCA reported in spring that they had raised close to \$2 million in donations.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Car Wash Project Rejected



A Tidal Wave car wash facility

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

On a split vote this week the county's planning commission rejected a concept site plan that would have led to the construction of a car wash facility in California, largely over concerns with traffic safety.

The Tidal Wave Auto Spa project, which would have been built near the intersection of Route 235 and Route 4 in the county's largest development district, was to include a 3,615 square foot tunnel building, a 367 square foot accessory building and 15 open air vacuum stations on approximately 4.4 acres of land.

Planning Board Chair Howard Thompson voiced his concerns early during the Oct. 7 public hearing on the project in Leonardtown, stating that placing the large facility on the northbound side of the county's main intersection would only serve to further clog an already troubled traffic artery.

"At that corner [at Route 235 and Route 4 heading north] they're taking off," Thompson said. "You've got a lot of pressure coming in there and it's going to back up."

"It's a very unsafe spot."

Thompson was one of five members of the planning commission to vote against approval of the concept site plan.

"I am pro-development; if you have property in St. Mary's County you have the right to do something with it," Thompson said. "But I have a job to take care of the citizens of the county."

The attorney for the applicant, Christopher Longmore, said the site plan met all the requirements of the county's zoning ordinance and that the developer had the opportunity to pay a fee in lieu to the county to mitigate the traffic impacts of the project.

"That is the law of our county," Longmore said.

Penny Dennis, church administrator of Our Father's House Assembly of God church on Patuxent Beach Road, said the church was troubled by the potential for more traffic snarls in its vicinity.

"If it's already a failing intersection, it is of great concern that we will be putting more ins and outs into that intersection," Dennis said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Hire Comprehensive Plan Consultant



ST. MARY'S 2050
CHARTING OUR TOMORROW

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The last time the county's comprehensive plan — the document that strategizes the county's growth and preservation efforts for the future — was updated was 2010.

State law requires the plan be updated every 10 years — the county is about five years behind on that requirement.

But they have brought on a consultant working group to update the plan, and community engagement is a key piece of that puzzle that will likely span the next 18 months to complete the project.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County were briefed on the new consultant at their Oct. 8 business meeting in Leonardtown.

Leigh Ann King, of Clarion Associates, is the project manager for the comprehensive plan update and she told commissioners she would return periodically to brief them on the plan's progress.

"We look forward to sharing those updates with you when they come up early next year," King told commissioners. "It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to think about the 25 years."

"We're really planning for the next several decades."

While the comprehensive plan maps out the broad strategy for growth and preservation in the county, its goals are achieved through subsequent changes and amendments

to specific portions of the zoning ordinance.

"Anything that is on the ground is fair game for the comprehensive plan," King said, noting the plan covers not only growth but general land use and transportation infrastructure planning. "We want to hear from as many folks in the community that we can."

The process to update the plan will take approximately one-and-a-half years, King said, and the consultant teams were to begin their physical survey of the county this week, next would be to establish knowledge of trends affecting the county and how to translate that into land use goals.

After much community engagement, she said, which included in-person workshops and on-line forums, the team would promulgate policies which could then be adopted by the commissioners.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt was concerned about the length of time King was proposing to complete the project.

"First off, 18 months seems like a long time to me," Hewitt said. "How are we going to measure this progress going through?"

Hewitt said much of what he'd heard from residents about future growth was avoidance of one outcome.

"What I've heard... is this idea that we don't want sprawl," Hewitt said. "We don't want to look like Waldorf."

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Stamm Remembered for His Compassion



Judge Stamm with Nora Sterling, State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling's daughter

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county's longtime Administrative Judge Michael J. Stamm died last week on Oct. 2 succumbing to a brief and sudden illness; he was 68.

Stamm served on the bench for 18 years, the longest serving jurist in St. Mary's, and began his legal career in private practice and then as a prosecutor with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office but before that he was a public school middle teacher here.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt said he had known Stamm for decades and how he went to law school while teaching young children.

"He wanted to be an attorney ... so he had to go to school at night," Hewitt said this week during the business meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. "It's very hard to do; he pulled himself up by his bootstraps."

Stamm had just returned from a trip to Ireland upon his death.

"Mike was a great guy, he had a lot of time on the bench," Hewitt said. "They had just started travelling; the point is, do something while you can, don't put things off."

Stamm was the judge who heard juvenile cases and oversaw the juvenile drug court.

Debra Burch, circuit court clerk, said Stamm had a passion for ensuring juveniles who had lunched towards a life of crime had a chance to redeem and reform themselves in hopes of a better life.

"He got that passion from his time teaching," Burch told The County Times. "He wanted them working to the potential he knew they had."

Laura Caspar, a former state's attorney in St. Mary's now working in Charles County, said Stamm always took an interest in people and their families whether they were in his courtroom or outside of it.

"He has always been kind and caring," Caspar said. "I thought he was very middle of the road."

"He was someone you were always happy to go in front of ... he was a calm, intelligent,



knowledgeable jurist."

County Commissioner Eric Colvin said the county mourned with Stamm's family.

"He was our county judge but he was also a husband, a father, a grandfather," Colvin said. "He was always patient; he was always kind."

His loss will be felt not only by his family but across our county."

Burch recounted a man who prized fairness and adherence to the law.

"He made you feel comfortable," Burch said. "He listened, he respected everybody no matter what their differences were."

"He worked to come up with the best solutions possible for any and all situations."

Stamm was also willing to work for and represent key programs he believed in. Stamm was often in front of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Hewitt noted, explaining the benefits of those judicial programs and the need for funding to support them.

"He didn't have to come here," Hewitt said. "He could have sent one of his deputies or one of his office people."

"But he came himself."

Stamm earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1990 and went on to practice law privately and then for the state's attorney's office.

He was then appointed to the bench by Gov. Robert Ehrlich in 2006 and subsequently ran for re-election successfully to the circuit court.

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling lamented Stamm's passing but said his example would live on.

"He has left an indelible mark on our legal system," Sterling said in a statement. "But his dedication also extended beyond the courtroom: he was also a cherished family member, a mentor, and a friend to many."

"His leadership and guidance will be deeply missed, but his legacy and the positive changes he brought to our community will continue to inspire us all."

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Commissioners Decline to Vote on Ethics Change

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

For weeks the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have debated a request from the county's ethics commission that would require a candidate filing for elected office to file their financial disclosure form 30 days before the deadline for filing the certificate of candidacy and to require that the financial disclosure form be filed directly with the ethics commission.

With three commissioners worried that the amendment to the ordinance could unnecessarily restrict or discourage candidates from running for office, they declined to take a vote, leaving the question undetermined.

Both Commissioners Mike Hewitt and Eric Colvin came out against the change though they recognized the ethics commission's aim of strengthening the vetting process for candidates.

"They're really highlighting a problem," Colvin said. "I'm just not comfortable with this change right now."

"It introduces too much complexity to the process."

Under the current rules, a candidate must only file a financial disclosure form at the same time they filed their certificate of candidacy.

According to county documents an issue arises when a candidate waits until the last minute to file their certificate of candidacy with the Board of Elections and simultaneously submits their financial disclosure to the board.

In this case, the elections board issues a certificate of candidacy, before the ethics commission has an opportunity to review and approve the financial disclosure for proper form.

This scenario occurred twice in the 2022



Commissioner Mike Hewitt

election season, county documents stated.

Hewitt said this led to a person being able to get on the ballot last election who did not meet the residency requirement, yet they still garnered thousands of votes.

Hewitt called it a "disservice" to the electorate to be able to vote for someone who could not serve by law.

Commissioner President James "Randy" Guy said during the Oct. 8 commissioners' business meeting that those who decide on candidate qualifications have not offered any explanations to aid in solving the problem.

"We can't get anyone to step up," Guy said. "We can't even get the Board of Elections to come talk to us."

"We have nobody stepping up to quality control this."

"Everybody's passing the buck," said Commissioner Scott Ostrow.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Local Helene Relief Efforts Continue

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The local Knights of Columbus are continuing relief efforts for the survivors of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina and are making a special plea for donations of cold weather gear to stave off a coming chill.

"It's going to be getting down to below 30-degrees there," said Mearl Rusaw with the Knights of Columbus (KOC) Council 8159. "We need coats, shoes, socks and tents."

"Sleeping bags, blankets and pillows are important, too."

The first KOC shipment of relief supplies went down Oct. 5, information from the charity group stated, and the next is set

to depart Oct. 16; there is still a significant need for drinking water and baby formula.

The local group is accepting donations of supplies at the Bank of America located in Mechanicsville, the Dean Lumber and Supply store and Tom Hodges Auto Sales in Hollywood.

Monetary contributions are also welcome and will be used to purchase water, food and fuel to aid in the transport of supplies to the disaster zone.

Financial donations to the relief effort can be delivered to the rectory of the Immaculate Conception Church located in Mechanicsville.

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Town Wants To Eliminate One Tax, Raise Water Fee

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

It isn't often that governments want to eliminate a tax entirely but the Leonardtown Town Council will consider just that at their Oct. 15 business meeting.

Town Administrator Laschelle McKay said the new ordinance, No. 226, would eliminate the local admissions and amusement tax, as it only nets the town a few hundred dollars in revenue maximally each year.

It also adds to confusion experienced by businesses as to who pays it and how it is collected, she told The County Times, so it would probably be better to eliminate it.

"We are recommending doing away with it," McKay said. "It gets waived for businesses in the Arts and Entertainment District and there are very few businesses outside the district that it applies to."

"It's just not anything that's applicable."

The tax essentially is collected on ticketed sales, such as events at restaurants or bars, but those businesses that engage in those activities are already in the arts and entertainment district.



Town Administrator Laschelle McKay

The tax was established back in 1972, McKay said, and the town had drastically changed in that time.

The town council will also consider an ordinance to increase the water fees for new home construction from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per unit.

Town staff have identified the need for the increase on new construction to help fund a new water tower project.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Temple Hills Woman Arrested in Theft and Fraud Investigation

On September 5, 2024, Stephanie Marie Murphy, 45, of Temple Hills, MD, was arrested in connection with the theft of medication at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Her arrest followed an ongoing investigation, which began in March 2024 and included the assistance of multiple law enforcement agencies: Maryland State Police, Prince George's County Police Department, Southern Maryland Intelligence Center (SMIC), and the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Following her arrest, Murphy was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and was later released.

As the investigation continued, it was determined that Murphy had misrepresented her identity while using an online platform designed to assist with staffing at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. On September 9, 2024, a Circuit Court arrest warrant was issued, charging the suspect with 25 counts of misrepresentation – registered nurse and 27 counts of practicing registered nursing by fraudulent representation.

On September 26, Murphy voluntarily surrendered to law enforcement and is currently on pretrial release.



Stephanie Marie Murphy

Those with information regarding this case are asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov or by phone at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041.

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Three Apprehended Following Car Chase



Davione Syheme Mason



Tyquan Samuel Wills (photo from 2022)

At approximately 4:10 p.m., on October 2, 2024, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office observed a GMC Yukon traveling southbound on MD Route 235 in Hollywood, where Davione Syheme Mason, 23, of Lexington Park, was a passenger. Mason is known to deputies and wanted on an open warrant for attempted second-degree murder, first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, illegal possession of a regulated firearm, illegal possession of ammunition, handgun on person, and possession of a loaded handgun.

While watching the vehicle, deputies witnessed the GMC suddenly accelerate forward, strike the rear bumper of another car, and flee the scene. A short distance later, deputies attempted to initiate a traffic stop, but the driver of the GMC failed to stop, leading to a vehicle pursuit until the driver lost control of the vehicle, traveled off the roadway, and into the front yard of a private residence in the 22000 block of Old Rolling Road in California. The driver of the vehicle, identified as Tyquan Samuel Wills, 25, also of Lexington Park, and

Mason, fled on foot. No injuries were reported.

After an extensive search, Mason was located in a nearby residential area and taken into custody without further incident.

Deputies located Wills in a nearby business area as he was trying to flee while hiding in a Chrysler sedan driven by Azse Ktemaque Hawkins, 36, of Prince Frederick. Following a traffic stop by deputies, Hawkins was found to be driving under the influence and was arrested.

During the subsequent investigation, Wills was found in possession of a significant quantity of suspected cocaine and related paraphernalia. He is charged with one count each of CDS possession - not marijuana and CDS possession with intent to distribute, two counts of CDS possession of paraphernalia, one count of fleeing and eluding by vehicle, one count of fleeing and eluding by foot, two counts of hit-and-run with property damage, and related traffic violations.

The suspects were transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown.

Detectives Recover Unserialized Handgun in Lexington Park

Detectives from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division executed a search and seizure warrant on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at a residence in the 21000 block of Little Girls Way, resulting in the recovery of an unserialized handgun, magazines, and ammunition.

Following an ongoing investigation, detectives secured the warrant and served it at the Lexington Park residence, where they located a polymer 80 handgun equipped with a machine gun conversion device, which enables a semiautomatic weapon to function as a fully automatic firearm.

Devin Allen Miles, 21, of Lexington Park, was arrested and charged with possession of a rapid-fire trigger activator and possession of a machine gun for an aggressive purpose.

Miles was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.



Devin Allen Miles

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Commissioners & School Board to Hold Joint Meeting

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) and the Board of Education (BOE) will hold a joint meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the BOE meeting room, located at 23160 Moakley Street in Leonardtown.

"Several times each year, the Board of Education and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County meet to discuss our shared interests and goals for the students of St. Mary's County and how best to support parents and the broader community," said Scott Smith, St. Mary's County Public Schools Superintendent. "We look forward to discussing resources and long-term planning to meet the needs and expectations of those living in St. Mary's County."

The joint meeting will feature discussion on the following topics:

- Blueprint for Maryland Education
- Elms Environmental Education Center
- Student Enrollment
- St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) Capital Improvements Program
- Everside Health Clinic

"We are committed to supporting public education and ensuring that our students

receive the best possible opportunities," said Randy Guy, CSMC President. "These joint meetings allow us to come together to address key issues like infrastructure, enrollment growth, and long-term planning, all of which are essential to supporting the future of St. Mary's County."

This meeting is open to the public and will be recorded. The recording will air on St. Mary's County Government TV Channel 95 the following Friday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, October 26 at 3 p.m., and Sunday, October 27 at noon. The recording will also be available for on-demand viewing via our YouTube Channel post-production. The public may watch the meeting live online at www.smcps.org/streaming. CSMC decisions and related documents are available on the St. Mary's County Government website in BoardDocs.

Information on the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, including meeting schedules, minutes, and more is available at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/csmc.

For more details on the meeting or to request accommodations, please call SMCPS at (301) 475-5511, ext. 32177.

Flat Iron Road to Temporarily Close for Culvert Replacement

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T) will be installing a culvert under Flat Iron Road in Great Mills, Maryland beginning on or about October 14, 2024. As a result, Flat Iron Road will be closed for approximately 5 days between 20357 Flat Iron Road and 20318 Flat Iron Road.

A detour plan will be implemented for the duration of the road closure. Drivers

are asked to please remain alert for equipment, work crews, and changing traffic patterns. Message boards and signage will be deployed in the area prior to and during the project to serve as a reminder. Please consider alternate travel routes to avoid delays in traffic.

For additional information, please contact John Wise with DPW&T at (301) 475-4200, ext. 3531.




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County Government Columbus Day Operations

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2024, in observance of Columbus Day. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Tuesday, October 15, 2024.

The October 14 closure also includes:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)
- The Animal Adoption & Resource Center

The following SMCG operations will be open on October 14:

- Department of Recreation & Parks indoor programs and facilities
- St. Clements Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Wicomico Shores Golf Course (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- The Riverview Restaurant (8 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, please visit: stmary-scourtymd.gov.



Letters to the Editor

'Kind, knowledgeable, hardworking'

We are writing this letter to endorse Josh Guy for School Board At-Large. All the undersigned went to St. Mary's County Public Schools with Josh Guy. He is kind, knowledgeable, hard-working, and would make a strong leader for the St. Mary's County Board of Education.

Josh is running on a platform that all of us can relate to. We've all seen the issues happening today with school safety, and support Josh's plan for safe schools. Some of us are parents, and we know that Josh Guy will work hard to ensure our children are in a safe learning environment. We've all seen firsthand the need for more one-on-one learning time, and Josh's support for more paraeducators and individualized services for our special education students, is a plan we are proud to support.

Josh Guy spent 13 years in our public

schools, and after graduating he was a substitute teacher throughout the school system. That first-hand knowledge of what's actually happening in our school system is what's missing on the board of education. We're proud to call him a friend, and we're proud to support him in his quest to make our schools better. We encourage you to vote for Josh Guy for Board of Education At-Large on November 5.

Lily Owen
Brandon Hoffman
Dominic Freeze
Danielle Haley
Jared Ruiz
Kameron Harrison
Madison Kuhnnow
Ben D'Angelo

Justin Tiede
Krysta Kaminski
Riley Dollins
Jared Richardson
Ashley Wolfe
Marissa Thomas
Gene Moreland

'Best friends smiling from above'

The St. Mary's County Fair provides an opportunity for the Community to come together, display their crafts, love of animals, and engage with each other. Such was the case for Tony Iagnemmo, Mary Mathes, Jackie Hill, and Bob Farmer.

As long-time neighbors, they shared in the joy of Brooks (Beagle) and Misse and Caesar (Golden Retrievers). Like people, each dog had their own traits, quirks, and personalities. We enjoyed our time with our best friends and appreciated our dogs love of each other.

Our dogs have since passed over the Rainbow bridge. To aid in our grieving process, we dedicated a rose bush to each dog. A master at his craft, Tony dedicated countless hours shepherding to each dog's memorial garden. Tony proudly entered and displayed the roses at the County Fair. Brooks' rose (with an assist from Missy and Caesar) was awarded First Prize in its' category. As the stars shine brightly—our best friends are smiling from above.

Bob Farmer

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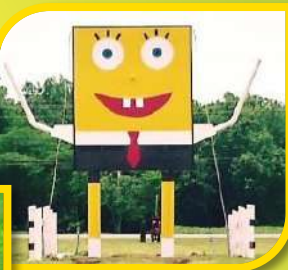
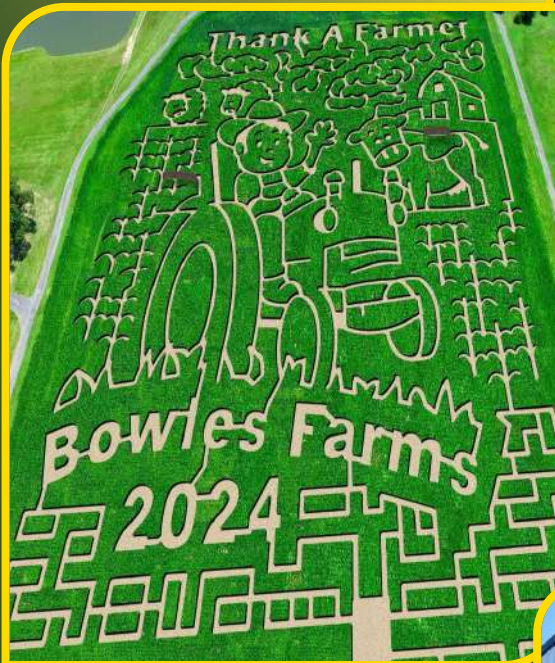


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Farmer's Daughter
Cupcake Shop



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Saturday, October 12:
Antique Tractor Pull

Weight Classes: 2,500 – 10,500 lbs
Begins at 10:00am



**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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NAVAL AIR STATION
PATUXENT RIVER *News*

PMA-265 and RCAF Partnership Achieves Major Milestone



A North American Aerospace Defense Command CF-18 Hornet takes off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Julia Lebens)

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) recently announced that the CF-18 Hornet Extension Project (HEP) achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC), a significant accomplishment in a five-year collaborative effort with the F/A-18 and EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265). This milestone marks the delivery of the first six HEP2 upgraded fighter aircraft to 3 Wing Bagotville, Canada. In total, 84 aircraft will be upgraded through this project, which will provide all aircraft with HEP 1 interoperability upgrades and 36 aircraft with HEP 2 combat capability upgrades.

The RCAF collaborated with PMA-265's Canadian Foreign Military Sales (FMS) team to procure various systems and weapons for the HEP. PMA-265's FMS team facilitated these procurements to meet the RCAF's tight deadlines.

The extension project enhances the RCAF's CF-18 Hornets with advanced weapons and avionics capabilities, ensuring the aircraft remain deployable and interoperable as it supports the North American Aerospace Defense Command's mission to protect North America. This project is crucial for maintaining RCAF readiness as it transitions from the CF-18 fighters to the next-generation CF-35A, anticipated to be fully operational in the early 2030s.

"Achieving this milestone and ensuring the timely delivery of the first six aircraft required extensive coordination and cooperation among industry partners, PMA-265 and the Navy F/A-18 enterprise, including the Air Weapons Laboratory and radar

teams at the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake," said PMA-265 Canadian and Spanish F/A-18 Program Manager Don Valentine. "By executing procurement of weapons, hardware and software products to meet RCAF's milestones, PMA-265 has provided the necessary support that has made the RCAF Hornet program an active and significant participant in international operations."

Looking ahead, Full Operational Capability is expected in spring 2026, when all 84 CF-18s will be delivered, upgraded and operational.

PMA-265 has partnered with the RCAF for almost 45 years. Since April 1980, PMA-265's FMS team has supported the RCAF by facilitating aircraft upgrades through U.S. Navy-developed engineering change proposals and various efforts, including procurement, delivery and integration of the Joint Direct Attack Munition weapons system, procurement and incorporation of the Navy Aircrew Common Ejection Seat as well as upgrades to the aircrew trainer.

PMA-265 provides critical current and future capabilities in the form of total life cycle support management for the F/A-18A-D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler weapons systems. It is responsible for acquiring, delivering and sustaining the F/A-18 and EA-18G aircraft, ensuring mission success for U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators, as well as international partners to include Australia, Canada, Finland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Spain and Switzerland.

Advance Voter Registration Deadline is October 15

Marylanders Can Register to Vote Online, By Mail or In-Person

The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) today is reminding Marylanders that the advance deadline to register to vote in this year's Presidential General Election is Tuesday, October 15.

To register to vote or check that your registration is up to date, use SBE's online registration system. Those who prefer not to register online may print the registration form (English version and Spanish version) and submit it at their local board of elections. If a voter is sending in their voter registration by mail, it must be postmarked by

October 15.

Marylanders can also register when they cast their vote during Early Voting (Thursday, October 24 through Thursday, October 31) or on Election Day (Tuesday, November 5.) Make sure to bring a document that proves where you live when you visit your local polling place.

SBE reminds Marylanders who are on parole or probation, or have completed their sentence, that they are eligible to vote unless they were convicted of buying or selling votes.

Special Lecture: Modernism Comes to St. Mary's County



An example of the Lexington Park "Flattops"

Join the Historic Preservation Commission of St. Mary's County for a special lecture, *Modernism Comes to St. Mary's County*, on Thursday, October 17, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The presentation will explore the transformative period in St. Mary's County's history during 1942, when the U.S. government established the Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, leading to the development of Lexington Park. This dramatic shift reshaped the county's landscape, transitioning fertile farmland into the site of the modern Naval Base and the adjoining town. The design and construction of Lexington Park, known as the "Flattops," was influenced by modernist architectural pioneers who helped shape the town's unique aesthetic. Featured speaker John Cook will delve into how modernist planning ideas were brought to the United States and how early economic growth helped create the St. Mary's County we know today. This educational event will shed light on the county's rich history and the lasting impact of mod-

ernism on its development.

How to Participate:

- In Person: Attend the lecture in the Commissioners Meeting Room, located on the 1st floor of the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown.
- Watch Live: Tune in to St. Mary's County Government TV Channel 95, or stream live on our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov.
- On-Demand Viewing: The lecture will remain on YouTube for on-demand viewing.

Learn more about the Historic Preservation Commission at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/hpc. For more information, contact the SMCG's Department of Land Use & Growth Management at (301) 475-4200 ext. 71507 or via email to Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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Sacred Heart Church ANNUAL OCTOBER

Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD, BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

Sunday, October 27, 2024

11:00 a.m. 'til



MENU:

Fried Oysters

Stuffed Ham

Turkey w/ Dressing

\$30.00

(Make Checks Payable to: Sacred Heart Church)
Cash or Checks Only
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Parsley Potatoes, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw & Rolls

Drive-Thru & Carry Outs Only

Cake Table Available



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Event Calendar

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OCT 4 - 27	6th Annual Scarecrow Stroll Check out all of the Scarecrows throughout Leonardtown
OCT 12	Coastal Arts Market 10 am - 3 pm
OCT 12	2024 Leonardtown Square Fall Bar Crawl 12 pm - Close
OCT 19	Concert in the Square w/ It's All Good 7 pm - 10 pm
OCT 26	Ace's Angels Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness 9 am - 12 pm
OCT 26	Halloween Movie Festival 4 pm - 8:30 pm

For all events & activities, visit:
www.VisitLeonardtwnMD.com/EventsCalendar

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SAT: 5 PM - 11 PM

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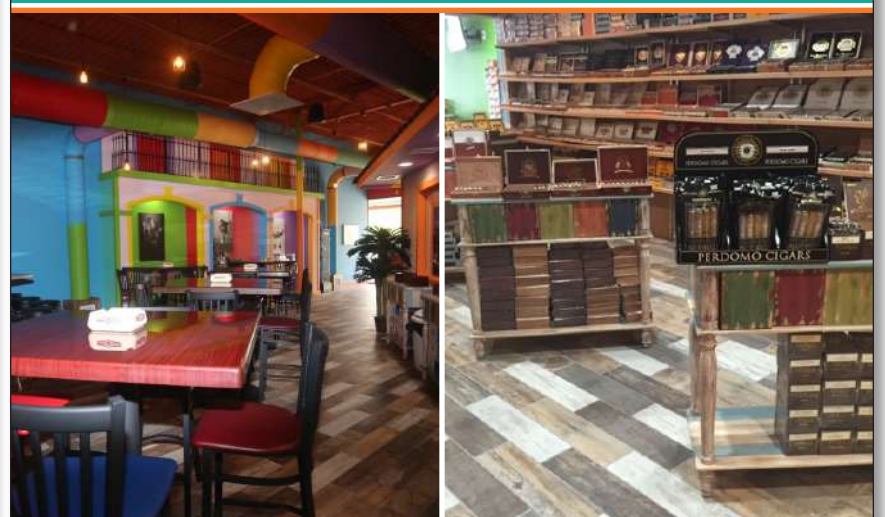
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Leonardtown Library to Host Free Native Plant Swap



St. Mary's County Library invites the public to select free native plants for their yards and to view four new art installations at the Native Plant Swap and Mosaics Murals Celebration at the Leonardtown Library Front Yard on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The community is invited to bring their own native plants to share (instructions below) and to take home new plants.

In just four years, the Front Yard landscape with its native plantings has transformed a bare field into a habitat for native birds, bees and butterflies. Experienced Front Yard planners and volunteers will be on hand to give advice on native plants that can suit your yards.

During the event, the unveiling of the Mosaics Mural will allow the public to view the new permanent art installation in the Garden. The joyful free-standing ceramic art murals reflect the year-round beauty and inspiration this native landscape has brought to the community. "Lush Life: Seasons and Cycles in the Garden" is the creation of ceramic artist Parran Coltery, who will be on hand to answer questions about the work, which was made possible through the support of the Maryland State Arts Council.

"The Mosaic Murals are a wonderful addition to the beautiful Front Yard Garden," said Michael Blackwell, St. Mary's County Library Director. "They are not only col-

orful and lovely, but educational, teaching especially young people about native flora and fauna and the importance of cultivating sustainable native gardens to benefit Maryland wildlife. The wise quotes on them will inspire visitors for years to come"

If you're new to gardening with native plants and would like some help to get started, come to meet and chat with native-plant enthusiasts, view native plants in the Front Yard gardens, and take home free plants and seeds!

If you're an experienced native gardener, please spread the joy by bringing your favorite plants and seeds to swap and share. If you have plants to share, please follow the simple steps below to help us stop the spread of invasive jumping worms.

1. Dig up your plants.
2. Shake the dirt off the roots.
3. Gently rinse the roots clean.
4. Label each plant (include the botanical name if you can).
5. Bring them to the Swap & Share in a bucket of water or wrapped in wet paper and tucked in a plastic bag.

For more information, contact Liz Curtz, Friends of St Clements Bay, at curtzeliz@gmail.com.

Participating partners include: the Friends of St. Clements Bay, St. Mary's County Master Gardeners, St. Mary's County Master Naturalists, St. Mary's County Garden Club, Nurture Natives, and Butterfly Alley.

**Everyone is invited to a
Benefit Concert to
Support Helene Storm Victims
Saturday, 19 October 2024**

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

**Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Road
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Elder Maurice Parran, Pastor

Elder James Young

Elder Richard King

Some members will be traveling to assist where they can.

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



45 Glittery Years and Counting

I remember fondly when I would go to my mother's Forest Heights neighborhood reunion in PG County with her from the 1970's through the 90s. Many of her friends during the World War II years, that she always referred to as the "kids" from her old neighborhood even when they were in their 60's, didn't always have High School reunions because some left school to join the military and others left school to support their families, especially if a father was serving in the military. My mother did attend Oxon Hill Senior High for a short time, though I never received the same answer twice as to when she left school to start working. I do know that she was the first person to get a ticket for driving a school bus in Prince Georges County, and it was also found out that she was too young to even drive a school bus. This was confirmed by her brother and sister. If I had been those kids on the bus I would have been terrified because my mother had a lead foot. And I know she worked at the Navy Yard, but she was also terminated there when they found out how young she was. I don't think they did background checks quite as well in the 40s as they do now. Helping my mother get the food ready and delivered to her Forest Heights reunions at their old neighborhood park filled me with happiness that these "kids" stayed in touch for all those years.

So, that's where I think I got my love of reunions or just catching up with old friends. This past weekend I celebrated my 45th reunion from Surrattsville High School in Clinton. It wasn't a milestone reunion in any way, but when you see the memory boards filled with the names of classmates who are no longer with us, it makes you cherish each of our 5 year reunions more and more. I have been to every 5 year reunion and served on the reunion committee for all but the first one. Somehow for the last few reunions I have been the table decoration committee with lots of help setting up once we are at our reunion venue. This year we had our reunion at the Bowie Comfort Inn and Conference Center across from the Bowie Baysox stadium. Unfortunately, The Colony Inn South in Clinton was demolished which was where we held most reunions in the past.

We share our reunion with some younger classes to help keep costs down, and this year it was the classes of '82, '83, '84, and '85. Some classes nearer to us already had their own shared reunions planned. I asked our class's reunion coordinator, my dear friend Marilynda, to ask the other class coordinators if they wanted me to design a new table centerpiece for this year, but she said, "No they all really like what I did 5 years ago". Great, I already had everything neatly put away in a Rubbermaid box, and all I needed to do was to get green and white (our Surrattsville Hornet school colors) chocolates from Party City. And \$135 dollars later I had (10) 1 pound bags of green Hershey's Kisses and white Hershey's Kisses. We used M & Ms last time, but things have changed; Marilynda and I thought wrapped Kisses would be the safest now.

It seemed like five years, maybe 10 years ago, when I first used the sparkly wired mesh ribbon in green and white everything went easily and in set-up and clean-up, but of course the ribbon was brand new. This year however, we found that the sparkly glitter had lost its cling. This was not something I had anticipated. I had a married couple that helped me do all the centerpieces. We got all my old 45's set in their gentle clamps, got the mini popcorn boxes filled with Kisses and then proceeded to take out the mesh ribbon to wind around the 45s and finish off with green Mardi Gras bead necklaces. We used the round table that we would all be sitting at as our central station for the items. After the initial frenzy of decorating, the three of us suddenly realized that we had pounds (it seemed like) of green and white glitter covering our table and chairs. Then we saw that all 16 reunion tables and respective chairs were also covered in glitter, and so were we. By the end of the evening every single person had glitter on their faces and clothes. I went to the restroom and saw the floor and stall's floors were covered in glitter. We all laughed and pointed out the glitter during the evening. I was so glad I didn't change into my black pants and just left on my jean capri's. But the reunion was a great, fun success!

The next morning Marilynda and I went through the banquet Hall to check and make sure we had everything. The crew had already set up the chairs for a conference, and all the chairs were still covered in shiny glitter. Marilynda and I hoped that the conference attendees would find the same humor in the glitter that we did, although I don't think The Bowie Comfort Inn will be letting me back anytime soon.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Take advantage of open enrollment

If you work for a midsize or large company, you may soon be able to review your employee benefits package, as we are entering the open enrollment season. So, consider your options carefully, with an eye toward making changes appropriate for your needs.

Here are some of the key areas to look at:

- **Retirement plan** – Depending on your employer, you could change your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at any time of the year, but you might want to use the open enrollment season to review your contribution amounts. If your salary has gone up over the past year, you might want to boost your pre-tax contributions (including catch-up contributions beginning at age 50). At a minimum, try to put in at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. At the same time, look over how your contributions are allocated among the various investment options in your plan. You'll want your investment mix to reflect your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.
- **Life insurance** – If your employer offers group life insurance at no cost as an employee benefit, you may want to take it – but be aware that it might not be enough to fully protect your family should anything happen to you. You may have heard that you need about seven to 10 times your annual income as a life insurance death benefit, but there's really no one right answer for everyone. Instead, you should evaluate various factors — including your mortgage, your income, your spouse's income (if applicable), your liabilities, the number of years until your retirement, number of children and their future educational needs — to determine how much insurance you need. If your employer's group policy seems insufficient, you may want to consider adding some outside overage.
- **Disability insurance** – Your employer may offer no-cost group disability insurance, but as is the case with life insurance, it might not be sufficient to adequately protect your income in case you become temporarily or permanently disabled. In fact, many employer-sponsored disability plans only cover a short period, such as five years, so to gain longer coverage up to age 65, you may want to look for a separate personal policy. Disability policies vary widely in premium costs and benefits, so you'll want to do some comparison shopping with several insurance companies.
- **Flexible spending account** – A flexible spending account (FSA) lets you contribute up to \$3,200 pre-tax dollars to pay for some out-of-pocket medical costs, such as prescriptions and insurance copayments and deductibles. You decide how much you want to put into your FSA, up to the 2025 limit. You generally must use up the funds in your FSA by the end of the calendar year, but your employer may grant you an extension of 2½ months or allow you to carry over up to \$640.
- **Health savings account** – Like an FSA, a health savings account (HSA) lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay out-of-pocket medical costs. Unlike an FSA, though, your unused HSA contributions will carry over to the next year. Also, an HSA allows you take withdrawals, though they may be assessed a 10% penalty. To contribute to an HSA, you need to participate in a high-deductible health insurance plan.

Make the most of your benefits package — it can be a big part of your overall financial picture.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

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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.

Mike Stamm, 68



The Honorable Michael John Stamm, County Administrative Judge, St. Mary's County Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit, 68 of Hollywood, MD

passed away on October 2, 2024 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD with his loving family at his side.

He was born on August 31, 1956 in Cornwall, NY to the late Paul J. Stamm and Margaret (nee: Moran) Stamm. In 1974, Mike graduated from Newburgh Free Academy in Newburgh, NY and then moved to St. Mary's County where he attended St. Mary's College, graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. In 1983, he earned his Master of Arts degree in education and human development at George Washington University. In 1990, he earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Mike taught with St. Mary's County Public Schools at Spring Ridge Middle School and Esperanza Middle School from 1978 through 1990. Before joining the judiciary, Mike also worked in private law

practice and in the St. Mary's County State's Attorney Office. While working as a teacher he met the love of his life, Mary Ann, whom he married June 22, 1985 at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons, MD. Together they celebrated over 39 wonderful years of marriage.

Anyone who knew Mike would say he had the gift of gab. He loved people and loved to talk to them, ask them questions, offer help, and advice. He loved to travel; his most recent adventure was in Ireland which was something he had always wanted to do. "I want to visit the Motherland," he would say. Mike loved to read (always more than one book at a time) and was a very avid user and supporter of St. Mary's County Public Library. Mike had a strong sense of commitment to his community and volunteered in various capacities his entire life. He also loved music, movies, gardening, household "projects" of any kind and would tackle just about any DIY task. You could always count on Mike showing his newest endeavor to anyone who would take interest. Mike knew all the delivery people by name as his zest for ordering from Amazon was like a hobby. If you mentioned you needed an item, he would be on his iPad searching for it within minutes. His favorite fall pastime was watching the New York Giants football games with his family and friends.

Mike's greatest passion was his fam-

ily and he would take any opportunity to show how proud he was of them through his pictures, stories, and conversations. In the last five years, his topic of choice was his beloved granddaughter, Natalie, who had "PopPop" wrapped around her finger!

In addition to his beloved wife, Mary Ann, Mike is also survived by his sons, David Michael Stamm (Lilia) of Washington, DC and Kevin Matthew Stamm of San Diego, CA; his brothers: James Edward Stamm (Linda) of Hollywood, MD, Robert Francis Stamm of Bethesda, MD, Christopher Paul Stamm (Mary) of Merrill, WI, his granddaughter, Natalie Stamm, and a grandson arriving in December 2024, along with many extended family and friends.

Family will receive friends on Monday, October 7, 2024, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 50 Alexander Lane, Solomons, MD 20688. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Robert Kilner at 1:00 PM. Interment will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen, P.O. Box 144, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

the Smoky Mountains) and the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He loved to work on all his family's cars, and over the years restored three cars with his sons, a 1970 Pontiac GTO, 1966 Pontiac Lemans Convertible, and a 1972 Chevy Monte Carlo. Mike loved to camp with his family and would often visit Lake Gaston in North Carolina, Winchester, Virginia and Ocean City, Maryland. He also enjoyed boating and fishing on his boat he called "It'll Do 2" and was an avid water skier for many years. He loved going on roller coasters at amusement parks and playing board games with his family, often telling them to remember "It's just a game". Mike was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone and was always just a phone call away if you ever needed advice.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the North South Skirmish Association (NSSA). He spent many years volunteering at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department carnival.

In addition to his beloved wife, Brenda, Mike is also survived by his children: Heather Smith (Gary) of Nokesville, VA; Michael Laney, Jr. (Sheli) of Great Mills, MD, and Christopher Laney (Rachel) of Leonardtown, MD; his beloved dog George; his sisters, Karen Laney Schaefer (Jack) of Woodbridge, VA and Diane Laney Kellam (Jeff) of King George, VA; his grandchildren: Robert Smith, Brayden Smith, Hunter Smith, Madeleine Smith, Keegan Smith, Logan Abraham, Terese Laney, Alexander Laney and another little Laney, Baby James, due in January; and many extended family and friends. He is preceded in death by his mother, Marge Laney.

Family will receive friends on October 9, 2024 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Rev. Joseph Cwik on October, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., at Our Lady's Catholic Church, 41410 Medley's Neck Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow the Mass at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as Pallbearers will be: Michael Laney Jr, Christopher Laney, Logan Abraham, Robert Smith, Jack Schaeffer, and Lyn Redtop Henderson. Honorary pallbearers will be: Karl Blorstad, Jeff Kellam, Jimmy Knott, Rocky Hammett, John Keen, Robert Russell, Lee Phillips, Phil Nalley, Jim Farrell, Sam Mohammed, Larry Crane, Rick Alderman, Brayden Smith, Hunter Smith, Keegan Smith, Alexander Laney, and "Bunky" Knott.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North South Skirmish Association, N-SSA.org, 480 Chalybeate Springs Road, Winchester, VA 22603, Maryland Troopers Association, MD Troopers.org, 1300 Reisterstown Rd Pikesville, MD 21208, 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.

Mike Laney, 69



Michael Warren Laney, 69, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully, after a courageous battle with cancer, on September 28, 2024 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on October 1, 1954 in San Diego, CA to Edward Veloras Laney, Jr. of Hollywood, MD and the late Margaret Ann "Marge" (nee: Lacer) Laney.

Mike is a 1972 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, where he participated in NJROTC, Marching Band, and Boy Scouts. He attended James Madison University, where he studied pre-law. Mike moved to Southern Maryland in 1974, making St. Mary's County his home. He was employed by the Department of Defense for 47 dedicated years of support, retiring in February 2020, as a Identify Friend or Foe (IFF) Fleet Support Specialist for NAVAIR at Webster Field. He really enjoyed traveling for his job especially when he got to visit Hawaii and take his wife. On April 15, 1978 he married his beloved wife, Brenda Lee (nee: Knott) Laney at Our Lady's Catholic Church, Leonardtown, MD. Together they raised 3 wonderful children and celebrated over 46 wonderful years of marriage.

To Mike the key to life was his family and spending most of his time doing activities with them. He and his wife enjoyed motorcycle trips through Skyline Drive, the Tail of the Dragon in Tennessee (just outside

MATTINGLEY ~

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1.48 Lb.

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Pork Chops

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Butcher's Best
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2.48 Lb.

80% Lean
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Fresh
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3.98 Lb.

Butcher's Best
Boneless
London Broil

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16-Oz., Regular Or Spicy
Curly's Pulled
Pork BBQ

4.98

12-Oz. Reg. Or Thick
Sugardale
Sliced Bacon

2.98

6 To 8-Oz., Selected Cheese Or
Dietz & Watson
Lunch Meat

3.98

1-Lb., Fresh
Red Ripe
Strawberries

2/\$5

Farmers Finest
Large Slicing
Cucumbers

.58

**FARM
to
TABLE**

64-Oz.
Zeigler's Fresh
Apple Cider

3.98

Old-Fashioned, Fresh
Cherry Candy Or
Caramel Apples
With Nuts

2/\$4

5-Lb. Bag, Lite & Fluffy
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Russet Potatoes

2/\$6

FAMILY FAVORITES



15 To 16-Oz. Selected
Bush's Best
Beans Or Peas

SALE PRICE **4/\$4**
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF FOUR
FINAL PRICE **4/\$3**



12-Pk., Selected
Faygo
Soft Drinks

3.98



27.5 To 28-Oz. Selected
Bush's Best
Baked Beans

2/\$5



14.5 To 15 Oz., Selected
Chef Boyardee
Pasta

5/\$5



15-Oz., Selected
Wishbone
Salad Dressing

2/\$5



18 To 19-Oz., Selected
Progresso
Soup

3/\$5



22 To 25.9-Oz. Selected
Folger's
Can Coffee

SALE PRICE **10.98**
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF ONE
FINAL PRICE **9.98**



7.25-Oz.
Kraft
Mac & Cheese

4/\$5



9 To 16-Oz. Selected
Nabisco Premium
Crackers

3.78



18-Oz., Reg. Or Lite
Duke's Squeeze
Mayonnaise

SALE PRICE **3.98**
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE **3.48**



16-Oz., Selected
Food Club
Roasted Peanuts

2.98

WE ACCEPT:



4.75 To 8-Oz., Selected
Lay's Chips
Or Poppables

FREE



12-Oz.
Texas Pete
Hot Sauce

2/\$5



1 FREE 3.5-Oz. Honey's Throat Drops
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Oct. 9 THRU Oct. 15, 2023



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In Remembrance

Fred Wood, 95



James Frederick "Fred" Wood, Sr., 95, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away on October 1, 2024. Fred was born on June 10, 1929, in Silver Spring, MD, to the late Effie

(Ewell) and Howard Wood.

Fred married his beloved, late wife, Agnes "Lorraine" (Tennyson) Wood, on July 22, 1950. Their little family grew to include five wonderfully spirited children; Connie (Raley) Westbrook (Geoff), Jay Wood (Jill), Geneva Leon (John), Ray Wood (Janet), and Nettie Harding, 12 tenacious grandchildren; Adam Raley, Ben Raley (d. 1981), Castle Raley (Laura), Jay Coombs (Megan), Natasha Guy (David), Raymond "Ben" Harding (Brittany), Matthew Wood (Leslie), Stephanie Hallisey (Jeremiah), Chelsea Wood (Torrey), John Leon, Jr., Geoffrey Westbrook, and 12 wonderful great-grandchildren; Brennen, Skylar, and Addison Coombs, Nicholas Harding, Cali, Colten, and Claire Raley, Norah and Liam Hallisey, Teegan and Cassidy Leon, and Tommy Wood. Fred is also survived by Shirley Payne, his loving companion for the last 10 years.

Fred is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Lorraine, daughter, Connie Raley, grandson, Ben Raley, and his siblings, Joseph Wood, Bernice Moore, Rita Hysan, Bill Wood, and Kenneth Wood. It is a comfort to our family that Fred will be reunited with loved ones who passed before him.

Fred was a long-time resident of St. Mary's County, MD. He and his family moved to the area in 1946 and began raising tobacco. He graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1947 and began his career in carpentry. Fred was an integral part in building many local homes and commercial buildings. Beginning with the Carpenter's Union, his career spanned over 40 years in the trade, including graduating apprenticeship school in 1956, partnering with his brother-in-law, Jim Tom Tennyson, to build Tenn Wood Acres in 1965, teaching Carpentry at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in 1968-70, and, Finally, working as a Superintendent with W.M. Davis, Inc.,

General Contractors before taking a well-earned retirement in 1994.

Fred worked hard, but he also knew how to have a good time. Throughout the years, he and Lorraine were very active with the Hills Club Hogs young men's softball team. He was even inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame in 1992! He also became an avid golfer, celebrating a hole-in-one in 2006, and shot his best golfing score of 73 at the young age of 78. And boy, did he love to DANCE. He and Lorraine started the first ever Country Line Dance Classes at Parks and Recreation, and for many years you could always find them cutting a rug on the dance floor. Fred was very close with his family and friends and enjoyed celebrating special occasions, including his 90th and 95th Birthday Bashes, which he reflected on fondly. He was a whiz at card games, especially Pitch and Pinochle, and enjoyed many games at the Senior Centers, Moose Pitch Tournaments, and just low-key games with family. He was a Friday night regular at the Mechanicsville Moose where he and Shirley enjoyed dancing to the Bands.

Fred never met a stranger and could entertain you with stories for hours on end about his life, family, interests, and hobbies. His mind was still sharp as a whip at 95 – amazingly able to recall memories even from when he was six years old. His family and friends will miss him dearly.

The family received friends on Monday October 7, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a prayer service was held at 7:00 PM with Deacon Joe Lloyd officiating. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD with Father Drew Royals officiating. Interment followed at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be Adam Raley, Jay Coombs, Ben Harding, Matt Wood, Brennen Coombs, and Jeremiah Hallisey. Honorary pallbearers are Castle Raley and Charlie Wolfe.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad.

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.

Joseph Luskus, 87



Joseph Luskus departed this life peacefully on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, in Charlotte Hall, MD. He was 87 years old.

Joseph was born on January 14, 1937, in Mount Carmel, PA to Joseph Leonard Luskus and Louise Mildred Luskus (née Zedanovich). He graduated from Mount Carmel High School in Mount Carmel, PA in 1954. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving as an airplane mechanic.

He married Paula Maria Beierschmitt, also from Mount Carmel, PA, in 1965. After moving to Southern Maryland, Joseph began working at the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco). He later joined the Department of the Air Force as a civilian, where he served at Andrews Air Force Base, before retiring after 40 years of federal service. Over 54 years of marriage, Joseph and Paula welcomed four children into their family. His children remember him as a devoted and loving father who was always actively involved in their lives and hobbies.

Joseph was a generous mentor and passionate community leader. He coached countless youth sports teams, worked more than his fair share of bingo nights, and was an ever-present cheerleader at his children's and grandchildren's competitions and performances. He was also an active and dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus, in which he served as Grand Knight; the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, of which he served as Chapter President; and the American Legion, and he participated joyfully in the community life of the Immaculate Conception Church.

Joseph is survived by his brother, Leonard Luskus, San Antonio, TX; his sister Anita Trainum, Fort Meyers, FL; his daughter Jennifer Hill, California, MD; his daughter Adrienne Jones, Leonardtown, MD; his son Joseph Luskus, Cumming, GA; his daughter Kristina Billard, Centreville, VA; 13 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife Paula.

Visitation will be held on Monday, October 21 at 9 a.m., followed by a funeral mass at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, Mechanicsville, MD, with Rev. Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow immediately in St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery in Helen, MD.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations in Joseph's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (<https://www.stjude.org/give.html>).

Condolences may be sent to the Luskus family at 42187 St Johns Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Louise Rogers, 66



Louise Rogers (Mavronickolas), 66, of California, MD (formerly from Pennsauken, New Jersey), passed away peacefully on October 3, 2024.

She was born on February 4, 1958 in Camden, NJ to the late Louis George Mavronickolas and Grace Loretta Bailey.

Growing up in Pennsauken, NJ, she was President of the Greek Club in high school, and later graduated from nursing school at the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Soon after she married, in 1978, her husband of 46 years, Harry.

She worked as a child-birth education coordinator, a maternal child health nurse (special care nursery - NICU), and in 1981, received her Registered Nurse Certification (RNC) in Inpatient Obstetric Nursing. Later she worked for the state of Maryland with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, where she touched the heart and souls of so many families in need of support in the tri-county areas of Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's county. She later worked and retired as the acting coordinator of the Southern Maryland WIC program in 2011.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and cooking big meals (Greek and Italian). She also loved her Greek (Ikarian) heritage, and took to the dance floor with her daughter, granddaughter, and loving family whenever the opportunity arose.

Louise is survived by her husband, Harry Rogers, from California, Maryland, and her daughter Stephanie Louise Gonzalez and husband Michael Gonzalez Jr, of Mechanicsville, MD; her grandchildren, Ava Louise Marie Gonzalez, Michael and Brooklyn Gonzalez III, and Courtney Michele Marie Gonzalez and Kurt Woodburn. Her great grandchildren include: Delilah Rose Gonzalez, and Chase Michael Woodburn.

She was Godmother to Jo-Lynn and James Fredericks, and had many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loving friends. She had great love for her aunts and uncles, her sister-in-laws Jo-Ann Fredericks and Carol Rogers, and her brother-in-laws Walter Fredericks and Louis Rogers.

In addition to her parents, Louise is preceded by her brother Jack Craddock.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 12th at 1:00 PM at Saint Aloysius Catholic Church, 22800 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD, 20650. The Maryland Nurse Honor Guard will be present.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent in Louise's name to St. Jude's Hospital. Condolences to the family can be made to www.brinsfieldfuneral.com

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

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

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

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



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County Times

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Fairlife
Milk

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16-Oz., Selected
Daisy
Dip

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Original Or Honey
Kretschmar
Ham Off The Bone

5.98 Lb.



Yellow
Kretschmar
American Cheese

6.98 Lb.



61-Oz.
Double Layer
Carrot Cake

13.98



8-In. Pumpkin Or
Baked
Sweet Potato Pie

5.48



4-Ct. Chocolate Or
Red Velvet
Whoopie Pies

4.58



5-Pk.
Superior On Main
Mini Eclairs

3.98



26 To 30-Ct.
Texas
Gulf Shrimp

6.98 Lb.



Fresh Atlantic
Salmon
Fillets

8.98 Lb.



16-Oz.
Nature's Best
Tilapia Fillets

4.98



Frozen
Catfish
Nuggets

3.98 Lb.



1-Lb.
Pasteurized Lump
Crab Meat

15.98

Liquor and Beer

12-Oz. Cans
18-Pack
Bud Light



15.49

12-Oz. Bottles
18-Pack
Michelob Ultra



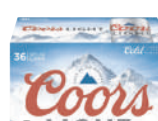
17.49

12-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Yuengling



20.99

12-Oz. Cans
30-Pack
Coors Light



24.99

12-Oz., Bottles
12-Pack
Modelo Especial



19.99

12-Oz. Cans
12-Pack
Twisted Tea



17.99

1.75L
Smirnoff
Vodka



19.99

1.75L
Ketel One
Vodka



34.99

750mL, Selected
Plush
Vodkas



23.99

750mL
Codigo 1530
Blanco Tequila



42.99

750mL
Milagro Reposado
Tequila



29.99

750mL
Roku
Gin



27.99

1.75L
Bacardi Gold
Rum



21.99

1.75L, Original
Malibu
Rum



21.99

1.75 L
Gordon's London
Dry Gin



15.99

1.75L Orange
Irish Whiskey Or
Jameson
Irish Whiskey



46.99

750mL
Glenlivet
Founders Reserve



52.99

1.75L
Crown Royal
Canadian Whiskey



43.49

750mL
Boordy Wine
Riesling



13.49

750mL
Indaba
Merlot



8.99

750mL
Wente Vineyards
Merlot



14.99

750mL
Francis Coppola
Pino Grigio



10.99

750mL
Dark Horse
Pino Grigio



7.49

750mL
Franciscan Estate
Chardonnay



9.99

750mL
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Chardonnay



10.99

750mL
Francis Coppola
Zinfandel



14.99

750mL
Apothic
Dark Bold Red



10.99

750mL
Rutherford Hill
Cabernet Sauvignon



44.99

750mL
Federalist
Cabernet Sauvignon



13.99

750mL
J.Lohr
Sauvignon Blanc



14.99

750mL
Kendall-Jackson
Sauvignon Blanc



11.99

750mL
Decoy
Red Wine



17.99

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 10

Auditions for Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*

The Newtown Players
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park
5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Announcing auditions for The Newtowne Players' production of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*! Performance times are Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8:00 PM, and Sundays at 3:00 PM. Performance dates are February 6 (Sponsor's Night performance at 7:00 PM) through February 23, 2025.

Leonard Vole stands accused of murdering a rich widow who just rewrote her will in his favor. The stakes are high! The witnesses' testimonies are shocking! Leonard's outbursts from the dock are heart-breaking! Generally regarded as one of Christie's most accomplished plays, this suspenseful thriller keeps audiences guessing until the very end.

Fri, Oct 11

Community Health & Wellness Fair

University of Maryland at Southern Maryland

44219 Airport Rd., California
9 a.m. to 3p.m.

This year's screenings will include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. Licensed Massage Therapist Gwynne Hill with California Total Body Massage will be on site all day offering free 15-minute mini-massages. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu shots and additional vaccinations. Bring your insurance card—all insurance agencies are accepted!

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and St. Mary's County Health Department will be on-site to collect medications, including diabetic supplies such as needles, lancets, and EpiPens.

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/healthfair for more information

Sat, Oct 12

17th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk

Fr. Andrew White School
22850 Washington St., Leonardtown

The goal of the Walk is to raise money to assist our neighbors with basic needs including rent, utilities, medicine, food... This

event starts at Fr. Andrew White School and the route goes through the streets of Historic Leonardtown. There will be a post walk brunch, music, theme baskets for a silent auction, and door prizes. There is no registration fee but walkers are encouraged to collect pledges or donate to St. Vincent de Paul Society. For more information, go to www.svdpusa.org/fop-walk and click "Maryland" to take you to our web site.

Pork Loin and Beef Sandwich Sale

American Legion Post 221
21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 is sponsoring a pork loin and beef sandwich sale. Pork loin, sliced roast beef, and BBQ beef sandwiches will be sold on both Saturday and Sunday at American Legion Post 221 @ 21690 Colton Point Rd (Rt. 242), in Avenue, MD. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and sandwiches will cost \$8.00 each. For more information e-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301*481*6625.

SMTMD Contra Dance

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open Band and dancing from 7:30 to 10 pm. Check the website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers! Admission is \$12 for non-SMTMD members; \$8 for members. Children 17 and under, when accompanied by an adult, and band members are free. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, smtmd.org/#/dances/

Yard Sale

First Friendship Methodist Church
13723 Point Lookout Rd., Ridge
8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Rain or shine. Cash or Check accepted. All Proceeds are used to support our Missions throughout the year.)

Wed, Oct 16

Fried Chicken Carryout Dinner

Thompson Seafood Corner
28765 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
9 a. m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: \$10.99. Call 301-844-5251 to place an order. To benefit the 7th District Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS

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 ad-

venturer! 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.

Planning for the Unthinkable: Disaster Preparedness

A One Maryland One Book Program. Do you know what to do when a tornado sweeps into your neighborhood or floodwater reaches your doorstep? Lexington Park Library, Wednesday, October 16 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Join St. Mary's County Emergency Services Department to learn what can be done now to reduce the impact of disaster later. This workshop will include an interactive educational lecture on how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe in the event of a disaster, a discussion on the area's unique and most common threats, and the opportunity to create your own disaster supply kit with the essentials: food, water, first-aid, tools, and more! This year's One Maryland One Book selection, *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy, shines a harsh light on the reality of natural disasters. It brings into question what one should do as an individual, as a family, and as a community, and what we owe to others in the face of catastrophe. One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Native Plant Swap at the Leonardtown Front Yard

This free event at Leonardtown Library in the Front Yard on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. offers both experienced and new gardeners a chance to add native

plants to their yards. In doing so, you will be creating habitat for our native birds, bees and butterflies. During the event, the unveiling of the Mosaics Mural will allow the public to view the joyful free-standing ceramic art murals. These murals will be permanently installed at the Front Yard and reflect the year-round beauty and inspiration this native landscape has brought to the community. Each mural portrays seasonal treasures – both plants and wildlife – that are found in native gardens. Ceramic Artist Parran Coltery will be on hand to answer questions about her creations, which were made possible through the support of the Maryland State Arts Council. For more information, contact Liz Curtz, Friends of St Clements Bay, at curtzel@gmail.com. Participating partners include St. Mary's County Master Gardeners, St. Mary's County Master Naturalists, Nurture Natives, Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, Butterfly Alley and Friends of St Clements Bay.

Legends, Lore, Ghosts, and More

Former Point Lookout State Park ranger and life-long St. Mary's County resident, Donnie Hammett, explores the rich paranormal history of St. Mary's County, Maryland in a presentation at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, October 19 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.



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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Exclamation
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. Popular type of device
18. Alcoholic beverage
19. Ancient Olympic Site
20. Sharpshoots
21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Measuring instruments
26. Midsection body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. “Partridge” actress Susan
33. Yell
34. Civil rights city in Alabama
39. Young boy
42. Type of sea bass
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Spy group
51. Florida is famous for them
56. Irritating individuals
57. Luck
58. Hunting expedition
59. WWII diarist Frank
60. Peyton’s younger brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Type of overseas tax or levy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Wake up
- CLUES DOWN
1. Works of body art
2. Israeli politician Abba
3. Renowned desert
4. Eat greedily
5. She didn’t make it through the Fr. Revolution
6. Beat
7. Bloodsucker
8. From a place already noted
9. Counted on
10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
11. Something one can make
13. One who abstains
17. Wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Bacterial infection of the skin
26. Expresses surprise
27. What engaged couples ultimately say
28. Crony
29. Where one begins (abbr.)
35. Architectural designation
36. “Matt Houston” actor Horsley
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Indigenous peoples
41. Deflections
42. Circulating life force
43. Executes with a rope
44. Natives of an island nation
45. Girls
47. Logician and philosopher
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian language
54. Amounts of time
55. Mathematical designation

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OCTOBER 3 SOLUTIONS

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Oct 10

FREE Quit Tobacco Classes

In Person or Virtual
Calvert County Health Department
975 Solomons Island Road
6 – 7:15 p.m.

Free Quit Cigarettes/Cigars/Chew/Vapes classes start on October 10 and run through November 14, 2024. One hour and 15 minutes for six weeks. Several options of nicotine replacement therapy are offered regardless of insurance. The group support available is so important when you are becoming nicotine free. If you are not ready yet, but thinking about quitting, please attend the classes to get more information. Registration is required, call 410-535-5400, ext 359 or visit CalvertHealth.org. Paid by MD Cigarette Restitution Fund.

Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons & Zoom
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Jeannette Findley & JC Hooker. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Oct 11

Witchcraft Halloween Cruise

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

Stir up a little magic this month with a Halloween sail aboard the vintage yacht *Witchcraft*. Discover the bay’s most well-loved ghost stories with your spirited crew. Wear your most spooktacular costume for a time of eerie delights and ghostly thrills. Guests are invited to dress in costume and bring their favorite witches brew and snacks. Cost is \$60/person; max 6 people per charter. Must be 18 or older to cruise.

Sat, Oct 12

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum,
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
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.

Parkers Creek Challenge Triathlon

American Chestnut Land Trust
South Side Trailhead
1985 Scientists Cliffs Rd, Port Republic
10 a.m.

American Chestnut Land Trust’s triathlon with a twist includes a nibe-mile bike ride from ACLT’s South Side trailhead, two-mile runs along Scientists Cliffs Road and through the Warrior’s Rest sanctuary, and a three-mile paddle on the Chesapeake Bay and pristine Parkers Creek. Participants may complete the triathlon individually or as a team. Fees: \$40/member or \$50/non-member, \$25/relay team member. Rain date and time is October 13 at 11 a.m.

20th Anniversary Celebration

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 Flint Hill Rd., Owings
2 – 4 p.m.

Activities include: barn tours, meet and greets with the hroses, tack for sale, lead-line guiding for kids, and more. A free commemorative gift will be given to the first 100 visitors. More information can be found on our website, freedomhillhorserescue.com or @freedomhillhorserescue.

Mon, Oct 14

Red Cross Blood Drive

Jesus The Good Shepherd Church
1601 W. Mount Harmony Rd., Owings
12 – 5:30 p.m.

You are needed! Help us save lives and register to donate blood today. We have openings throughout the day and you can register by calling 1-800-733-2767 or online www.redcrossblood.org/ and enter zip 20736 to select Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Tue, Oct 15

OMOB Book Discussion

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Join us this month for a discussion of *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J.A. Chancy. The whole state is encouraged to read and discuss this book as part of the One Maryland One Book initiative. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Oct 16

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2 – 3 p.m.

Join us for a lively discussion about *When*

Women Were Dragons by Kelly Barnhill!
Join us online or in person at the Fairview Branch. Register in advance to receive the Zoom link vie email if you wish to attend virtually. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Board of Education Candidate Forum

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
6 – 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee. All voters in Calvert vote for all three districts no matter what district you live in. This is not a library sponsored program. For more information please contact: Calvert SECAC, Joseph Cormier, Chair, Joseph.somd.leaders@gmail.com

Upcoming

Lower Marlboro Freedom Day

Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church
6519 Lower Marlboro Lane, Owings and Lower Marlboro Hall
3911 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings,
Saturday, Oct. 19
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Citizens are invited to celebrate and revel in Calvert County history at a celebration to commemorate freedom of those who escaped slavery with the help of the British during the War of 1812. For more information visit calvertcounty.gov/Lower-Marlboro-Freedom-Day or contact Natural Resources Division Chief Karyn Molines at 410-535-5327 or by email at Karyn.Molines@calvertcountymd.gov.Fish

Pop-up Market and Adoption Event

Vintage by the Bay and Blue Heron Boutique
645 Deale Rd., Deale
Saturday, Oct. 19
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Wag-o-ween benefits the Humane Society of Calvert County. Food, fun, crafts, and puppies.

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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of September 23, 2024 – September 29, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,740 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 74
- Disorderly: 30
- Domestic: 21
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 43
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 834
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 28
- Traffic Complaints: 79
- 911 Hang Ups: 52
- ARRESTS: 43



Blake Donovan Albritton

CDS Violation: 24-73899 On September 24, 2024, at approximately 3:57 a.m., DFC Hudson responded to a traffic complaint on Rt. 4 and Duke St. in Prince Frederick. The suspect vehicle was observed driving erratically on the shoulder. When deputies attempted to stop the vehicle, it fled with deputies in pursuit. Deputies observed multiple traffic violations as the driver turned its headlights and taillights off while fleeing. The suspect vehicle came to a rest after hydroplaning and striking a guardrail on Rt. 4 in the area of Mt. Harmony Lane in Owings. A vehicle search revealed 68.5 grams of cannabis concentrate, a prescription bottle with missing Xanax pills, and \$2,627 in US Currency. The driver, **Blake Donovan Albritton**, 30 of Upper Marlboro, was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Cannabis Over Civil Use, CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute, and Fleeing and Eluding.



Kenneth Eugene Rollins, Jr.

CDS Violation: 24-74640 On September 26, 2024, Detectives with the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) were in the area of the Solomons Landing Apartments in Solomons, conducting proactive surveillance and observed a hand-to-hand drug transaction. **Kenneth Eugene Rollins, Jr.**, 46 of Solomons, was observed riding a bicycle through the parking lot approaching a passenger car occu-



Chelsea Lee Hoofnagle



Daniel Joseph Leaman

ried by **Chelsea Lee Hoofnagle**, 38 of Lusby, and passenger **Daniel Joseph Leaman**, 40 of Lusby. Rollins provided the Hoofnagle narcotics in exchange for cash. Hoofnagle was observed attempting to swallow the controlled dangerous substance (CDS) refusing to comply with law enforcement. Detectives recovered a bag of crack cocaine from Hoofnagle's mouth. A search of Rollin's person revealed \$204 in US Currency. Rollins, Hoofnagle, and Leaman were placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Rollins was charged with CDS: Distribution of Narcotics and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Leaman was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis. Hoofnagle was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Jerry Allan Campbell

CDS Violation: 24-75155 On September 28, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the area of Hallowing Point Road. and Thoroughbred Lane in Prince Frederick, for a traffic complaint involving a driver swerving all over the road, riding on the shoulder, and running cars off the road. Deputy Hill initiated a traffic stop in the parking lot of the 7-11 located at 15 Solomons Island Rd. N in Prince Frederick. Contact was made with the driver, **Jerry Allan Campbell**, 61 of Prince Frederick. Further investigation revealed Campbell was under in influence and unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. A search of Campbell's person incident to arrest revealed numerous tan-colored rocks (suspected heroin) and a metal straw. Campbell was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving a Vehicle While Impaired by a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Driving a Vehicle While Impaired by Drugs and Alcohol.



Justin Colby Wilson

Disorderly Conduct: 24-73817 On September 23, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the Harris Teeter located at 10125 Ward Rd in Dunkirk, for the report of a disorderly subject. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Justin Colby Wilson**, 37 of no fixed address. Wilson was yelling profanities at patrons in the store. Wilson was asked to leave the store and was advised he had been trespassed from the property. Moments later deputies responded to a disorderly call at the Giant in Dunkirk. Contact was made with Wilson who was being confrontational and yelling profanities at customers. Wilson was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct.



Brandon McNeil Robinson

Disorderly Conduct: 24-75287 On September 29, 2024, DFC Mister responded to the Prince Frederick Library located at 850 Costley Way in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. During the investigation, **Brandon McNeil Robinson**, 18 of no fixed address, was causing a disturbance amongst civilians while yelling profanities at deputies on scene. Robison was disturbing the peace and was hindering officers from completing the investigation. Robinson was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Obstructing and Hindering.

Theft: 24-74009 On September 24, 2024, DFC Mohler responded to 100 block of Skinners Turn Road in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown white male stole a small political sign from the victim's yard. The estimated value of stolen property is \$5.

Theft: 24-74585 On September 26, 2024, Master Deputy Aurich responded to Self-Storage located at 955 Skinners Turn Road in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised sometime between mid-August and September 26, an unknown

suspect(s) gained entry to the battery compartment of the RV and stole two batteries. The estimated value of stolen property is \$800.

Theft: 24-74097 On September 24, 2024, DFC Savick responded to the Subway located at 7917 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised while in the store an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's black and teal Ancheer electric bike parked on a brick pillar outside the establishment. The estimated value of stolen property is \$600.

Theft: 24-75197 On September 29, 2024, Deputy Madura responded to Fastop located at 8054 Bayside Road in Chesapeake Beach, for a report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown black male entered the store, grabbed multiple items and fled on a skateboard without paying for stolen goods. The suspect was last seen wearing a black Nike sweatshirt, black sweatpants and a gray beanie hat. The estimated value of stolen property is \$8.67.



Elaine Diana Ly Simpson

Trespassing: 24-73989 On September 24, 2024, Deputy Campbell responded to Fox Run Shopping Center located at 615 Solomons Island Road N in Prince Frederick, for the reported trespassing. Contact was made with **Elaine Diana Ly Simpson**, 41 of Lusby, who had been trespassed indefinitely from the property. Simpson was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

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Veteran's Commission Expanded Focus Includes Families

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The work of the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission includes not only service to the county's 9,000 veterans (including a thousand women), but also their families as well.

Commission Chairman Dr. Brandon Temple told the county commissioners during their annual briefing, "Although we're a small county, of all the counties in our state as a percentage of adult population, Calvert County is number one on the list. We're just about under 13 percent of our population are veterans."

Temple said their official mission is expanding. He explained, "At the state level, they have renamed the State Department of Veterans Affairs, the State Department of Veterans and Military Families. And as part of that, there's a new Deputy Secretary for Military Family Policy and programs. And this is to expand beyond veterans to also service members in the county."

Temple said the commission is working on amending their establishing authority to incorporate the expanded role.

He added, "Frankly, the work that we do already covers a lot of those folks between

the veterans themselves, the caregivers, and active military families, whether they be active duty, guard, or reserve."

According to the annual commission report, based on feedback from veterans, their most frequently identified needs remain:

- Access to information on VA benefits and services;
- Caregiver Support/Resources;
- Mental health/medical care/suicide prevention;
- Transportation to VA medical facilities.

The commission publishes a Veterans Resource Guide both online and in hard copy and it's updated regularly as a "living" document."

According to the report, annual veteran's resource events include:

- Community Resource Day;
- Calvert County Fair;
- Memorial Day Ceremonies;
- Women's & Men's Health Expos, Calvert Health;
- Operation Green Light/Veterans Day;
- National Veteran-Owned Business Week.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Owings Man Sentenced for Assault



Stephen Louis Betz

Stephen Louis Betz, 30, of Owings, was sentenced on Oct. 3 to 30 years incarceration, with 16 years of active time, for first degree assault and violation of probation. The sentence was imposed by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

On September 10, 2023, Betz and two other men entered a home in Owings and confronted the residents about some medication that allegedly had been stolen. An

argument ensued and one of the unidentified men displayed a firearm. The argument continued outside where shots were fired, striking the victim and a nearby house. The victim survived his injuries.

Investigators from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office determined that Betz brought the gunman to the to settle a dispute with the victim.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Allison S. Walton.

Every Deputy to Receive Emergency Vehicle Training

Sheriff's Office Receives Grant



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office has received a grant to allow every deputy to receive emergency vehicle operation training. The grant is for \$14,293.

Assistant Sheriff Lieutenant Colonel Dave Payne in a memo to the county commissioners wrote, "As a law enforcement agency, we are aware that more police officers are killed or injured in motor vehicle collisions than in other violent encounters while on duty. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office has recognized the urgent need to provide refresher training for emergency and non-emergency vehicle operations. In collaboration with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Cheltenham, Maryland, we have developed an 'Agency-wide Eight-Hour Emergency Vehicle Operations In-Service Training' in response to this need. This training aims to reduce preventable accidents and enhance the safety of our officers and the public need to reduce preventable accidents and enhance the safety of our officers and the public."

"From a risk management standpoint, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office has already taken the liberty of seeking and being awarded training approval from the Maryland Police Training Commission, which is thus documented in each deputy's training file. This accurate documentation of training is not just a formality; it's a critical factor in civil litigations against

our agency. It's a responsibility we all share. Furthermore, our Agency requested and was awarded a Fiscal Year 2025 Training Grant from the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) intended to provide agency-wide training in an effort to reduce liability claims and property damage."

The grant was awarded on Aug. 29 and presented in a ceremony on Oct. 9.

LGIT Executive Director Matt Peter said, "At LGIT we are very excited that Calvert County and the sheriff's department took the time to acknowledge that they've had a number of accidents. They want to try to address the issue, so they are going to."

He said there was a lack of such training at the police academy and since graduation.

Peter added, "I hope that you guys are going to become an example for a lot of our other members, recognizing that there's an issue. because all of our members have an issue with auto accidents and you guys seem to be spearheading away and developing a program that is going to hopefully reduce driver accidents and help the community out."

Sheriff Ricky Cox said the training "is one of the best."

Cox added, "We'll be sending all the deputies there, getting them trained up, and it's my commitment to keep them safe and our citizens safe. And I think training is key. I've been saying that since I've been elected sheriff, and we're going to continue to do that."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Domestic Violence: 'There's a Lot of Work Still to Do'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

These are the statistics as presented Oct. 1 to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners:

- Statistically, one in four women and one seven men have experienced a serious physical injury due to intimate partner violence in the home.
- When it comes to homelessness, 80 to 90 percent of homeless women and children are homeless due to domestic violence in the home.
- And one person every 20 minutes in this country is a victim of physical domestic violence.

"So, there's a lot of work still to do, but we have amazing partners in Calver County," said Commission for Women Chair Kathryn Marsh in presenting the statistics during the issuance of a proclamation for October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Marsh said of the month, "It's a time for us to educate the public and to advocate changes in domestic violence."

She said the partners helping to address the problem include sheriff's office, state's attorney's office, the Center for Family Advocacy, the health department, Safe Harbor, CalvertHealth Medical Center, and Center for Change.

Marsh said, "The most dangerous time in a domestic violence relationship is when somebody is looking to leave. That is when we experience the most fatalities. So, we want to make sure everybody knows the resources, so they know who to reach out to when they're ready to leave that relationship."

Marsh was asked by Commissioner Todd Ireland about escalation. She said, "I think the first thing that's important to understand in healthy and unhealthy relationship boundaries, is what are green flags and red flags for healthy relationships? Because intimate partner events often start with coercive control. There are seven states at the moment that have actually, um, added coercive control to a sign of domestic violence for protective orders and for criminal statutes. Maryland's not there yet. It was proposed last year. coercive control includes isolation of the victim, threats and intimidation, and mental, emotional and economic abuse. So often you start with coercive control in order to isolate the victim in order for the victim to think they can't go to outside resources for help. And then it can escalate into domestic violence."

She added, "One point just on strangulation, when it comes to escalation, current statistics have about 68 percent of women

in abusive relationships have experienced one episode of non-fatal strangulation. What the research has shown us is that a survivor of intimate partner violence who has experienced just one episode of non-fatal strangulation is 750 percent more likely to end up a victim of intimate partner violence homicide. So, we need to make sure that we are spreading the word about the danger of strangulation, and that if anybody suffers that, that is a time to get out to get help."

State's Attorney Bob Harvey praised the work of the Commission for Women. He said domestic violence is "the second most prevalent type of case we have here in Calvert County behind impaired driving."

Harvey noted, "These are the toughest types of cases we have. Many times, victims come forward and then they withdraw. They don't want to testify, they want to go to court. So, it's very difficult to get a good outcome in these kinds of cases."

Sheriff's office Orders of Protection and Victim Services Coordinator Sharon DiMaggio said for 2023 "we had 837 orders processed. That does include peace orders as well. We had 1,997 hearings related to orders of protection that were processed, and 159 protective orders were issued."

Sheriff Ricky Cox said, "The information that you're getting while the deputies go onto the call sometimes is true or not true and somewhere between. The information that you're getting that you're responding to a lot of weapons are involved in these hostile situations — knives, guns, and stuff like that. When we get to the scene, we really don't know what we're going to get when we get there, really walking into the unknown. And I tell a lot of people, we see people at their worst and we see the people at their best. And most times, these domestic violence calls are citizens at their worst."

Ireland, a retired deputy, said, "When you get these calls for service, you have children involved, you have the other party involved who's calling 911, and that may be their breadwinner and all of a sudden you're locking up their breadwinner and taking them out of the house and then can turn on you and they're mad at you."

Ireland relayed a situation that occurred when he was a deputy. "The deputies would see it; you'd go to the same domestic call, and they would fight like cats and dogs. It was bad. But long story short, he ended up killing her and he's in jail for the rest of his life."

At the same meeting, the Commission for Women presented their annual report to the commissioners.

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Heavy Industrial Zone Uses Explained

Final Zoning Ordinance Changes Unveiled

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Staff of Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning have presented more information about the proposed heavy industrial zones in south county to be included in the update of the county zoning ordinance.

Planner III Will Hager explained to the county commissioners at an Oct. 8 presentation, "What has changed as compared with the previous draft map is that the heavy industrial district, the I-2 district has been expanded to the Appeal Landfill, Solomons Wastewater Treatment Plant area, which was light industrial district in the previous draft, as well as surrounding parcels, which were rural community district previously. And the heavy industrial district has also been expanded to the parcel directly south of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, which is a parcel that under current zoning is split between light industrial and farm and forest. And there have also been some revisions made to the uses, both permitted and not permitted in the heavy industrial district."

Later Hager explained, "Uses like asphalt plant and heavy manufacturing and/or assembly are no longer permitted in the heavy industrial district. And adult enterprises are no longer permitted in the industrial mixed-use district or anywhere else in the county for that matter."

Hager was asked about a creosote plant or those with toxic emissions. Director of Planning and Zoning Marry Beth Cool said, "If there isn't a use listed on the use charts then it's not permitted. And we don't have any uses like that listed."

Hager said heavy manufacturing is defined as "establishments involved in the basic processing and manufacturing of materials or products predominantly from extracted or raw materials and that are generally not compatible with residential uses. This includes but is not limited to foundries, fossil fuel refineries and similar heavy industrial uses."

Hager further explained that "data center has been added to the use chart and is permitted as a special exception use with conditions in the heavy industrial district. And for a reminder, a special exception use means that a proposal requires Board of Appeals approval. And the condition for this use is that the data center shall be set back 200 feet from all property lines and 500 feet from any parcel with a residential building permit except for adjacent properties under common ownership."

Some other changes from previous zoning ordinance update drafts:

- Removed maximum lot area requirement of three acres for clustered subdivisions in the FFD and RCD.
- Removed increased setback requirements for lots over three acres in the FFD, RCD, and RND.
- Increased minimum lot area requirement in the RND and RD (if not connected to sewer) from 30,000 square feet to one acre.
- Transfer Zone Density has been reduced in the RD from four dwelling units per acre to one dwelling unit per acre.

- Detached accessory dwellings - the maximum square feet of gross floor area permitted has been increased from 1,200 square feet to 1,500 square feet.
- Townhouse, quadruplex, and triplex dwellings are no longer permitted in the RD.
- Short-Term Rental has been removed from the list of uses on the use table.
- For tenant houses, the minimum acreage required has been reduced from 50 acres to 25 acres.
- Manufactured homes on individual lot or parcel is now permitted with conditions in the RND, WCD, and RD.
- Home Occupation - Class I has been removed and is no longer a use listed on the use chart 8 Uses (Article 18).
- Farmer's Market is now a permitted use in the RCD, RND, WCD, and RD, with the condition that if the farmers' market is located in a permanent structure the footprint of the structure is limited to 1,500 square feet.
- Agricultural/Seafood/Livestock Processing is now permitted in the FFD, RCD, RND, and RD on farm properties provided the farm has received all required state licenses and approvals.
- Public Events/Public Assemblies on Farmland is now a permitted special exception use with conditions in the RCD, RND, and RD and the number of events permitted per year has been increased from 2 to 12 9 Uses (Article 18).

For parking, the following provision has been added to the draft, "Upon written application, the zoning officer may reduce the minimum parking requirements of this Article if the applicant demonstrates that the facility to be served would not require in its day-to-day operation a full complement of parking. The application shall be accompanied by a parking needs study that includes an estimate of the parking needs for the use, a thorough explanation of the basis for the estimate, any data used in calculating the estimate, including parking generation studies and previous experience with similar uses, and an explanation of any other relevant considerations, such as availability of commercial or public parking areas."

That replaces the following provision which has been removed from the draft, "The parking requirements for nonresidential uses may be reduced up to 15 percent."

Cool said staff have a similar session with the planning commission next week. She said, "After that, we will be drafting the public hearing draft. Once that draft is released, we cannot make any changes because the legal ads will be posted for the public hearing. I also wanted to note that we are changing the public hearing date for the Board of County Commissioners. We had advertised a tentative date for December 9th. I think it's going to be on the 17th, but I suggest the public watch for the legal notices that will be in the newspaper for confirmation on that date. But that'll be evening public hearing here in the commissioner's hearing room."

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4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732

Southern Community Center

20 Appeal Lane, Lusby, MD 20657

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Calvert County Sheriff's Office

30 Church Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"

210 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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Featuring



Join the Otters for Patuxent River Appreciation Day



One of CMM's resident otters eagerly awaiting lunchtime. All photos courtesy of CMM.



Simon Dean with Solomons Island Heritage Tours offers a dockside demo to teach visitors about crabs, fish, eels, and more during the event.



Fun in the Boat Basin will include rowboats, pedal boats, RC boats, and much more.

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The otters are “like the pandas of the Calvert Marine Museum (CMM).” That’s the assessment of CMM’s animal department curator Matt Neff of the otters’ popularity.

“They probably are most popular animals here at the Calvert Marine Museum,” Neff said. “We have the visitors usually just beeline to see them. They’re very playful and very active, and that’s what I guess attracts people to otters.”

They will be one of the main attractions at the free Patuxent River Appreciation Days (PRAD) on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the museum.

The museum currently has two river otters, Chessie Grace and Calvert. Neff said they have different personalities. “We’ve noticed that with taking care of them, Chessie Grace, who we just call Gracie for short, she tends to be a little bit more picky with food and stuff like that, and a little bit more shy.

“Calvert on the other hand’s a little bit bigger. He is a male. He’ll eat anything. He is not picky whatsoever and he’s usually a lot more inquisitive too.”

As to their diet, Neff explained, “They are omnivores in the wild. But here the main part of their diet is smelt and capelin, which are two types of fish. And then we also give them enrichment at least three times a day. So that could be a mix of fruits and vegetables, other protein items like scallops or shrimp or hard-boiled egg, sweet potato, blueberries and sometimes their favorite, mushrooms. And everything in between.”

They are both about eight years old and their life expectancy in the wild is about that, but in captivity they can live to 12 to 15 years, Neff said. A third otter, who passed away last year, lived to be 20. “It’s not a record, but it is a pretty good long life for an otter.”

In the wild, there life is “much tougher,” Neff said, “Because they don’t have that care. They don’t have routine shots and exams and guaranteed food or anything like that. So they actually have to work to get their food.

“But usually they’re solitary in the wild. So that’s why a lot of folks were surprised that we weren’t going to get another third otter again. We were very lucky that we had three that could live together. With a lot of friends and colleagues that work in other institutions, they rarely have luck with having more than one otter housed together, at least the North American river otters.”

They can be territorial, he said, “Definitely different hormones happening at different times of the year as well. Both of our animals are fixed, so that probably helped eliminate a lot of that aggression towards each other. And they kind of also both grew up together; we’re not introducing two adults. They were both very young. I think Calvert was under one and Gracie was like almost newborn when she came in, that they just grew up together and just have been used to each other, whereas if we tried to introduce another adult otter that might cause problems.”

One of the focuses of his department is appreciation during PRAD is that they are found locally. “It’s a good sign of water quality, which is kind of one thing that we’ll be talking about at the Patuxent River Appreciation Day. They are sensitive to pollution and bad water quality. That’s why maintaining the health of the rivers around the Calvert Marine Museum is super important, just so you are able to find otters. But, we will have people routinely, a lot of even coworkers, see them all the time around their houses. I have a coworker up in Huntingtown, she’s seen them on her ring camera just kind of like crossing through her yard at night. There are some that hang around the Ranch Club.

“We have fairly clean water down here, at least now in Southern Maryland. So, I wouldn’t say otters are common, because they are usually pretty elusive in the wild and try and stay away from humans. But you can definitely see them around here in Southern Maryland.”

Neff explained, “Sometimes they can have home ranges, but they definitely will adjust if food availability becomes more scarce and more prevalent in other areas.”

When you come to PRAD, Neff said, “I will say the otters are probably one of our animals that actually love visitors. They’re just very in tune to what’s going on around them, especially when they’re outside swimming. In the large part of their enclosure, they will follow visitors around; they love stimulation and things like that. So, they are probably one of our most interactive animals here at the Calvert Marine Museum.”

Can they be handled. He said, “They are seen by a vet once a year for those checkups. We cannot really go in with them.”

He said people probably what to know what they are doing in an enclosure. But he said, “Everywhere I’ve worked has had what we call protective contacts. We don’t actually go in with the otters because they are technically wild animals. And so, they’re not really domesticated like dogs or cats. They have a pretty strong bite. So, they might not think that they’re hurting, but it would definitely hurt.”

“It all kind of starts when I was five years old,” Neff said of his interest in animals. His father grew up in Charles County and was drawn to the outdoors. But Neff grew up in Arlington, Va., “which there’s not a lot of that.”

He remembers, “It was probably late February and hearing spring tadpoles and wood frogs calling, I thought was just incredible. Something clicked. And from that moment on, I just always wanted to be out hiking. And, around the time of high school, I kind of realized this might be a career and not just a hobby.”

He majored in biology at Manhattanville College and worked at a nature center, “and I kind of got my foot in with public speaking working at the Nature Center, and just teaching people about environmental things that were happening and also taking care of animals.”

He worked at the National Zoo for 12 years before coming to CMM.

PRAD is one of Southern Maryland’s longest-running festivals, marking its 46th year on Saturday, Oct. 12 at CMM from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year they’re welcoming Fred Tutman, the Patuxent Riverkeeper, who will deliver a welcome address from the Waterside Pavilion stage at 11 a.m. It’ll be a chance to hear his insights on the importance of protecting our precious waterways.

PRAD promises a full day of fun, including toy boat building, live music, boat rides, crafts, and art vendors. Treat your taste buds with delicious options from a variety of food vendors, with beer and wine available for purchase.

Entertainment lineup at the Waterside Pavilion:

- Bushmill Band 10 a.m.
- Riverkeeper’s Welcome Address 11 a.m.
- One Trick Pony 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Some Assembly 1 – 2 p.m.
- Groove Span 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Explore the museum grounds, where dozens of nonprofit and community groups will showcase their efforts to celebrate and preserve the Patuxent River. Enjoy interactive exhibits, demonstrations on oyster farming, native plants, and local wildlife, and a petting zoo.

Don’t miss the Drum Point Lighthouse and surrounding boat basin for even more excitement! Children can build their own toy boats, while the whole family is invited to enjoy free cruises aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, *Witch of the Wave*, *Draketail*, and *Poe Skiff*. Try your hand at rowboats, pedal boats, or navigating a remote-control sailboat!

Inside the museum, engage in a hands-on recycle craft, discover more interactive exhibits, and don’t forget to visit the Museum Store for unique gifts that celebrate the Chesapeake Bay.

PRAD is a testament to the community’s commitment to preserving the Patuxent River and celebrating its vital role in our quality of life. This event reflects the collaboration of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Calvert Marine Museum, and various organizations dedicated to supporting local environmental programs and tourism.

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“...HE ENDED UP KILLING HER AND HE’S IN JAIL FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.”

COMMISSIONER TODD IRELAND ON A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SITUATION



LOCAL 6
Deputies to receive emergency vehicle training



LOCAL 6
Man gets 30 years for assault



ON THE COVER
Calvert celebrates the Patuxent River

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MON, OCT 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 68° Lo: 46°	TUE, OCT 15 Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 44°	WED, OCT 16 Mostly Sunny Hi: 61° Lo: 44°	THU, OCT 17 Mostly Sunny Hi: 61° Lo: 45°

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**Heavy Industrial
Zoning Explained**

**Commissioners Briefed
on Domestic Violence**

**Veteran's Commission
Wants to Help Families**

**YOU 'OTTER'
GO TO PRAD**