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“THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER... THAT THERE WAS ANY CRIMINAL INTENT.”

SHERIFF STEVE HALL ON ALLEGATIONS OF SOMEONE USING THEIR VEHICLE TO THREATEN CAMPAIGN SIGN WAVERS IN CALIFORNIA.



LOCAL 11
Commissioners approve fire truck loan



LOCAL 12
Early voting begins



ON THE COVER
Continuing the fight against breast cancer

VETERANS DAY SALUTE

In honor of Veterans Day 2024, The County Times invites you to submit the names of family members who have served in the Armed Forces. The names will be published in The County Times Veterans Day Salute on November 7th. Email names to timescalendar@countytimes.net or mail to PO Box 250 Hollywood, MD 20636.

Local businesses are also invited to join in our salute to local veterans. Call us at 301-373-2131 for details

County Times
St. Mary's County • Calvert County

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 24 Sunny Hi: 66° Lo: 40°	FRI, OCT 25 Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 53°	SAT, OCT 26 Partly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 45°	SUN, OCT 27 Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 39°
MON, OCT 28 Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 43°	TUE, OCT 29 Mostly Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 52°	WED, OCT 30 Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 55°	THU, OCT 31 Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 56°

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Sheriff: No Criminal Intent Apparent in Sign Waving Incident

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Sheriff Steve Hall said video footage of a white SUV making a right hand turn from St. Andrews Church Road onto southbound Route 235 and jumping up on the curb in the direction of people waving political signs Oct. 21 was not an intentional act.

"There was no evidence whatsoever... that there was any criminal intent," Hall told The County Times in the wake of the incident. "There's nothing to show an intentional acceleration towards members of the public waving signs."

The video of the vehicle in question shows it stopped at the intersection just before making its right turn onto Route 235; Hall theorized that as the driver was looking at the sign wavers that she mistakenly turned towards them and jumped the curb before almost immediately coming back down onto the roadway.

"The vehicle's tires didn't even get up onto the grass," Hall said. "Where you look is where you drive."

The video did not allow for an identification of the vehicle from a license plate or of the driver, Hall said.

Images taken of the curb where the incident took place show no damage to the grassy area, indicating, law officers said, that there was no intention of approaching the sign wavers.

Brandie Edelen, a candidate for the St. Mary's County Board of Education, alleges that while she and others were conducting the sign-waving and campaigning event at the intersection the motorist drove up onto the curb and appeared to use their vehicle to intimidate sign wavers.

Others there were waving signs in support of the candidacy of former President Donald Trump to retake that office this year.

"While sign waving a driver jumped the curb and almost hit us," Edelen wrote in a social media post the following day.

In a later interview, Edelen said she did not believe the driver was targeting her campaign but those waving Trump signs.

"Trump stirs up a lot of hate," Edelen said.

Edelen said the incident could have been an accident but several factors continued to lead her to believe it was deliberate.

"She was looking at us the whole time," Edelen said. "And once she was off the curb she could have turned into the parking lot at WaWa and checked on us to make sure we were OK."

"She didn't do any of that."

Jennifer Hayden Boyd, chair of the St. Mary's County Republican Party, was there and witnessed the incident.

At first, she said she thought it might have been an accident but later became convinced it was intentional.

Boyd identified the driver as female, driving a creamy white vehicle which drove off after driving forward towards the sign wavers and even crushing some of their drinks beneath the vehicle before turn back onto the roadway and driving off.

"It happened so quickly," Boyd said. "Nobody was hurt, thank goodness."

When campaigners called the sheriff's office to report the incident, Boyd said, they were told that a unit was not available for immediate response.

Boyd said she was interviewed later that day by a deputy.

"I'm glad they're looking into it," Boyd said. "We were shaken up."

"It stuns you."

The following day Commissioner Mike Alderson addressed the incident during the Oct. 22 meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County.

"The thing that really stinks about politics and campaigning and the election is how tribal it can get," Alderson said. "You can disagree without being disagreeable."

Commissioner Eric Colvin called the incident voter intimidation and called on local Democrat Party leaders to join him in condemning the action.

"That's unacceptable that this has happened," Colvin said. "And it's disappointing."

"It's sad to see that happening here in St. Mary's County."

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Superintendent: Some Student Redistricting May Be on the Table

Unofficial Enrollment for SY 2025

Middle	06	07	08	Tot	Projected	Enroll +/-
Chesapeake Public Charter School	56	62	53	171	180	-9
Esperanza Middle School	291	264	294	849	843	6
Leonardtwn Middle School	332	326	331	989	947	42
Margaret Brent Middle School	283	296	307	886	912	-26
Spring Ridge Middle School	311	296	317	924	969	-45
Total	1,273	1,244	1,302	3,819	3,851	-32

High	09	10	11	12	Tot	Projected	Enroll +/-
Chopticon High School	412	382	353	383	1,530	1,608	-78
Great Mills High School	486	438	394	389	1,707	1,798	-91
Leonardtwn High School	555	537	494	550	2,136	2,120	16
Total	1,453	1,357	1,241	1,322	5,373	5,526	-153

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The school system continues to lose a small amount of students each year, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said this week, but still some schools are running over their capacities while others are chronically under capacity.

Broadly speaking, Smith said, enrollment with St. Mary's County Public Schools remains relatively stable, with only about one-percent loss of students over the past several years.

Those students are confined mostly to the secondary grades, Smith said to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County during a joint meeting Oct. 22 in Leonardtown, but lower grades remain full of students.

"Every year we here that schools are overcrowded," Smith said. "A classroom might be overcrowded, a particular school might be overcrowded."

"But, overall, the capacity across the system remains pretty much aligned with the infrastructure that we have."

The one instance where the school board may consider redistricting — the practice of moving students from an overcrowded school to one with more unused capacity — would be regarding Leonardtown High School.

"Leonardtwn High School continues to

run beyond its capacity," Smith said. "And Chopticon High School persistently seems to be staying below its capacity."

"That would pretty much be the only thing we would consider."

The school system is still waiting for final, official enrollment numbers, Smith said, but the projections they have now show that the system is down roughly 150 students from last year.

Smith told county commissioners that his administration had anticipated an increase in enrollment this year by about one percent, but that did not materialize.

This left the system actually 300 students behind their projections, he said.

The total enrollment now is about 17,075 students, according to unofficial school system figures.

Enrollment is key to school funding from the state, but with the advent of the Blue Print for Education plan the task of sorting that out becomes more difficult.

With the new way of allocating student funding, certain students are allocated more funding — sometimes much more — based on factors like being economically disadvantaged, speaking a language other than English as a primary language and requiring special education services.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

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Lauren Michelle Hall, 37, Lusby, MD
Jeffrey Raymond Raley, Jr., 45, Mechanicsville, MD
Asta Rose Repenning, 37, Mechanicsville, MD
Kasey Rae Long, 27, Avenue, MD
Jay Darren Hammett, 27, Pasadena, MD
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Tiarrah Monet King, 25, Lexington Park, MD
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Abigail Cecilia Orlandi, 30, Solomons, MD
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Angelina Marie Candelaria, 23, California, MD
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Commissioners Fund Early Replacement of Emergency Radios

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Emergency responders have asked for help and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County have given them their answer.

Last week, the Emergency Services Board requested the commissioners advance more funding to the cause of replacing all the current portable radios used by firefighters to upgraded ones that will solve communication problems.

This week the commissioners agreed to use about \$1.1 million in remaining American Rescue Project Act money to replace the radios.

According to information from county planning documents the original XG75 portable radios purchased back in 2012 have been in use by the fire department for over 10 years and have reached the end of their useful life. As such, they are no longer supported by L3Harris Corporation.

L3Harris also no longer manufactures safe batteries for these radios and spare battery quantities are nearly exhausted, documents from the county's Department of Emergency Services showed.

The volunteer fire service noted last year that they needed to have a radio available for every firefighter riding on an apparatus to ensure that any firefighter operating on a fireground or in a hazardous situation would have their own radio communications, according to emergency services documents.

A February structure fire resulted in a firefighter making a mayday call, emergency services documents showed, but radio coverage problems prevented that firefighter in distress from transmitting calls for help.

The fire service has considered using repeaters — a combination of a radio receiver and a radio transmitter that receives a signal and retransmits it — but this solution will not work without new radios, fire service officials have said.

Commissioner Eric Colvin was the first to propose that the commissioners choose the radio replacement project to fund from among a host of others presented to them at their Oct. 22 business meeting.

"That seems to be the most logical step for us to take," Colvin said.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Commissioners Approve Loan for Hollywood Fire Truck

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted to provide \$485,000 from the county's revolving loan fund to aid the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in purchasing a new pumper truck at a total cost of \$884,310.

The loan will cover a little more than half the whole cost.

According to county planning documents the current available funds in the Fire & Rescue Revolving Loan Fund Program are \$3,343,000 as of September 30.

The loan term requested is for four years at a 0.5 percent interest rate. The estimated monthly payments will be \$10,208, according to county documents.

"That sounds like a good deal to the county that they're only asking for about 50 percent of the cost," said Commissioner Mike Hewitt about the request.

The request from the Hollywood volunteers received the full support of the St. Mary's County Fire Board Association and the Emergency Services Board being brought before the county commissioners.

"We confidently can make those payments," said company president Bill Mattingly to Hewitt's questions about making monthly payments on the new apparatus.

Mattingly told Hewitt that the next apparatus the company plans to replace would be



Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department treasurer Steve Facini

its ladder truck in 2029.

Hollywood recently received an increase in its fire tax allocation but Mattingly told elected leaders that there may be a time when his and other fire companies could come to the commissioners and ask for more funding support.

Steve Facini, the treasurer for the Hollywood fire company, said the engineers at the station perform careful, routine maintenance on their apparatus, which leads to them being able to sell them to other companies at a good resale price.

"Most of the companies that would receive that pumper... would be proud to call that their first line piece," Facini said.

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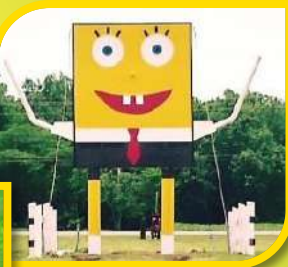
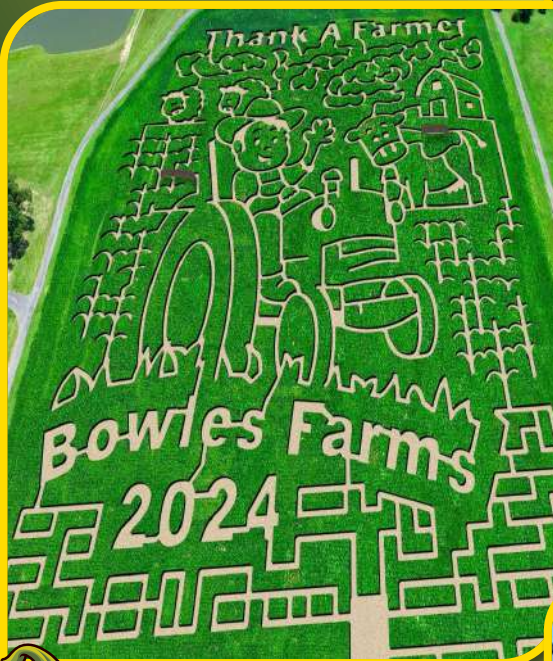
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Club of SoMD from 12pm to 3pm.Bring the kids in their Halloween costumes
and let them trick-or-treat through a display of decorated
Jeeps while enjoying a fun day at the corn maze!**Final Weekend!****Saturdays: 10:00am – 6:00pm****Sundays: 10:00am – 5:00pm****Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)****BowlesFarms.com • 301-475-2139**

Early Voting Begins This Week

By Guy Leonard
Staff WriterEarly voting begins today and runs through
Oct. 31 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day. There
are three early voting centers. They are:

- Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, 46900 South Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park
- Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department, 24801 Three Notch Road in Hollywood
- Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, 28165 Hills Club Road in Mechanicsville

Wendy Adkins, director of the St. Mary's
County Board of Elections, said everything
was in order for voters to come cast their votes."We're ready to go," Adkins told The
County Times.Adkins noted that Oct. 29 was the deadline
for a registered voter to request a mail-in bal-
lot; mail-in ballots can still be sent in through
Election Day on Nov. 5 as long as they are
postmarked by that date at 8 p.m.So far, the local election board has sent out
11,918 mail-in ballots and have accepted back
6,273 on those mail-in ballots, Adkins said.There are about 77,000 registered voters
in St. Mary's County, Adkins said.Adkins said the turnout for early voting
would be "hopefully high.""In the past our presidential elections
have been pretty busy," Adkins said.Elected officials have called upon regis-
tered voters to come out on one of the eight
days of early voting available to avoid wait-
ing in long lines on Nov. 5."It's time to exercise your civic duty and
use our early voting sites," said Commissioner
Mike Alderson during the Oct. 22 business

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department



Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department



Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department

meeting of the Commissioners of St. Mary's
County. "We pay a lot of money for them...
so please use them."Commissioner Eric Colvin, encouraged
registered voters to use early voting sites,
though recently he has been critical of how
the state holds early voting, saying that it takes
too long and costs the county too much money."Take advantage of it," Colvin said. "You
won't have to wait."

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
CASE NO: C-18-FM-24-000303Karen Atkintade
26160 Yowaiski Mill Rd
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
Plaintiff

vs.

Devonte Brown
1043 Catesby Terrace
Hyattsville, MD 20785
Defendant**NOTICE – Alternate Service**
(Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)Karen Atkintade, the above named plaintiff, has filed a complaint titled Complaint
for Custody asking the court to grant custody of a minor child. The Circuit Court
for St. Mary's County may grant that relief unless Devonte Brown, above named
defendant, can show a reason why the court should not grant the relief. Devonte
Brown must file a response to the complaint on or before December 18, 2024.If Devonte Brown fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a
judgment by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is:

- posted by the sheriff at the courthouse door or on a bulletin board within its immediate vicinity on or before November 13, 2024
- published in a newspaper in this county at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before November 13, 2024.

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

Lexington Park Man Arrested After Attempted Arson

Deputy State Fire Marshals have charged Cesar Augusto Gonzalez-Lopez, 30, after he allegedly attempted to start a fire on the outside of Lexington Park home Sunday afternoon.

Just before 12:00 p.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 46400 block of Sue Drive, where a dispute had occurred the previous evening between the homeowner and Gonzalez-Lopez over stolen property. Witnesses reported to deputies that Gonzalez-Lopez had entered a shed behind the home and emerged with a container. He then began spreading an oily substance on the exterior of the home. Witnesses also reported that Gonzalez Lopez had broken into the residence, causing damage to the home.

Before investigators arrived, deputies detained Gonzalez Lopez at his brother's residence. Deputy State Fire Marshals subsequently conducted interviews and examined the Sue Drive property. During the investigation, deputies confirmed that several witnesses had seen Gonzalez Lopez pouring the oily substance and asking for a lighter, indicating his intent to ignite the residence and



Cesar Augusto Gonzalez-Lopez

subsequently leaving the property.

Gonzalez Lopez was charged with first and third-degree burglary, malicious destruction of property, attempted first-degree arson, and arson threat.

Gonzalez-Lopez is being held at St. Mary's County Detention Center without bond.

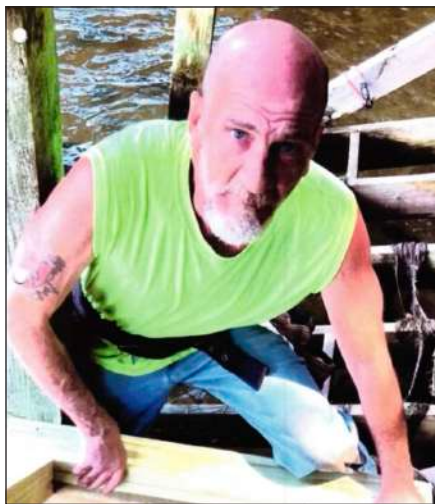
Sheriff's Office Seeks Help on Anniversary of Man's Disappearance

October 20, 2024, marks the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of Daniel Lewis Edwards, and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is renewing its call for the public's help in locating him. Edwards was last seen on October 20, 2023, leaving a job site in the Town Creek neighborhood of California, MD. The Sheriff's Office is reissuing this information in hopes that someone with new information might come forward to assist in resolving the case.

Edwards, a 56-year-old white male, stands 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs approximately 170 pounds. He was born in September 1967. His family reported him missing after they were unable to contact him, and detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division have since uncovered suspicious circumstances surrounding his disappearance.

Anyone with information about Daniel Edwards' whereabouts is encouraged to contact Detective Taylore Nauman at 301-475-4200, ext. 8109, or via email at Taylore.Nauman@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers



Daniel Lewis Edwards

at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

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

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County Times

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Letters to the Editor

'Likable and politically ambitious, but unprepared'

Who is Josh Guy? A resident of Mechanicsville, a 2020 graduate of Chopticon High School where he was a class president, a member of the principal's advisory committee and the county's youth advisory commission, a graduate of the College of Southern Maryland, and he worked as a substitute teacher in the public schools for one year. Guy touts being "the only candidate to have attended and graduated from St. Mary's County Public Schools." He is also endorsed by the teachers' union.

In my opinion, none of the preceding is relevant to election to the school board. Guy's candidacy is much like the parable of the blind men and the elephant. With limited experience, largely that of a student, he has perceptions rather than a comprehension of the overall school system, resulting in one-dimensional campaign issues.

Guy has made safety and security a core campaign issue. By policy, the board delegates to the superintendent of schools the responsibility for the physical security of the schools and the personal safety of the students and staff in the schools. Guy has not articulated what, if any, policy changes or innovations he would propose. Is he even aware of the Maryland Center for School Safety?

He advocates "for an alternative school program for students who continually put other students, staff, and teacher's safety at risk," with apparently superficial knowledge of the laws and regulations governing disciplinary measures, the history of the Alternative Learning Center, and existing interventions. If an alternative school program is needed, why hasn't the superinten-

dent suggested it?

Guy advocates for parental "involvement" rather than a policy recognizing parental "rights," which are inherent and based on the law. He wants to "restrengthen our Parent Teacher Associations, our band boosters, [and] our athletic boosters," which are "feel-good" initiatives and token involvement.

He seemingly does not understand the difference between the functions of management and administration. For example, his statements on the recruiting and retaining of teachers, and the reviewing of schoolbooks, are functions of the administration, not the board.

On the issue of the school budget, Guy said, "I would suggest that the superintendent work with the board to project what the budget will look like in five to six years so we can plan our expenses." By what crystal ball can a long-term projection of student enrollment, state and county funding, and fixed expenses be made? He foolishly suggests cost savings by reducing facility maintenance expenses in aging buildings.

In my opinion, his background in student government, the defunct youth advisory commission, an occasional substitute for an absent teacher, and campaign issues are insufficient for election to the school board. Josh Guy is likable and politically ambitious but unprepared for the role of a policymaker on the school board. I suggest Brandie Edelen is the obvious better choice in this election.

Vernon Gray

'It is the job of each candidate to get elected'

I'm Francy Eagan, former County Commissioner in St Mary's County. I've been a registered Republican since 1972.

Many of my fellow Republican voters are not sure they want to vote for Governor Larry Hogan for US Senate, because of him not supporting President Trump whole heartedly. I'm here to tell you that's ok. I ask you was President Trump your FIRST choice for the Republican presidential nomination in this year's Primary Election? For many of us he wasn't, but our candidates we supported lost to President Trump and without exception have endorsed and gotten behind President Trump.

President Trump lost by 33 points, in the last election in Maryland, so as Hogan stated

"it doesn't really carry a lot of voters over to our cause."

It is the job of each candidate to get elected PERIOD!!

Each candidate must run their campaign to maximize the vote. That is what President Trump is doing and so is Governor Hogan. Please separate the two when you go to vote.

The Best for our Country (and his record shows it) is President Donald Trump!

The BEST for Southern Maryland and the State of Maryland for Senate is Governor Larry Hogan and yes HIS RECORD proves it.

I asked you to support TRUMP and HOGAN on Election Day November 5

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind

by Shelby Oppermann



Attack of the Killer Zombie Turkey

Oh no, my husband Robert is in full-on Halloween mode now. He even had the house and decks power washed by Brian Buckler yesterday (Great job by the way Brian). The power washing was a necessity for Robert's long awaited unfulfilled goal of having at least one, maybe more skeletons crawling up the front of the house. We have a lot of skeletons from the 20 years we have been doing the Halloween Trails, so I have no idea how many skeletons will be trying crawl up the house or in the windows of our home, by Halloween.

Just this morning, there was an unfortunate, tragic accident involving a skeleton. If anything, I thought it might be Robert taking a spill out of the upstairs window or falling off the old metal ladder, of course, thank goodness he didn't. While Robert was trying to hang the poor skeleton by fishing line to a screw in the shutter, the skeleton took a two story fall to the concrete below and broke in half. Robert, ever resourceful, and making do with what he had, hung the top part of the skeleton upside down with his arms outstretched reaching for his legs below. And this is just the start. I'd feel bad for those poor bats behind the shutters, they have been washed and probably had to huddle closer together with Robert hanging the skeleton. The bats must have been alright because they were out devouring insects through the night. They have made it through enough storms and seasonal changes I guess.

We also had another unfortunate incident last week, and that was besides me having Covid. My neighbor needed extra freezer space for one of their grandson's four turkeys that he took to the Amish to have "dressed" for Thanksgiving. I couldn't find a better word for this. So, I offered up the empty freezer space in our old Whirlpool garage fridge/freezer for the 30lb wrapped turkey. This old Whirlpool was Robert's grandmother's refrigerator, and then his mother's refrigerator when she lived with us for ten years and then gradually ours in the laundry room. We figured somewhere between 40 and 50 years old. It made its way out to the garage and was great for beverages, ice, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and kept everything ice cold no matter what setting it was put on. It just stayed on freeze. I had been checking on the turkey every few days and it was great and frozen solid. Then came the day when I opened the freezer and doubled over gasping for breath, and feeling sick, etc. etc. What's odd is that the refrigerator below was still keeping things cold but not like it was.

That poor old freezer died, and the poor old turkey had died a second death, probably worse than the first death. I let my neighbor know how sorry I was, that I couldn't believe the refrigerator had decided to give up the ghost (and especially before Halloween with our big party and the Trails. We decided the turkey was a turkey zombie now, very apt at this time of year. My neighbor and I were good naturedly arguing back and forth because she wanted to come over and clean the turkey out of the freezer, that I couldn't lift it. She said it would be drippy. I replied to her that it won't be drippy. And since I had Covid I told her she couldn't come over anyway or I would breathe on her. It wasn't her fault the turkey died again. That night we ordered a new garage safe fridge/freezer set to arrive the next day.

The next morning knowing the new refrigerator was on its way, I decided I would open the freezer door again to tackle the turkey zombie and clean it all out. When I opened the door, I texted my neighbor, "You were right, it's dripping". It was like a pre-Halloween horror show; the smell of the turkey and when I lifted it with surgical-gloved hands with a trash bag ready to scoop it in, I realized there was blood everywhere. It's a good thing I don't pass out. My husband was on hand too, ready to take all this straight to the dump. A roll of paper towels, dish soap, and Clorox Clean-up later the freezer was sparkling clean. Then I thought, I have to clean out the refrigerator too. I thought it would be fine, just take out all the bottles to move to the new fridge, they were all fine, but the turkey blood had run down a portion of the back and pooled in the bottom. So, another roll of paper towels and bottle of cleaner later the refrigerator was sparkling. Robert said he didn't think that refrigerator had ever been that clean – all because of the turkey zombie too. I just can't wait to see what else is in store this week leading up to Halloween...oh maybe this is not the time to be inviting more trouble. Happy Halloween week and also to my 16th year of writing Wanderings of an aimless mind!

To each new day's adventure, Shelby

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



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Vote for solid investment strategies

With the presidential election just a few weeks away, the public is naturally interested in not just the outcome but what the results will mean for issues of national importance. As a citizen, you likely share these concerns — but how about as an investor? After the votes are counted — or even before — should you make some moves in anticipation of possible changes in policy?

Let's look at the big picture first, through the lens of history. The financial markets have performed well — and at times, not so well — under Democratic and Republican presidents alike. And the same is true about which party controlled Congress.

While it might be an overstatement to say that decisions made in Washington have no effect on the markets, it's not always so easy to draw a direct line between what happens there and how the markets perform. For one thing, political candidates often make promises that are not fulfilled, or, if they are, have different results than intended. Also, other institutions can have a significant impact on the markets. For example, the Federal Reserve, which controls short-term interest rates, can certainly affect many market sectors. And there will always be external events, such as foreign conflicts and even natural disasters, that can make short-term impacts on the investment world.

So, rather than making changes to your portfolio in anticipation of what might happen if certain candidates get elected, or even in response to actual policy changes, look to other factors to drive your investment decisions.

These factors should include the following:

- *Your goals* – You probably have short- and long-term goals you'd like to achieve. For your short-term goals, such as a wedding, a down payment on a house or a long vacation, you may want to invest in instruments that provide stability of principal. For your long-term goals, most important of which may be a comfortable retirement, you'll need to own a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments.
- *Your risk tolerance* – When you build and maintain your investment portfolio, you'll need to accommodate your individual risk tolerance. All investments carry some type of risk, but you need to be comfortable with the overall risk level of your investments.
- *Your time horizon* – Where you are in life is an important consideration when investing. When you are young and just starting out in your career, you may be able to focus more on growth, as you have time to overcome the inevitable short-term market downturns. But as you near retirement, you may want to consolidate any gains you may have achieved, and lower your risk level, by moving your portfolio toward a somewhat more conservative approach. Even in retirement, though, you will need some growth potential to stay ahead of inflation.
- *Your needs for liquidity* – As you invest, you'll need to maintain an adequate amount of cash and cash equivalents in your holdings. Without this liquidity, you might be forced to sell long-term investments in case you have unexpected expenses.

In any case, when it comes to investing, you may want to pay less attention to what names are on the ballot — and instead "vote" for the longer-term strategies that reflect your needs and goals.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Contributed by David McDonough

Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

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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.

Donald Bean, 73



Joseph Donald Bean, affectionately known as Donald, passed away peacefully at his home, surrounded by his loved ones on October 15, 2024 at the age of 73. Born

on May 16, 1951 in LaPlata, MD, Donald grew up in Great Mills, MD, but spent most of his life in Hollywood, MD, where he created a warm and loving home for his family.

Donald was a man of many passions. He was an avid fisherman and crabber, finding joy in the tranquility of the Patuxent River. His love for bowling was highlighted by a remarkable achievement—bowling a perfect 300 game, a milestone that he cherished. In addition to these hobbies, Donald was a talented woodworker, heavy equipment operator and gardener, often sharing the fruits of his labor with friends and neighbors.

A true enthusiast of local events, Donald enjoyed attending tractor pulls, dirt track races, and visiting the casino. He was a devoted and loving family man, spending countless hours supporting his wife, children, and grandchildren at their sporting and extracurricular events. His love extended beyond family; he was often seen cruising his golf cart around Clarke's Landing,

delivering fresh vegetables to neighbors and engaging in heartfelt conversations. Donald also cherished spending time with his siblings on 'the farm' on Indian Bridge Road.

He dedicated 25 years to serving the St. Mary's County government, where he made many friends until his retirement in 2017. Donald loved to live a simple life and was known for his selflessness and genuine nature. He was always ready to lend a hand or share his infinite wisdom and common sense with those around him. His honesty and hard work were values he instilled in his children and grandchildren, leaving a lasting legacy of integrity.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Diane Clarke Bean; his children, Christie Marie Bean (Matt) and Donald Charles Bean (Amy); and his cherished grandchildren, Sydney Diane Smith, Joseph Colin Smith, Wyatt Charles Bean, Nate Patrick Bean, and Aaron Philip Bean. Donald is also survived by his brothers, William Benjamin Bean, Jr. (Connie); Kenneth Gregory Bean (Carol Ann); Carl Raymond Bean; and his sisters, Virginia Faye Bean and Joan Marie Bean.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, William Benjamin Bean Sr. and Gertrude Mae Bean.

Honorary pallbearers are Darren Alvey, Mark Cianflone, Raymond Norris, Benny Redman, Joe Slade, and Brian Woodland.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew

him, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024, at Brinsfield Funeral Home from 1-3 PM, followed by a Catholic service at 3pm. A celebration of Donald's life will be held at a later date, where all are welcome to share their memories and honor a truly remarkable man.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to St. Mary's Hospice, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Wayne Milam, 76



Wayne Allen Milam, 76, of New Holland Pennsylvania, peacefully moved on October 14, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Wayne Milam was born on December 3, 1947, to Joshua and Velma Milam in Washington, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Washington High School on June 2, 1965, and immediately began a life dedicated to serving his country, community, and family.

Wayne enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966 as a Security Policeman. After completing his honorable service, he moved to Maryland, where he dedicated himself to the community as a police officer. Over the years, Wayne served with pride in Montgomery County, Rockville City, and St. Mary's County, Maryland. In addition to his law enforcement career, he also took on the role of security police at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Facility. Wayne retired from his life of service in 2009, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and dedication to public safety.

In 1977, Wayne met Debbie (Matthews) Milam in Rockville Maryland. Wayne and Debbie were married on June 14, 1980 and spent his remaining 44 years together.

After retirement, Wayne and Debbie embarked on a dream of owning working land in eastern Texas. They settled in the small town of Nacogdoches, where Wayne raised several horses and contributed to cattle management. After 11 fulfilling years, they decided to return to Wayne's home state of Pennsylvania to be closer to their children and grandchildren. In New Holland, he found a cozy home with a lovely view of the central Pennsylvania farmland, embracing family life once more.

Wayne's life was a tapestry of enjoyment and hobbies. He thrived on speed, racing everything from dirt bikes to sailboats and stock cars. In addition to his need for adrenaline, he cherished moments spent fishing and golfing with friends and family.

Wayne was predeceased by his first son, David Milam and brother Walter Milam. He is survived by his loving wife Debbie Milam, son Joshua Milam and wife Jamie McVay, daughter Christina Tippet and husband Gregory Tippet, and 8 beautiful grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at Brinsfield

Funeral Home in Leonardtown, Maryland on October 25th, 2024 from 3pm to 6pm with a Service beginning at 6pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Tunnels to Towers or St. Jude Children's Hospital, organizations Wayne felt strongly about.

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

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

Lucy Dixon, 80



Lucy Anne Vallandingham Dixon, 80, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, passed away on October 16, 2024. Born on May 8, 1944, Lucy was a beacon of love

and dedication, well-known for her caring and fun-loving nature. She took immense pride in her family, cherishing her roles as a wife, mother, sister, and proud Nana.

Lucy graduated from Margaret Brent High School and went on to become a successful small business owner, operating a popular upholstery shop. Her commitment to her community extended to her spiritual life as a devoted member of Mount Zion Methodist Church.

Her legacy continues through her loving daughters, Michelle (Shelly) Evans (Frederick, Jr.) and Kelly Anne Dixon Hammett (Todd), and her grandchildren, Frederick (Freddy) William Evans III, Kevin Allen Hammett, Bradley Dixon Evans, Megan Marie Bowie (Billy) and Alexander Cole Evans. She is also survived by her siblings; Judy (Lynn) Hudson, Pat (Phil) Clark, Melinda "Lee" (Tommy) Ford, Milly (Bosie) Farrell, and Irving (Lynn) Vallandingham, Lucy was a beloved sister. She was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Harry O., her parents, Lucy and Howard, and her siblings Jimmy, Joan, Harrison, Susan, and Mocky.

Lucy's hobbies included shopping, listening to music, and enthusiastically supporting the Ravens. Her warmth and spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Her life will be honored with Family and Friends at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD on Tuesday October 29, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with prayers following immediately at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville, MD followed by interment at the Vallandingham Family Cemetery in Clements, MD. A family gathering will proceed interment at Susannah's Watch located on Sandgates Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society at 1041 Route 3 N, Building A, Gambrills, MD 21054 or Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be her grand-

Continued on page 18

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In Remembrance

Continued from page 16

children and Billy Bowie.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Sharon Murray, 75



Sharon Diane Murray, 75, of Lexington Park, MD, formerly of Cumberland, MD, passed peacefully on October 15, 2024, at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Born on July 11, 1949, in Salisbury, PA, she was the daughter of the late Donald Herring and June Radley Spain. Sharon was the loving wife of the late Oscar Wayne Murray, whom she married July 16, 1983, in Cumberland, MD. Sharon graduated from Allegany High School in 1967. She spent most of her career at St. Mary's College of Maryland, retiring in June 2011. Since retirement, she has lived life to its fullest with her family and friends, traveling, and giving back to others. In her spare time, she loved to sew, knit, and craft. She also loved a good romance novel or two. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were the light of her life.

Sharon was the beloved mother of Katherine Mortenson (Lorin) of Lusby, MD, Kelly Stewart (Robert) of Ben Wheeler, TX, Kristy Williams of Longmont, CO, and Sherry Hobbs (Denver) of Valley Lee, MD. She was the sister of Sandra Lotz (Kenny) of Hagerstown, MD, Donna Bowles (Ricky) of Frederick, MD, Barry Herring of Boonesboro, MD, and Scott Herring of Frederick, MD. She is survived by eight grandchildren, Zachery, Sarah, and Clayton Mortenson of Lusby, MD, Jack Dison (Taylor) of Flint, TX, Tyler Dison (Hayley) of Grapevine, TX, Caroline Hinds (Kyle) of Longmont, CO, Katlyn Hall (Kenny) of Mechanicsville, MD, and Adam Hobbs of Baltimore, MD. Sharon is also survived by 13 great-grandchildren, Jackson, Joshua, Jordan, Jase, Kynlee, Cannon, Kason, Jensen, Carter Brinleigh, Haiden, Everly, and Brett.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Jack Dison, Tyler Dison, Zachary Mortenson, Clayton Mortenson, Adam Hobbs, and Kenny Hall. Honorary pallbearers will be Denver Hobbs, Robert Stewart, and Lorin Mortenson.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to fight childhood cancer to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

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.

Mike Kay, 40



Michael Justin Kay, "Mike", 40, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on October 14, 2024, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on June 4, 1984, in Gainesville, FL, he was the son of Ronald Leonard Kay, Sr. of Lake City, FL and the late Shirley Diane Kay. Mike was the loving husband of Laura Kay, whom he married in Virginia Beach, VA on August 8, 2009. He is survived by his son, Archer Kay, of Leonardtown, MD, his siblings, Crystal Kay, of Jacksonville, FL and Mark Kay of Cottage Grove, MN, his half-siblings, Cindy Denmark and Ronald Kay, Jr., both of Lake City, FL, and his niece, Karyss Hunton, of Gainesville, FL. In addition to his mother, Mike was preceded in death by his half-brother, Christopher Kay.

Mike graduated from Bishop Kenny High School in 2002 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in 2015 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He served in the United States Navy for five years, during which time he was stationed at NAS Oceana. Mike moved to St. Mary's County, MD from Virginia Beach, VA in 2009 and continued to work for the Department of the Navy as a civilian, most recently as Lead Assistant Program Manager for Test & Evaluation.

He enjoyed camping, hiking, mountain biking, off-roading, and, most of all, spending time with his family.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Olde Town Pub, Leonardtown, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

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.

Nancy Luce, 64

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Nancy Reisinger Luce, a cherished mother, devoted wife, and beloved friend, who left us far too soon. Nancy touched the lives of everyone who knew her with her warm heart and radiant smile. She embraced life with an infectious laughter and a spirit that could light up any room.

Born on December 9, 1959, Nancy was a proud veteran and dedicated military spouse, serving her country with honor and grace. She fiercely loved her family, especially her two grandsons, who were the joy of her life. Her nurturing nature and unwavering support made her an anchor for those fortunate enough to be part of her world.

Nancy approached life's journeys with an open heart, finding joy in the chaos and

adventure of each new day. Her home was filled with laughter, love, and an assortment of animals—her many cats throughout her life were a testament to her compassionate spirit.

Nancy leaves behind a legacy of warmth and kindness that will be deeply missed. A hole now exists in the hearts of all who knew her, but her memory will forever shine brightly in our lives. As we celebrate her remarkable life, we are reminded of the beauty she brought into the world.

Nancy is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Michael; her children, Amy and Ryan; his wife, Gillian; and two grandchildren, Harrison and Jacob; as well as her brother, Glenn Reisinger, and family. She is preceded in death by her parents, Dorothy and William, and her brothers Billy and Frankie. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Chesapeake Humane Society in her honor.

John Fox, 77



John W. Fox, of Accokeek, Maryland, passed away October 20, 2024, peacefully at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born January 31, 1947, Loudoun County, Virginia, to the late Maurice R. Fox and Mary F. Delp Fox.

John met the love of his life, Shirley, in August of 1965. They were married in 1966 and just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on October 18, 2024. John and Shirley have 2 children, Michael and Angela.

John was a kind man who made friends everywhere he went. His favorite pastimes were fishing, playing cornhole, and working on cars. He had a love of old cars and hot rods. He was most passionate about his family and his little dog Bella.

In addition to his parents, John is preceded in death by his brothers, Ronald Fox, Donald Fox, and Calvin M. Fox, Sr.

John is survived by his loving wife, Shirley L. Fox, children Michael Fox, Sr. (Wife Becky) and Angela Fox; grandchildren Michael Fox, Jr. (wife Olivia) and Jessica Bowie (husband Joey); step-granddaughters Lindsey and Allison Williams; great-granddaughters Kendall and Ellie Bowie; and his dear brother Russell Fox (wife Barbara). John has numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, but shared a special bond with his nephew Carlin M. Fox, Jr.

Family and friends will be received on Monday October 28th from 4PM-8PM at Raymond Funeral Services, P.A. in La Plata Maryland, with prayers at 7PM. Funeral services will be held at Raymond Funeral Service, P.A. on Tuesday October 29th at 10AM followed by Interment at Trinity Memorial Gardens in Waldorf, Maryland. Afterwards family and friends will gather for a celebration of life at Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, 27636 Mechanicsville Road, Mechanicsville, Maryland.

Pallbearers are Carlin M. Fox, Jr., Gary Phipps, Jr., Richard Fox, Jr., and Michael Gomes.

Honorary Pallbearers are Buck Harris and Nate Bates.

Lisa Donely, 86



Lisa Suzanne Young Donely passed away on October 14, 2024, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital. Lisa was born in Florala, Alabama on April 22, 1938, the daughter of Dr.

Ferrin Young and Jennie Lurie. She attended primary and secondary school in Alabama and Florida, and then went on to receive her B.A. degree from Newcomb College in Louisiana. After college, she completed graduate work at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

While in college, Lisa met George A.T. Donely, of New Orleans, LA; he promptly fell in love with her. After turning down his first proposal, letting him know she needed to finish school first, she finally gave in when he called her in the middle of the night from an overseas work trip. Lisa and George were married in 1963 in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

Once married, Lisa and George lived and travelled all over the world thanks to George's job with the U.S. Foreign Service. They spent significant time in Pakse, Laos and Mashad, Iran which provided Lisa with incredible experiences and stories to last a lifetime. While in Iran, Lisa was president of the Iran America Society.

Upon returning to the United States around 1969, Lisa developed a small chocolate import business and became active in Washington D.C.'s civic and social life. She and George then purchased a manor house in St. Mary's County, MD where they officially moved with their daughter, Valerie, around 1990. Lisa spent the next 18 years raising Valerie and teaching French at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Solomons, MD.

Lisa was a member of the Sulgrave Club in Washington, D.C., the St. Mary's River Yacht Club and the St. Mary's County Garden Club. She spoke three languages fluently, enjoyed playing piano, gardening and cooking.

Lisa was preceded in death by her husband, George, who passed in 2017. She is survived by her daughter, Valerie J.Y. Donely of Washington, D.C. and her cousin, Dr. Alan Sheen of New Orleans, LA, along with many other relatives, friends and cats.

The family will receive friends at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on Monday, October 28, 2024, from 11:15 AM to 12:00 PM, with a Mass of Christian Burial to follow with Rev. Benjamin Garcia officiating. She will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton, MD in a private ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad - LPVRS, P.O. Box 339, Lexington Park, MD 20653.

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

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

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Double Layer
Carrot Cake

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15-Pack
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1.75L Silver
Bacardi Superior
Or Gold

2/\$40⁹⁸



1.75L
Maker's Mark
Whiskey

49.99



1.75L
Windsor Canadian
Whiskey

13.49



1.75L
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Vodka

45.99



1.75L
Smirnoff
Vodka

2/\$38⁹⁸



Mix-N-Match
750mL
Mi Campo Blanco
& Reposado Tequila

2/\$42⁹⁸



750mL
Delmore 12 Year
Single Malt Scotch

79.99



1.75L
Fireball Cinnamon
Whiskey

2/\$40⁹⁸



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Rum

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Prosecco Rose

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750mL
1924 Double Black
Red Wine Blend

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750mL
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For qualifications visit: www.smcm.edu/hr/careers. Application materials should include a cover letter, résumé, and three references and submitted online at: apply.interfolio.com/142773. Questions may be directed to Brad Newkirk at bdnewkirk@smcm.edu.

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Oct 24

Table Talk: A Group for Women!

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Table Talk: A Group for Women! Ladies, join us on Thursday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for appetizers & conversation! Walk-ins welcome, but RSVPs preferred to Laura Rhodes, Small Groups Director at: paxpressg@paxpres.org.

Fri, Oct 25

SMTMD Fall Concert—Lynn Hollyfield

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Lynn Hollyfield (guitar, vocals, ukulele), Keely Hollyfield (harmony vocals), Dave Abe (fiddle & mandolin), Steve Wolf (bass) and Jimmy Brink (percussion) will be performing live at the Christ Church Parish Hall, Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico, MD. Doors

open at 7 pm and the concert begins at 7:30 pm. Complimentary refreshments will be offered. Admission is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. See the website for more details. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/#/concert/

Sat, Oct 26

Band of Brothers PTSD / Suicide Prevention Support Group

The Flashback Restaurant
21797 Coral Dr N, Lexington Park
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For more information call 240-476-2721

2024 Men's Prayer Breakfast

First Missionary Baptist Church
46370 Pegg Ln., Lexington Park
8 a.m. to Noon

Pre-Registration is requested and onsite registration begins at 8:00am and breakfast begins at 9:00am. Our Theme is "Pray Until Something Happens" (PUSH). Our

Guest Speaker is Reverend James F. Harris, Sr., Pastor of New Life Missionary Baptist Church of Indian Head. All are welcome to attend. The cost is \$20.00.

The occasion will be held in person. For additional information please contact First Missionary Baptist Church at 301-863-8388.

Fun on the Farm

Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will have games and prizes, pumpkin painting, hayrides, crafts, and more. Make sure you visit the animals in the barn area too. Food will be available to purchase.

This year, we are excited to announce that Southern Maryland Laser Tag will be joining us from 1-3pm. Cost will be \$5 to play and all proceeds will benefit the farm.

Suggested donation at the front gate is \$15 per family.

Fall Craft & Vendor Show

Leonardtown Volunteer Fire
Department Auxiliary

22733 Lawrence Ave., Leonardtown
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will have a large variety of crafters and vendors offering unique items for purchase! Shop local and buy gifts or treat yourself! If you are interested in being a vendor, you must reach out to the email on the flyer. ***Don't get scammed!!! We do NOT accept online payments. All correspondence is through the email on the flyer—ONLY! Please allow 48-72 hours for a response.

Sun, Oct 27

Sacred Heart Church Annual October Drive-Thru Dinner

Sacred Heart Parish Hall
23080 Maddox Road, Bushwood
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The menu includes Fried Oysters, Stuffed Ham, Turkey w/dressing, Parsley Potatoes, Candied Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw & Rolls. Cost is \$30 cash or check only. A Cake Table is also available with wonderful homemade baked goods.

Home Grown Farmers Market

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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 24

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sat, Oct. 26

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Appeal Landfill
401 Sweetwater Road, Lusby
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division, will host this event for county residents. Hazardous household products are common in many homes and must be disposed of carefully to prevent dangerous chemical reactions, ignition, burns, vapors and groundwater contamination that can occur when combined with everyday household waste. A substance is considered hazardous if it is corrosive or toxic, ignites easily, or reacts or explodes when mixed with other substances. Acceptable hazardous waste items include auto and floor care products, medications, pesticides, gasoline, fertilizers, ammunition and more. To determine if a substance is hazardous, check product labels for words and/or symbols that indicate caution, warning, danger, poison or toxic. Latex paints will not be accepted at this event. Proof of residency is required. www.CalvertCounty.md.gov/HazardousWaste.

Hound of the Town

North Beach Boardwalk
9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach
12 p.m.

A costume parade just for dogs and dog lovers! This dog costume parade takes place on the boardwalk along the Chesapeake Bay on Halloween day. Owners walk their furry

friends along the parade route where they are introduced and judged by the panel of judges. Prizes are awarded at the conclusion of the parade. ONLY DOGS CAN BE ENTERED IN THE DOG PARADE. All proceeds benefit Calvert Animal Welfare League. 443-646-2415.

Boo Bash

North Beach Pavilion
9023 Bay Avenue, North Beach
Registration from 2:15 to 3 p.m., panel and judging begins at 3 p.m.

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

Pop-in with Poppie

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Make your Saturday afternoon memorable by coming to visit with our very own Pop Star "Poppie," our Virginia Opossum. You can join the Poppie paparazzi in the museum lobby with one of our educational interpreters, learn all kinds of fun possum facts, and visit our Museum Store for possum fan gear. Since the welfare of our animals is our primary concern, Poppie's ability to visit with her adoring public may occasionally be subject to change on short notice.

Howl-o-ween Adoption Event

Dickerson's Jewelers
916 Costley Way Prince Fredrick
10286 Southern Md. Blvd, Dunkirk
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join Dickerson's and the Humane Society of Calvert County for a day of fun, give-aways, raffles, and snuggles

Haunted House

St. Leonard VFD
200 Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard
6:30-9:30 p.m.

Halloween Boo-Thru. is a drive thru

Haunted House. Entry is by donation. All donations are appreciated. For additional information go to slvfd.org

Sun, Oct 27

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

Calvert Marine Museum
1:30 p.m.

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind the emblem from a paddle wheel boat, the tools found in the blacksmith shop, and the Gov. R. M. McLane name board. Hear captivating stories about WWII's impact on the Solomons community and uncover hidden pictures within the museum murals. It's a unique opportunity to delve into local history and see these artifacts in a new light. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

Mon, Oct 28

Calvert Eats Local Potluck

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
6-7:30 p.m.

Celebrate local food. Bragging rights to whoever brings the dish with the lowest # of "food miles." Bring your plate, utensils, cup and napkin for a truly green experience! Great group to join to learn about local sources for great food! Potlucks are for members and invited guests of Calvert Eats Local. Joining is free via Facebook or by emailing Robyn Truslow. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Oct 29

Hallyu Club: for Asian Drama Fans

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30-8 p.m.

Do you stream Korean dramas, listen to K-pop or other Asian pop culture? Discover a world of pop culture and vibrant history whether it be Japanese, Chinese, Himalayan, Korean, Filipino or something in between. Walk-ins are welcome! Ages: 16+. You are welcome to bring snacks. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Oct 30

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.

On Pins & Needles

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Thu, Oct 31

Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Otters and Friends, for preschoolers ages 3 – 5, accompanied by an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. The cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay

General Manager
Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net

Advertising
Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net

Staff Writers
Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Guy Leonard guyleonard@countytimes.net

Contributing Writers
Ron Guy, Ken Lamb, Shelby Opperman,
Dave Spigler

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

Proposal Would Change Way of Electing Commissioners

Delegate Opposes Idea

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A proposal to change the method of electing Calvert County Commissioners has stirred controversy. The legislative proposal was presented to the current commissioners by JC Hooker, former president and current vice president of the League of Women Voters of Calvert County, although she says she's presenting it herself and not for the league.

The proposal, according to County Attorney John Norris, is "The County Commissioners' election afford each voter the opportunity to vote for their Commissioner District representative, and two at large positions. The citizen requests commissioner terms be staggered, like those of the Board of Education. Finally, the citizen requested that no person serve more than two consecutive terms, regardless of whether those terms are served as a commissioner from a district, at-large, or a mix of the two."

The commissioners, during a discussion at their Oct. 22 meeting, had some personal concerns about the idea, but in the end all agreed to go along with the idea as long as it was made a referendum to let the voters decide.

At the annual meeting between the commissioners and the legislators to discuss proposed legislation for the next Maryland General Assembly session, Hooker's proposal was presented.

She explained that other counties use the method she is proposing. She said, "We do that by state. We do it by federal. I am a member of the League of Women Voters, that's one of our biggest concerns is that

people say, what district am I from? And it's hard for them to comprehend the difference and the fact when they look on their ballot, why am I voting for district two and three? I don't live there."

Hooker added, "The days have passed that this county is small. I would say you have to work twice as hard going from one end of the county to the other end of the county. And my thing of it is, I would like to come to one person and they really know district two, they know what our concerns are and they can address them there. They can bring them back to the group. And if it can't be resolved, that person can tell us this can't be. We would have a better messaging and understanding with each other."

Hooker observed, "Change is uncomfortable. And I think it's time that we get like our neighbors."

She said, "I truly believe we have got to start educating people about their voting rights. You all do everything for us, but we need to show up for you as well, because no offense, but if we as a county, for as many times you all have asked something, for 231 and you've asked for things for that bridge, if we all would get behind you and trust me at this particular time, I would call on my sister League of Women Voters from Montgomery and get them to get their delegates and everybody else to help us get what we need as our fair share."

But Del. Mark Fisher (R:27C) disagreed. He said, "When you have three individual districts, you effectively balkanize a small county because you now have someone who represents only the south, who doesn't care

about what happens in the north, and vice versa. As long as I'm here, that's not happening. I'm not allowing this county to be balkanized. And it is the job of a League of Women Voters to inform the voters. That's your job. And you do a good job at it, by the way. I don't think it's confusing to go to the polls and vote for five people, which is what we do. So, balkanizing in Calvert County is a bad idea."

"These folks up here, they don't get along all the time. I can tell you that right now. I don't get along with them and they don't get along with me and vice versa, with these guys as well. But the fact of the matter is, it would be so much worse if we balkanize the county. It's just a not a good idea."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said, "We talked through that today. You're absolutely right. It would be much easier campaigning if I just had to campaign in one little district. But I hope that people don't feel like just because I'm not from their district, they can't come to me. I think that anybody can come to any of us at any time with an issue and we will do our very best to help you."

Also at the meeting, the commissioners presented a proposal to the legislators for enabling legislation to allow fire and rescue companies to impose a tax on resi-



Del. Mark Fisher

dents in their first due area and the monies would go directly for their operation and capital outlays. The amount collected by those companies would be deducted from the overall tax rate. That would replace the current system of using the general fund for emergency operations.

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Maryland State Police, Barrack "U"
210 Main Street, Prince Frederick, MD 20678

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Restore Civility & Transparency to Town Hall

- » The secrecy and lack of transparency at Town Hall will STOP.
- » I will reintroduce an open door policy for residents with Office hours every week and once a month Mayor's Night Out.

Reopen the Water Park

- » The Water Park will open Memorial Day weekend and remain open all Summer long.
- » Once a month, Chesapeake Beach residents will be admitted free.

Cut water & sewer rates

- » I will introduce a Utility Fund budget amendment to reduce rates.
- » I will rescind all tap fee notices sent for any project approved more than five years ago.

Oppose any building along Fishing Creek

- » I OPPOSE any building of apartments along Fishing Creek.
- » I fought for too many years for the Railway Trail to allow any building to block the incredible view.

Restore the decades old relationship with the Beach Buccaneers

- » The Bucs are an important part of our community and should be treated with the respect they deserve.
- » I will restore the decades old relationship the Town had with the Bucs.

Bring back leadership and experience to the Mayor's Office

- » I know the job. I served as Mayor for eight years, as Vice President of the Town Council for many years and as President of the Maryland Municipal League.
- » Restore the relationship I built with municipal leaders across Maryland.
- » We have a great Town staff, who I will lead, but not micro-manage. They know how to do their job better than any Mayor or Town Administrator. I will let them do what they were hired to do.

Work on Town projects that benefit Town residents

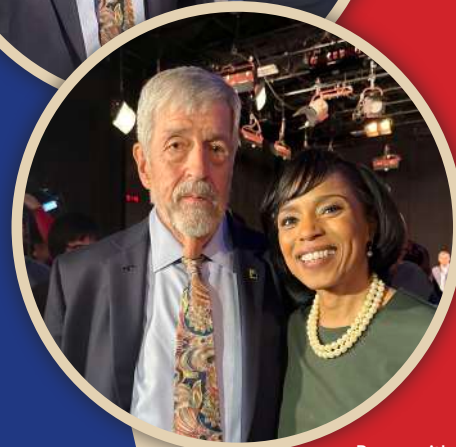
- » Work with Board of Education to repair and reopen the tennis courts
- » Complete the Railway Trail to the town limit through Richfield Station



Bruce and Becky Wahl,
who met in 1965



Bruce with Larry Hogan at
Maryland Public Television's
Candidate Debate



Bruce with Angela Alsobrooks
at Maryland Public Television's
Candidate Debate

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County to Purchase Former Parsonage

To Be Used as Transit Hub, for Homeless Services

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has agreed to purchase the former parsonage for Trinity Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick. The purchase of the property at 87 Main Street is contingent on the county receiving a Community Legacy Grant of \$337,500 towards the \$620,000 purchase price. The property will be used as a public transit hub.

Director of the Department of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland, said at the Oct. 22 public hearing prior to the BOCC approval, "The Calvert County Department of Community Resources, in coordination with Department of Public Works, General Services Division, has identified 87 Main Street, Prince Frederick the former parsonage for Trinity Church, as an ideal location for a community resources service hub and parking area. In the feasibility study performed by the state earlier this year, this parcel was considered ideal, in large part due to the central location and proximity to the county owned property at 85 Main Street. Once purchased the property will be re-platted to expand 85 Main Street."

Moreland added, "Trinity Church received approval from the Methodist Council and the Congregation to proceed with the option and subsequent purchase agreement process and have signed the option. The county proposed an offer amount based on the average of the two appraisals' selected values, plus a three percent increase for intrinsic values such as proximity to Rt. 4 and adjacency to existing county property."

Moreland said the grant is expected to be announced next month.

Based on concerns expressed by Joseph Cormier during the public hearing, Moreland explained, "85 Main Street that exists now is an identified location for homeless day services program and emergency weather shelter. We seek to expand that to provide transit access to this location, which is one of the



Director of Community Resources Jennifer Moreland

things the commenter mentioned. And so yes, it would be supporting that population, those most at risk, to provide services at a place where there's easy access to transit. There's everything addressed in one place rather than having to make appointments to various locations and partnering with providers to bring services there."

Moreland added, "We've seen them around the state of Maryland. St. Mary's County is the closest and it's been very effective in addressing root cause needs. So, we're not seeing issues with people missing appointments for services, back-to-back, because it's just too difficult for them. So, we're having care coordination and services at one location. The plan is to create a transit station there. So, if you catch a county bus in Solomons and you need to go North Beach, you would come there and transfer to another bus that would take you on further north."

She added, "The goal is to provide some services there for our homeless community so they're not hanging out in the library and public places."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Military Victim/Witness Advocate Appointed

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey is pleased to announce the appointment of Teresa L. Weeks as Victim/Witness Advocate for active duty and former military service members. Weeks will be responsible for insuring that victims, witnesses, and other individuals involved in the criminal justice system are directed to services and resources uniquely available to current and former military personnel. She will act as liaison for the State's Attorney's Office to the Calvert County Veterans Affairs Commission, the Maryland Commitment to Veterans Program, the Veterans

Administration, and other agencies. Finally, she will assist current and former military personnel who qualify for placement in the Circuit Court Adult Treatment Program and the District Court Mental Health Docket.

Weeks has over 20 years of experience in the courts of Calvert and St. Mary's Counties.

State's Attorney Harvey wishes to thank the Calvert County Commissioners and Chief Judge John Morrissey of the District Court of Maryland for their support of this worthwhile initiative.

Hello again, INDEPENDENT VOTERS of Calvert County!

We trust that you know how crucial this election is for our nation, state, and county.

As of September 2024, we have **16,572 Independent voters** in Calvert County! We need each of you to vote on or before **Tuesday, November 5.**

Vote for the sensible and student-focused BOE team — the **JAM** team of Jeanette Flaim, Antoine White, and Mike Shisler!



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Early Voting is from Thursday, Oct. 24 to Thursday, Oct. 31 (you can vote in costume!). Calvert residents can vote at any of the 3 Early Voting Centers in the county:

- Ward Voting Center at Ward Park in Dunkirk
- Community Resource Center across from the Post Office in Prince Frederick
- Southern Community Center on Appeal Lane in Lusby

Stay healthy!



By Authority of Citizens for Mike Shisler
Joan Shisler, Treasurer

Six Vie for Three School Board Positions

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

As early voting begins today (Oct. 24), citizens have had several opportunities to learn at public forums about the six candidates for the three Calvert County Board of Education seats up for grabs this time. Although all candidates did not attend all of the forums, and some were aimed at just one party, all six candidates were on hand for the Oct. 1 League of Women Voters (LWV) forum at the Prince Frederick Library. Each candidate was given a 90-second opening statement.



Mike Shisler

First District candidate **Mike Shisler** said, "I've been in Calvert County since the late seventies, and I've been a teacher and I've been an administrator. I started out my teaching career down at Appeal at the south end of the

county in District One. I could backtrack and say I actually started my teaching career right out of college. I was in the Peace Corps in the Central African Republic for two years. That was a former French colony. I came back, got a job in Baltimore City for two years. I was a house parent at a children's home for a while, and then eventually moved down here to Calvert. I was at Beach,

first as an assistant principal, and then as the principal. I was principal for 29 years, a total of 33 years at Beach, and a total of 43 and a half years in the school system here. So, education has been my life. I think this is extremely important. I think what we're doing now, and in the future for our kids is extremely important. And I'll just say that I think every one of our kids needs to be protected, respected, and loved."



Joseph Marchio

First District candidate **Joseph Marchio** said, "I'm not originally from Maryland or Calvert County. I moved here to the county about 10 years ago after moving to Maryland about 20 years ago. My wife and I decided

to move down here for the schools as we started our family, I've got two little boys, one in kindergarten and one in seventh grade here in the county. So, that's the whole reason I'm running. I want to make the schools as best as they can be, both for education and for safety, for both my boys and everybody else that's in the county and all the students in the county. Outside of that, I am a division manager for a general contractor focusing on heavy underground utility installation, as well as building bridges all over the DC metro area. In addition to that,

because I'm a glutton for punishment. I officiate college football and get yelled at on the weekends, so that's a lot of fun. Outside of that, I just want to do what's best for all the kids and make our school system the best it can possibly be and increase their education and make them successful in the long run, whether it be just academically or also teaching them skills. Working in the construction industry, we need a lot more people with skilled trades."



Paul Harrison

finances, in the strategic goals, other priorities. I am a third-time candidate. I ran as an independent in 2014, as commissioner candidate in 2022, and this is my third time and my last time."

Harrison added, Just remember really the last time, because it's just so intense. I did signs again this weekend because we had to move signs back because the State Highway said that they were in their easement. So that's a lot of work too."

Second District incumbent **Antoine White** said, "I'm the current president of the Board of Education. I also work at the US Naval Academy. So, I have to be cleared every year in order to do that. I'm also a mortgage broker,

meaning that I have to deal with hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans on a daily basis. I'm an Air Force veteran. I am a referee for 30 years. I'm the president of the Calver Community Mediation Center, and I also do restorative justice. I am a shop steward at the Naval Academy, meaning that I have about 140 people under me, meaning I have to handle negotiations, and everything has anything to do with that. I'm a 30-year coach and volunteer of Calvary County. I've coached at basketball, t-ball f, you name it. I am a member of Become One, which we deal with a lot of community issues; suicide and mental wellness are the main things that we work with. I'm also a mentor. I'm also on MABE (Maryland Association of Boards of Education), for the legal services and also the Resolution Committee. I've been endorsed by the CEA and CAESS, and also the IBEW. And I'm actually the only one on this stage who's done the job. I've done the job for four years. It's easy to lead when things are easy. It's tough to lead when times are hard, and I want to continue to do that. I'm running for the Board of Education, not the board of budget."

Third District candidate **Jeanette Flaim** said, "I am running for the Board of Education because I care deeply about



Jeanette Flaim

the Calvert County Public Schools, and I want to give back to our community. Thirty-five years ago, my husband and I moved down to Calvert because it has one of the best school systems in Maryland, and it still does. I'm very proud that my two children graduated from the system here. So, I was in the PTA, and I volunteered whenever and whenever I could, in addition to working a full-time job. For the past year-and-a-half, I've been attending the Board of Education meetings in person. In addition, I've attended several other events. I went to the Science and Engineering Expo, the history fair, and the student board election. I've noticed an enthusiasm for learning. There's an engagement between the staff and the students and community. I appreciate that joy and pride in our school system. I want to help continue with that. I want to continue working and increasing our collaboration."

Third District candidate **Melissa Goshorn** said, "I have three kids in the system. I got involved during COVID. I was never political before that. If you check out my website or you go to my Facebook page or you see anything

about me, you'll know that I'm a candidate advocating for change in CCPS. I hear from students and from parents and from staff members that don't feel like the school buildings are safe enough. I think we need to do better to make sure that our kids and our staff are safe. I hear from students and from parents that our kids are not being challenged in the curriculum. I think we can be doing more to support our higher educators. And I think that what we really need to be focused on is educational excellence. We are an institution of education, and there are a lot of things that are getting in the way of our teachers being able to focus on teaching our children. And so, as a Board of Education member, I'm going to support focusing on educating our students and removing any barriers that are happening from allowing them to do that."

The candidates were asked the responsibilities of a board member. As the only one with first-hand experience, White responded, "I'm actually doing the job so I know what it entails. And it is hiring and by evaluating the superintendent and making sure that he is carrying out the procedures to fit the policies that we have. When it comes to the budget, we don't create the budget. We approve the budget, but the staff are the ones who actually make the budget. They're the ones in the buildings, they're the ones that have the professional degrees in order to do that. So, once it comes to us, we have to really evaluate that budget. And anyone who watched this last budget cycle, this was my fourth budget cycle with the



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schools, it was really intense. It took extra meetings. We sat down and went line by line to really make sure that everything was accounted for. Policy. We have to make policy and also review policy. Things change, situations change. So as a board member, we have to change with the environment to make sure that we are meeting the needs. Also, you have to be a bridge between the students, the staff, parents, and administration, and be visible and acceptable for what they have to say. You have to collaborate with the commissioners, you have to collaborate with other board members in other counties to really see what's going on to make a difference. And also, you have to be innovative. The way that we learned and educated back in the day is not the same as it is today. So as a board member, you have to be courageous to take on initiatives that may change the world."

His challenger Harrison said, "Shut up and listen. That's what my wife tells me, So, listen. I've been in Calvert since 2002. Two of my kids have already graduated in '22 and '24. My middle son is a freshman at Catholic University. The thing about being a board member, you have to identify opportunities for improvement. One of the things that I talked about at the last forum at the American Legion was that we have 68 percent of our kids that are not proficient in grade level in math. That's a lot of kids. Well, the counter to that was, we're third in the state, or we're fifth in the state. Two

thirds of people are behind. And so, they go into the next grade level. I think that's a critical issue, and I think we should be identifying resources to improve that. Maybe it never gets improved. I don't know. But I know that the state has come up with different ways to measure improvement or measure proficiency. And they don't win at all. So, I'd like to work at a local level to improve that."

He added, "We have a \$309 million budget. That's what I've done for 35 years. Higher education administration. That's what I do. I'm an accountant. So, if you want somebody to manage your \$309 million, that's me."

The candidates were asked if they support the Blueprint education reform and if there was funding to pay for it. Marchio said, "In general, I absolutely support the goals of the Blueprint to raise the education level and the readiness of all of our students. However, I think some of the points of it are a little misguided. There are a lot of unfunded mandates in there that have put a strain on our budget process, some of what we saw play out recently. The other thing it'll do is it'll ultimately reduce the amount of time teachers are in the classroom, teaching students. I think most teachers have about seven periods a day. Only 60 percent of their time will be in teaching. The other 40 percent will be in meetings with other teachers, discussing, as well as one-on-one. So, we need to do things to take these administrative staff to

allow them to just focus on education."

His First District challenger Shisler said, "The Maryland Blueprint is the latest state version of school reform. In this country, we have a history of attempting school reform every 10 years or so. Many of you in this audience are old enough to remember Goals 2000 and America 2000 with the first George Bush and Bill Clinton. And then the second George Bush and No Child Left Behind. So, we go through these cycles. They start out great. They start out with wonderful ideas. And the problem comes with the funding. We don't follow through on what we promise upfront to do. So, if our funds don't follow the kids and don't follow the goals of the Blueprint, then we're going to end up like the rest of the reform movements."

The candidates were asked, "How will you help implement proposals regarding teacher respect and classroom safety?"

Flaim said, "I've talked to teachers and educators and support staff throughout this process. A lot of the teachers feel safe. They're not worried about when they go into schools. I know a few teachers and a few school systems have had issues, but, through restorative justice and through the mediation, I think those problems have been addressed. And I think if we continue to do that, continue to look at the problems, continue to work with the students, that will help address those safety issues. I know the schools have SROs and safety advocates,

which I think is important to have in the schools. But I also think we do need to work on the social/emotional learning of the students because they need to learn how to regulate their emotions, not just to act out."

Her Third District challenger Goshorn said, "I think what we have to do first is we need to talk to the people in the school buildings. Your policy is created by the board of education and procedures are created by central office staff. The people in the school buildings, the bus drivers, they're the ones who are dealing with the behaviors. It's not the board of education members and it's not the central office staff. And so, if we want to know what's working, what's not working, we need to talk to the people who are dealing with it every single day. I think we also need to ensure that our central office staff are actually spending days in school, buildings in classrooms. The 20-minute visit to read a book is great and the kids love it, but you're not really getting a full understanding."

Goshorn added, "There are a lot of teachers, there are parents, and there are students that do fear for their safety in our schools. And so, as a board of education member, I would help to ensure that our central office staff really understand; as a board of education member, I would go into the classrooms, I want to see what's going on."

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- LaShawn

Prince Frederick

Are Data Centers Headed for Calvert?

Commissioners Prepare for Eventuality

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

“Loudoun County (Virginia) is the king of data centers. I’m sure they can provide a wealth of information to Calvert County, because Calvert County is about to become the king of data centers as well,” said Del. Mark Fisher.

Fisher made the comments during an Oct. 20 legislative meeting with the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). He was referring to the county’s advantageous location with two major energy facilities.

The comments capped off a week-long flurry of activity surrounding data centers. While no specific proposal has been announced by the county, that’s typically something that would have been kept within executive session until all the i’s are dotted and the t’s are crossed.

At the legislative meeting, the county asked the legislators to introduce a bill allowing the county to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) with data centers similar to what is being done with Calvert Cliffs and Cove Point energy facilities, to create a guaranteed tax flow instead of the depreciated amount with personal property. They also are in the process of amending the zoning ordinance to allow data centers in newly-created industrial zones in the southern part of the county.

Since that announcement, the commissioners have heard some public concerns about data centers. In other parts of the country those concerns have included the environment, such as water usage and energy demands, and noise.

At the Oct. 16 planning commission meeting, Planner III/ Zoning Will Hager provided a definition of data centers: “An establishment engaging in the storage, management, processing and transmission of digital data and housing network equipment systems, servers and appliances and other associated components related digital data operations.”

Last week the commissioners issued the following press release on the zoning ordinance updates to allow for expanded industrial use to include potential data center development: “Calvert County Government is currently exploring the potential for data center development, but it’s important to clarify that no decisions have been made at this time. The county cannot influence specific deals related to data centers; instead, we are focusing on updating our policies and zoning to remain open to opportunities if they arise. We acknowledge the increasing demand for data centers in Maryland and the possible economic benefits.

“The Calvert County Department of Economic Development aims to attract high-tech industries while ensuring responsible growth that respects the community’s rural character. This initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance economic development and high-paying job creation in Calvert County. The BOCC recognizes the potential economic opportunities that data centers could bring to our community.

“Residents are more connected than ever, using digital apps and tools on phones, TVs, computers and other devices. On average, the American household now has 21 internet-connected devices, and many industries rely on data for business. This increased connectivity drives the need to process large amounts of data through the cloud, which is supported by data centers—physical facilities providing essential infrastructure for our modern lives and economy.

“The environment remains a top priority for our county. We will continue to assess any potential environmental impacts and ensure compliance with state and local regulations. While we are committed to managing growth responsibly, we understand the need to attract high-tech industries like data centers would create more high-paying job opportunities for Calvert County residents and generate additional tax revenue. Our goal is to encourage development that enhances our economy while protecting the small-town rural lifestyle valued by the majority of our residents. This approach will help to preserve the open spaces and rural character that define Calvert County.”

At the planning commission meeting, Hager said, “A data center has been added to the use chart and it is permitted as a special exception use with conditions in the heavy industrial district. For anyone not aware, a special exception use means that the proposal requires board of appeals approval. And the condition for this use is that the data center be set back a minimum of 200 feet from all property lines and 500 feet from any lot/parcel with a residential building or active residential building permit except for adjacent properties under common ownership.”

At the Oct. 20 BOCC meeting, Josh Levi from the Data Center Coalition, a trade group, joined in on a video conference to provide information.

He said, “We have 32 members within our organization. Our members maintain infrastructure and teams across the country and in many cases around the globe. Generally speaking, data centers fall into two categories, as does our membership. We have members who self-perform, or who are enterprise data centers. Those are going to be data center companies that will operate data centers for their own purposes. They may build data centers for their own purposes. Companies, including cloud providers like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon would fall under that category.”

He added, “The remainder of our members are multi-tenant or build-to-suit members. Those are companies that will build data centers and lease them to one or more tenants. In some cases, you can have upwards of 200 tenants inside a data center. In some cases, you could have one tenant inside a data center.”

Levi said, “Data centers are workspaces for employees, whether they are employees of the company itself or whether they’re tenants, that are leasing space within a data center. Those folks will typically report to the data center each day for work. So, you’ll find the network operation center, but

you’ll also find cafes. You’ll find conference rooms, network space for meetings.”

He said the buildings don’t typically employ as many people as would a manufacturing facility for the size required. But they could employ upwards of a hundred or more high paying jobs that could eventually exceed six figures.

Security is essential, he said. “That’s going to include exterior security features, which could be and usually include gates and guards and other things like that. Interior security features -- it’s not uncommon to have to show not only your ID, but some kind of ocular or retinal or palm print or other biometric identifier to access different parts of the data center.”

He said demand for data centers is growing exponentially.

Levi said a Lawrence Berkeley National Lab study in 2010 showed “about 79 percent of data center computing was done in smaller data centers or server halls, or even in some cases closets that were maintained by non-tech companies. Every bank, every law firm, every association had their own little server halls or maybe some larger data centers, but certainly nothing like we see today. By 2018, 89 percent of data center load had shifted into the cloud environment, where you can really apply ideal leverage and economies of scale to operate much more efficiently in terms of the compute load and the environmental controls.”

Levi said another study showed “that in the US market alone, we can expect to see capacity triple between 2024 and 2030, from 25 gigawatts to they estimate about 80 gigawatts. So, a little more than 300 times in terms of the amount of build out we’ll see over the next six years. Globally speaking, the United States is about 40 percent of the data center market. JLL real estate firm tells us that over the next five years, we will see twice as much data generated as we saw over the previous 10 years.”

Levi noted, “Data centers’ essential infrastructure require 24/7 power in order to ensure that their customers and clients have access to the services and the data within the data centers, whether those be government agencies, first responders, commercial tenants, or others. So, you will find a lot of things within a data center that are



Josh Levi

really designed to ensure that 24/7 uptime and that redundancy within a data center. That’s going to typically include two different substation feeds going into the data center. From a power perspective, it’s going to include uninterruptible power supplies or batteries that will enable the facility to operate for a number of minutes in the event that there is a power failure, backup generation in the event of a power failure.”

As to water usage, he said, “Data centers that do consume water want to be net positive and provide more water back to communities than their operations consume. Water is used in cooling for some data centers, not for all data centers. And there’s a very interesting push/pull related to water and energy. So, we have waterless data centers that are deployed fairly broadly. They will not use water for cooling. They will use air for cooling, but they tend to be more energy intensive.”

For tax benefits, he said you can look no farther than Loudoun County which is “now exceeding \$900 million in data center tax revenues this year, which is, I think, about 95 percent of their general fund expenditures.”

A data center would also be a boom to the construction industry during the building phase.

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Changes to commissioner elections proposed



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Early voting begins for school board

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 24	FRI, OCT 25	SAT, OCT 26	SUN, OCT 27
 Sunny Hi: 66° Lo: 42°	 Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 53°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 47°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 59° Lo: 41°
MON, OCT 28	TUE, OCT 29	WED, OCT 30	THU, OCT 31
 Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 44°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 70° Lo: 53°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 56°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 57°



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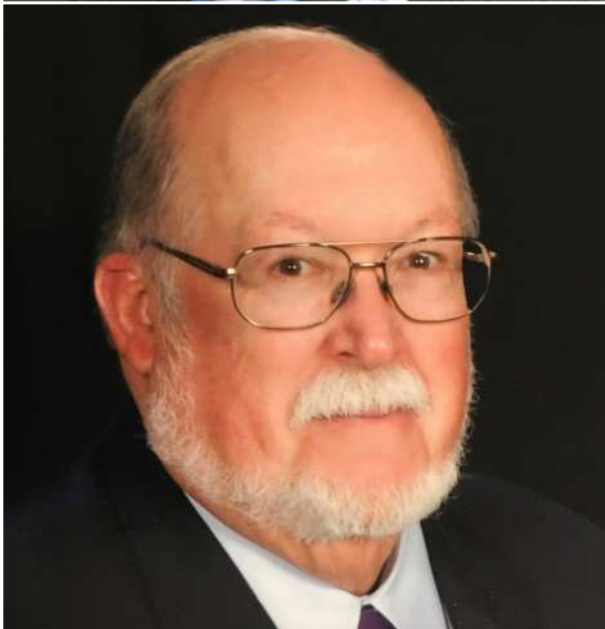
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