



3:00 - 7:00 Vendors, Games, Food
 3:15 - 3:30 Summer Games
 3:30 - 4:00 Strut Your Mutt (Dog Parade)
 4:15 - 4:45 Watermelon Eating Contest
 5:00 - 7:00 The Copper Pennies Concert

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St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025

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Hearing Held on Stewart's Grant Plan

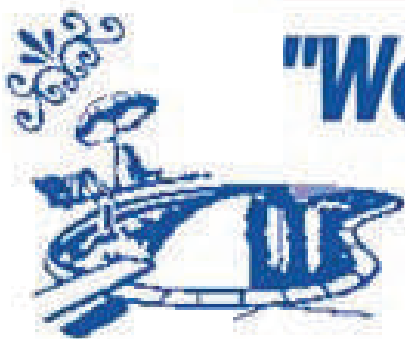
County Hosts Anti-Violence Day

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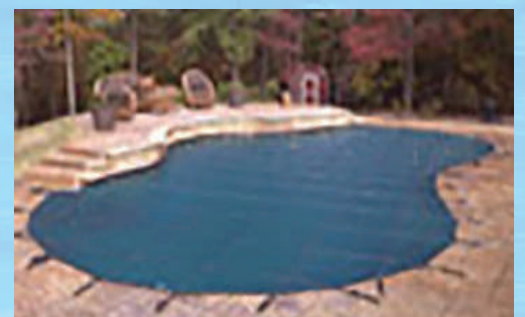


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“THEY HAVE A GREAT IMPACT TO OUR ECONOMY.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VISIT ST. MARY’S LIZ MILDENSTEIN ON VISITORS



LOCAL 5
Sheriff's office and health department host Community Violence Prevention Day



LOCAL 13
The Trend thrift store supports survivors of domestic violence



ON THE COVER 9
Don Cropp lives a life of service

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 68°	FRI, JUL 4 Sunny Hi: 88° Lo: 67°	SAT, JUL 5 Mostly Sunny Hi: 88° Lo: 68°	SUN, JUL 6 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 73°
MON, JUL 7 Showers Hi: 87° Lo: 73°	TUE, JUL 8 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 73°	WED, JUL 9 Scattered Storms Hi: 87° Lo: 72°	THU, JUL 10 Thunderstorms Hi: 84° Lo: 71°

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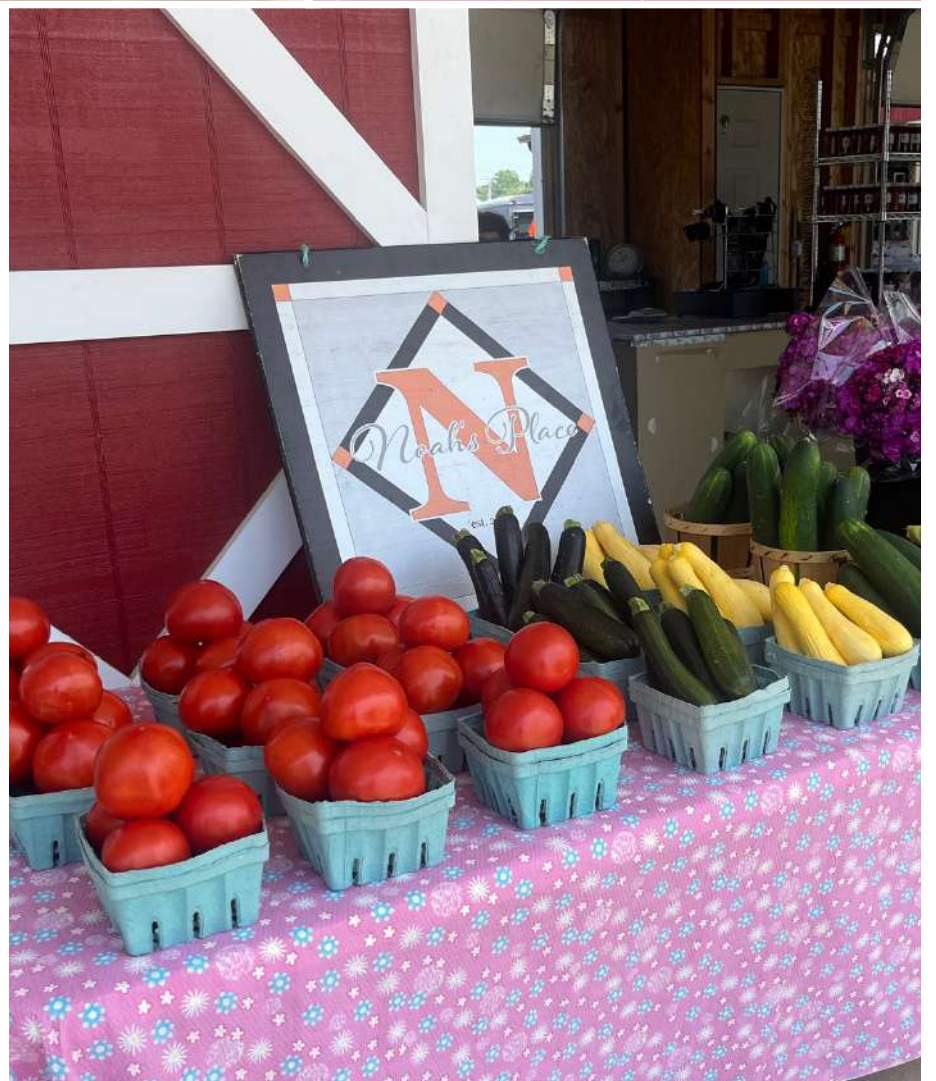
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Community Violence Prevention Day Draws Large Crowd



Photos courtesy of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Between 500 and 600 people gathered on Saturday, June 28 at Nicolet Park in Lexington Park for a Community Violence Prevention Day. The event was sponsored by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and the St. Mary's County Health Department.

Sheriff Steve Hall told The County Times, "I've heard it said, and I've seen it firsthand, that some of our young people feel like they have to be 'hard.' Carrying a gun and using it to commit crimes doesn't make

you hard or untouchable; it is the kind of hard that gets people locked up, and worse, much worse.

"Real strength, true hardness, is choosing to serve something bigger than themselves.

"It takes grit to get up every day and make the hard decisions—like putting in the work, showing up for others, and staying out of trouble. That kind of strength doesn't harden your heart—it strengthens your character. The people who choose that path—who serve their community, live by faith, and work to stop this cycle of violence—we see you, we thank you, and we stand with you."

Community Violence Prevention Day was family-friendly and offered a variety of activities, including games, face painting, food trucks, music, a free pop-up grocery market, and more. Gunlocks and gun safes were available while supplies lasted.

"Community Violence Prevention Day is designed to help create a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community for everyone," said Michelle Pottinger, SMCHD's Violence, Injury, and Trauma Unit Director before the event.

She said the day was "a great opportunity to strengthen connections between families,

neighborhoods, and local organizations who are working to empower youth by addressing the root causes of violence."

Lieutenant Austin Schultz said, "Our partnership with the St. Mary's County Health Department continues to grow stronger, and Community Violence Prevention Day is just one example of how we're working side by side to make a lasting impact in St. Mary's County."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Hearing Held on Stewart's Grant Plan Changes

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County held a public hearing on June 24 on a proposed major amendment to the Stewart's Grant Planned Unit Development (PUD). A half dozen people spoke at the hearing, half of them from the adjacent Sanner's Lake Sportsmen's Club.

Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser explained the proposed amendments. He said, "First, it would update the planned unit development plan's identified members, the development team, which currently date from the PUDs original act in 1997 to the current development team and the parties in interest.

"The second is that it would reduce the maximum number of authorized dwelling units on the 425.23 acres, from 1,122, the current maximum to 1,084.

"Third is that it would increase planned open space on the property correspondingly to account for the fewer dwelling units that will occupy it.

"The fourth is that it'll revise a portion of the to be extended Bay Ridge Road from the current multi-lane design called for in the development plan to a revised two-lane design.

"The fifth is that the amendments make a finding that the adequate school capacity currently exists in the countywide school system to absorb the projected impact of the full build out from the Stewarts Grant Planned Unit Development.

"Sixth item, it reserves those required school seats to ensure adequate capacity will exist for Stewart's Grant for the duration of the build out.

"And the last thing it does is implement a binding phasing schedule for the full build out of the project, such that 108 dwelling units on average will be brought online each year for 10 consecutive years. Home construction is expected to begin in 19 to 24 months.

Houser said it was the change in the road design that constituted a major change requiring the public hearing. That change was recommended by the Department of Public Works.

Developer's attorney Richard Page Wyrrough said, "I was in-house general counsel for Chaney Enterprises, who was one of the partners in 2007, and participated in putting the Chaney's together with Mr. Knott earlier in the 2000's. And starting in 2010, I was involved in trying to make this project a go. This is the first time in the 15

years that they've been trying to make this project go where they actually have a buyer who's willing to come in and build houses."

He added, "Now they have a builder who has stepped up. There's a contract in place, it's with US Homes/Lennar, who will be building all the townhouses and single family (homes)."

The attorney said, "There needs to be a force main installed in Great Mills Road. The pump station associated with that force main needs to be upgraded and a water tower needs to be built. Those things need to be built and sized for the entirety of the project. And that those expenditures need to be made upfront as do the installation of a roadway, which, primary roadway that'll be done more in phases, but it will be very quickly, need to be built from the back of the middle school down to Route 5 through Bay Ridge. So, they've got some huge infrastructure costs upfront."

Thus, the request for the school capacity upfront, he said. Even with capacity for the buildout of Stewart's Grant, there will still be capacity in the schools for other development, the commissioners were told.

The project includes a buffer between it and the Sanner's Lake Sportsmen's Club, including a fence. But several speakers still expressed concerns about that. Property owner Williams Sanner said the club is 75 years old.

Clifton Whitford said, "I represent over 750 members who are not quite sure that this is a great idea, but we also realize that there's going to be progress and there's only so much we can do."

He said the "dynamic range" and the homes were close. "So, I don't know if a fence, is going to be good enough."

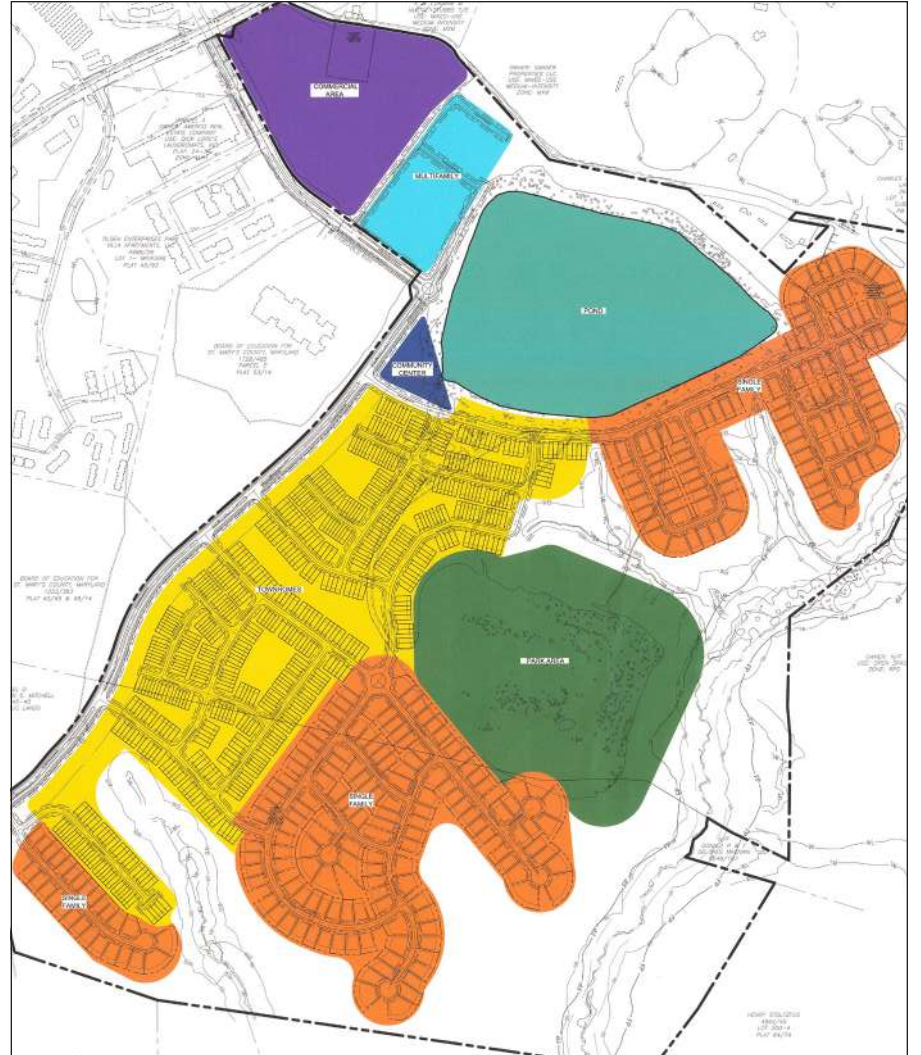
The developer says prospective homeowners will be notified about the existence of the firing range.

Michael Brown, who lives in Bay Ridge Estates, questioned the lack of notice for residents along Bay Ridge Road that traffic from the new development would be going through their community.

He said his grandparents "moved into this area, picked the lot that they wanted, picked the development that they wanted, knowing that the development would get larger, but not that Bay Ridge Road necessarily would become a main thoroughfare in the future."

In all six people spoke. The commissioners are expected to decide on the PUD amendment at their July 15 meeting.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



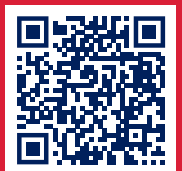
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**JULY
11
FRI**



Jazz in the Neighborhood

Kick Off Concert *fea. U.S. Navy Band: The Commodores*

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum
Kick off the 25th anniversary weekend with a FREE family-friendly concert featuring food trucks, vendors and more along the waterside museum lawn.



Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration

5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (All Day) at St. Clement's Island Museum
Attention artists: Bring your art materials and capture the vibrant energy of the festival's setup and the gorgeous riverside landscape. Fee: \$10/artist.

**JULY
12
SAT**

THE Main EVENT



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REBECCA JADE



ANDRÉA LISA



CHELSEY GREEN

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum Grounds
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**JULY
13
SUN**



Jazz Brunch and Golf at Wicomico Shores

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course
Enjoy a delicious jazz brunch with music from The Sweet Potatoes, then head out to the links for a round of golf (optional fee). Brunch Tickets: \$50 per person/\$90 per couple.



Jazz Cruises with Captain Phil and Sax Appeal

Departs from St. Clement's Island Museum dock
Music on board by Sax Appeal Duet. Tickets: \$85.00 per person/\$160 per couple.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Early Bird Jazz Cruise** featuring pastries and mimosas.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. **Seafood Jazz Cruise** featuring seafood or chicken option and wine.
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MAJOR FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Super Volunteer Don Cropp: 'We're Supposed to be Helping People'

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A tally of everything that Don Cropp has done for his adopted St. Mary's County belies the fact that he's a relative newcomer, instead of having been born and raised here. That tally includes the restoration of some of the county's most iconic historic landmarks. And it includes a thorough list of volunteer accomplishments.

Cropp came to the county in the mid 1980's. He was originally from Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh. "I was working in Texas for about six years before I came up here; Mr. Wettengel (developer of Wildewood) ran an ad saying "Move the beautiful historic St. Mary's County." And I was living in Houston and we had a child, and my wife wanted to get closer to Pittsburgh, so I started looking at Washington, Cleveland and Pittsburgh papers, and I saw this ad for Wildewood, looked at it on a map, drove up here, and after two days of interviewing Mr. Wettengel hired me to run his company."

Cropp, who'll be 73 next month said he liked what he saw. "I was in Texas, in the city, and I'm used to being in the country and I just remember driving down, going across the bridge, and looking over the river. And then I drove all around Wildwood and around the county and it reminded me more of where I grew up."

As events were put on in Wildewood, he was exposed to the various volunteer organizations that make the county tick. "At the same time, my daughter was at Little Flower School (in Great Mills) and one day my wife said, 'you see the bathroom that she has to use?' So, I went up and looked at it, and I told the school, how about over the Christmas break, I'll give you a brand new bathroom. So, I remodeled the whole bathroom, and then the next year she moved upstairs, so I remodeled that bathroom. Then I just started remodeling all of Little Flower, every night and weekends.

"Back then at Little Flower," Cropp said, he worked "with a bunch of people; volunteers just showed up."

Hurricane Katrina (which is also his daughter's name) became the seminal moment. He saw on TV how dreadful things were in Gulfport, Mississippi. He called the mayor and "he told me they needed first aid kits. They needed air mattresses. They needed tools, and they needed school supplies because everything got wiped out. So, I went to the Chamber of Commerce that night and I told them this is what we needed to do. "They weren't a 501-C3, so he went through Trinity Church in St. Mary's City. Next, you know, we raised over half a million dollars of supplies and, me and Joe St. Clair just kept driving back and forth to Mississippi taking things."

Almost immediately after talking to the Gulfport mayor, the federal government came through for them and the St. Mary's efforts were diverted to D'Iberville, Mississippi. "I got 800 bags where people



Don Cropp at an event for Helpful Hooves, an equine therapy program for young adults with physical and developmental disabilities

filled up bags of school supplies." Nine thousand of the 14,000 had been destroyed.

They also needed medical supplies. "So, I called St. Mary's Hospital, and we called the Red Cross next, and we sent \$50,000 in medical supplies."

He heard their hospital's records had been destroyed. "So, I called the commander of the base. They said, bring those computers up. So, we brought the computers up, they got into those computers and they rescued all the records."

Next he heard their pump stations had been destroyed. "So, I called Metcom and they go, we have 200 in stock. And Metcom sent a truck with three men all the way down with 200 pumps, and they helped them install them."

Rallying people behind a cause was the lesson from all of that and it showed the heart of the people in his adopted county. "Whatever you need, St. Mary's got it together."

Cropp said he read Bill Clinton's book and "what I realized, when it comes to children and Christmas, everybody's generous at Christmas."

When they were handing out book bags he encountered a girl who was taking from one bag and putting it into others. He was angry until her teacher said she was homeless and she was trying to help her family.

Hearing that he told a TV crew his next project was "I know Christmas coming, you know, and I always played Santa Claus. I'm going to try to get all these kids to have a great Christmas."

Once again he rallied everyone around a cause. "I went to Mailboxes, Etc. and I bought 120 boxes. We had our big meeting,

and Frank Taylor took five boxes. Wayne Davis took 10 boxes. Vince Whittle took boxes. And in three days we sent clothing for 120 children."

"I got on the radio and over a thousand people showed up at Lowe's one day. And I gave them a box. I gave them a list. I took their name, and everybody went and bought all these things for these kids. In the meantime, I kept taking in cash."

Trinity Church donated \$80,000. "We went to Walmart and said we have \$80,000, what can you give? They gave me \$130,000 in gift certificates."

"Each kid got anywhere from \$300 to \$400 worth of Christmas gifts, and it was the best Christmas those kids ever had."

Cropp is perhaps most well-known for his historic preservation work, including the lighthouse on St. Clements Island, All Saints Episcopal Church, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse.

Seventh District Optimist Club had bids on the lighthouse that were more than \$1 million, way over budget and they asked him for help.

They showed him plans from the Maryland Archives. "It's not that big (a project)," he noted. "I'll organize everything. You buy the materials, and I'll see this whole thing gets built."

All they had was \$200,000 for a project Cropp estimated at \$600,000. "Well, what were you thinking? So, we went to the county commissioners. and I said, I'm donating \$100,000. So, the county donated \$100,000. Former Sen, Roy Dyson secured a state bond bill, and the project was on its way.

Leveraging money is another talent Cropp has developed along the way to get things



Cropp carries the 400-year-old cross brought by Maryland's first settlers in 1634, used in the first mass said on St. Clement's Island. It was on loan from Georgetown University.

done. For a time, he was on the St. Mary's City Commission, but he left because he concluded he could get more done with his boots on the ground than sitting around a table.

He has immersed himself in local history. "I did the lighthouse. And then they had me down at Trinity Church, then they had me over Tudor Hall a little bit just a couple years ago. They had me go up to restore Dr. Mud house (in Charles County). So, we did a lot of restoration on the Dr. Mud House."

His personal volunteerism is legendary as well. He renovated the former Brass Rail bar which is now used by St. Mary's Caring, a soup kitchen. He regularly volunteers there.

His Santa suit, with a padded pillow to fill out his lean frame, is put to constant use every year. He's a member of Helpful Hooves, which every year puts on parties for young adults with special needs, including a Christmas party.

It runs in the family. He said, "My daughter, she started when my granddaughter started Little Flower. My daughter started helping fund raise."

He said his daughter and a friend raised money and purchased 200 prom gowns the first year. By the next year it was 1,000 and then 2,000.

Why does he do it? He said, "You call yourself a Christian, you go to church for one hour a week. Now this is what we're supposed to do. We're supposed to be helping people. I'm real good at this stuff. I'm good at organizing. My daughter's great at organizing. I have construction skills, and we give back. It's makes me feel real good when I do it."

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County Visitors: Numbers Down, Spending Up

Visit St. Mary's Gives Report

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Visitors to St. Mary's County continue to have a significant impact on the economy, whether they are visiting for pleasure or for business. Executive Director of Visit St. Mary's Liz Mildenstein gave a briefing to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on June 24. It came as the commissioners renewed their Memorandum of Understanding with Visit St. Mary's to be the agency that markets the county to outsiders. The county will provide \$525,954 to visit St. Mary's MD for fiscal year 26. That is an increase from the fiscal year 25 amount of \$483,120. The increase reflects the increase in accommodations tax revenue the county received last year.

Mildenstein reported that the number of visitors to the count was off 18 percent last year but that was offset by those who did come spending 18 percent more.

Visit St. Mary's is a non-profit agency with a board of eight from the hospitality market, restaurants, entertainment, Department of Economic Development, Leonardtown, and the craft beverage industry. They receive free space from the county within the Department of Economic Development.

"We are the official destination marketing organization for St. Mary's County," Mildenstein said. "We focus on attraction development, marketing, and most importantly, supporting our partners in providing their own unique visitor experiences."

"We exist to promote and market St. Mary's County as a destination for overnight and day trippers. They have a great impact to our economy."

They do that, she said, "first is the sponsorship and marketing and advertising and amplification program. So traditionally, it's really important to us to reinvest the budget that comes to us from the county right back into the county. And one of the ways that we do that is through sponsorships of events as well as marketing. So complimenting marketing programs that our event promoters and planners already have. We support those marketing efforts externally to the county. So, we spend our money marketing their event. And then we have our tourism website, visitstmarysmd.com, which has a very robust events calendar. We do a lot of paid marketing and advertising within the Mid-Atlantic, social media marketing and promotion, visitor data analysis."

She said they are targeting their advertising to the areas from which visitors most frequently come—Washington, DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Norfolk. They use a company that tracks cell phone data.

"Seventy-one percent of our visitors were from out of state. So that's a great number,"

Mildenstein said.

Demographically, Mildenstein reported, "In FY 25, we saw about 58 percent of them were between the ages of 25 and 54; 52 percent had an average household income of a \$100,000; and 39 percent had children in the household."

As to the reduction in number of visitors, she said, "This is an issue across the board when it comes to travel, whether it's business travel or leisure travel. So now it's even more important for us to invest in marketing and advertising."

Mildenstein reported, "Occupant hotel occupancy was down about 6 percent from the previous year. We did see a dip in the winter and in the spring. I am starting to see it come back up, but again. We know some things happened in the winter. In the spring there was some pause or some decrease in business travel, especially associated with the base. So, we're keeping an eye on that. And then we are down a hotel in the county, so we did see a decrease there."

She noted, "(for) our FY 26 strategic objectives, the overall objectives didn't change much, but our tactics and how we're going to achieve those are adjusting based on our lessons learned from FY 25. We certainly want to continue to grow our Facebook and Instagram presence. Those are huge marketing tools for us."

Mildenstein said, "We did receive two grants this year. The Maryland Alcohol Manufacturing and Promotion grant was from the state, was about \$74,000. And we are going to work with Liquid Assets and our craft beverage makers in the county hosting at least four heritage-based events in the county that promote all of our craft beverage makers."

They also received a grant for "a regional video that's going to promote the waterways and trailways. We'll walk away with a 60 second Southern Maryland video, but also 60-, 30- and 5-second St. Mary's promotional videos." They will be distributed to television and streaming services.

The tourism partners are launching a St. Mary's County Tourism Ambassador program. She said, "This is designed to train frontline staff members and others within the community about all the great assets that we have here in the county."

"One of my biggest goals is to always combat the, 'there's nothing to do' narrative. So, if I've come to St. Mary's County and I'm at a restaurant and I ask my server what I should do this evening, the last thing I want them to say is, 'well, there's nothing to do.' We want to make sure that we're training these ambassadors based on their own experience about all the things there are here in St. Mary's County."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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No Holidays for Volunteer Firefighters



Robin Jones with her husband and fellow Hollywood Volunteer Eddie Tatum and their dog, Scott

By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

Some people prefer to celebrate the Fourth of July around a bonfire with family. Volunteer firefighters like Robin Jones, however, choose to stay on-call, ready to jump into action at a moment's notice.

Jones, 37, was introduced to the fire service early in life. Her grandfather, a paramedic in Charles County, often kept a scanner at home. After his death when she was 11, the strong sense of camaraderie she had witnessed stayed with her. As soon as she was old enough, she joined the rescue squad.

With more than 20 years of service behind her, Jones has a deep connection with the community of volunteer firefighters. There is consistently a strong group of volunteers, young and old, within the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department. Some members join to follow in the footsteps of family members, part of a legacy of service that runs through generations.

Volunteers undergo many hours of education. For example, getting EMT certified requires over 200 hours of education. This involves participating in rigorous college-level courses, which volunteers receive for free in exchange for their time. "I have a really hard time citing any other examples of a line of truly physical work that people are eager to get off their career clock and head to their volunteer houses to spend their free

time," Jones said.

Volunteers are the backbone of the fire-fighting community. No one within the tri-county area, Jones said, has paid fire protection; the volunteers make up the entirety of the staffing. The fire department covers a wide array of problems. From house fires and car crashes to storm response and brush fires, the fire department protects the community every day. Each year, they average around 800 calls. The average day could have zero to ten calls.

Every year, the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department holds a carnival, which is their major fundraising event. This year, the carnival will be held from July 10 to 13 and July 17 to 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. The carnival equipment is owned by the fire department, and the staff running the event are made up of volunteers. Any revenue generated from the event helps fund the department. It's also a cherished opportunity for firefighters to connect with the community outside of emergency response, offering rides, games, and fun for families across the county.

Volunteers choose not to have off-days. Calls come on any day of the week, even the holidays. On days like the Fourth of July, firefighters may see an uptick in calls. Whether it be from illegal fireworks or improper use of legal ones, emergencies arise. And it is a group of entirely willing, selfless volunteer firefighters that return these calls.

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The Trend: A Consignment Shop with a Mission



By Vada Mercer
Contributing Writer

The Trend is a Leonardtown consignment store with a mission. Supporting survivors of domestic abuse, it celebrated its first anniversary on June 6.

Located on Fenwick Street, the shop is run by Allene Hernandez, a mother and survivor of domestic abuse. Since opening in June 2024, The Trend has grown into more than a secondhand boutique; it has become a community space offering healing, dignity, and tangible support for survivors.

The first anniversary celebration featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a prize wheel, custom merchandise, and cookies provided by Christina's Cookies, a local business run by a supporter of the shop's mission. The profits from the cookie sale went to one of The Trend's partners.

The Trend is a cozy boutique, selling a variety of items, including clothing, kids' toys, houseware, and more. The staff are pleasant and apt to engage in conversation with patrons.

To further its mission, the shop partners with two local organizations: Seeds of Courage and the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy. Seeds of Courage provides financial assistance to survivors seeking independence, something Hernandez knows the value of firsthand. In 2022, the organization helped Hernandez cover housing costs as she transitioned out of an abusive situation. "I don't think I would be here without the help [they] gave me," she said.

"Dahlia [the founder] was the first person who made me feel like I wasn't crazy."

Each month, The Trend sets aside 7 percent of its sales to fund gift cards for survivors referred to by its partner organizations. The gift cards, valued at \$100 per person in a household, can be used discreetly in-store and on multiple visits, allowing recipients a choice of privacy.

The number seven appears throughout The Trend's mission, from a 7 percent discount coupon for donors to a loyalty program where shoppers earn \$7 after 100 points. It's also an important figure for victims of domestic abuse. Seven is the average number of times it takes to leave an abusive relationship. Complications may arise from financial dependence, family values, manipulation, and threats to safety.

Hernandez says education is one of her most important goals. "A lot of people don't realize, verbal abuse is also abuse... financial abuse is also abuse," she said. "If something doesn't feel right, then it's not right."

Hernandez recommends that victims utilize the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy's crisis hotline at (240)-925-0084, expressing that the national hotline may have lengthy wait times.

The Trend's "Thrift & More," part of its official name, originally had no clear meaning. But Hernandez said that the store revealed the meaning of "more" to her: it represents emotional support, community connection, and the energy of love that fills the space.

"You can't buy that," she said.

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Sobriety Checkpoint Planned for July 3

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of the Maryland State Police, will conduct a roadside sobriety checkpoint on Thursday evening, July 3, 2025, around Leonardtown. Deputies will evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office recognizes that roadside sobriety checkpoints are highly visible and effective tools to combat impaired driving behavior.

Providing advance notice of these checkpoints allows drivers to make informed choices, discourages impaired driving, and is legally mandated for the checkpoint to be valid.

If you plan to drink, use a designated driver or a ride-sharing service; this will keep you and your neighbors safe on our roads.

Press Release from SMCSO

Legal Notice

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Address: 45900 Highway to Heaven Ln., Great Mills, MD 20634

Time: 11:00 AM Local Time

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2. The bidder has obtained from CCG written credit approval in advance of the scheduled public sale.

CCG reserves the right to bid at the sale. Contact Adam Clough at (716) 353-7537 for additional information or to arrange an inspection of the Equipment.

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

County Government Mourns the Loss of Deputy Mark Porter

Maryland & St. Mary's County Flags Lowered to Half-Staff

It is with profound sadness that St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) announces the tragic loss of one of our brave officers, Deputy Mark Porter, 60, who died while performing his duties on July 1, 2025.

"Deputy Porter's longstanding commitment to justice as one of the longest serving deputies in our county was incredible. He will be greatly missed," said Commissioner President James Randy Guy. May he forever be remembered for his service, and may his legacy inspire us all to appreciate those who risk their lives every day to keep us safe."

Deputy Porter had served in St. Mary's County for over 34 years, before retiring in 2022. He returned as a contract deputy, following a brief break in service, and continued to serve until his passing. Deputy Porter was one of the longest-serving sworn deputies in the agency, known for his steadfast commitment, integrity, and decades of honorable service to the citizens of St. Mary's County. He was a trusted colleague and a deeply valued member of our Sheriff's Office family.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have ordered Maryland State and St. Mary's County flags to be flown at half-staff in St. Mary's County, in honor and remembrance of Deputy Porter.



Deputy Mark Porter

State of Maryland and St. Mary's County flags will remain lowered in St. Mary's County until sunset on the day of his interment, honoring his decades of service to the people of St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland.

For those wishing to express condolences or support, a memorial tribute will be available in the lobby of the Sheriff's Office Headquarters at 23150 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD.

Leonardtown Man Charged with Weapons Violations

In the early morning hours of Thursday, June 26, detectives with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division were conducting proactive enforcement in the Lexington Park area near Columbus Drive when they observed an individual believed to be in possession of a firearm.

At around 2:30 a.m., while attempting to apprehend the suspect, a brief foot pursuit ensued. During the chase, the suspect was seen discarding an item into a nearby dumpster.

The subject was apprehended in the 21000 block of Liberty Street and identified as Christopher Ian Bailey, 20, of Leonardtown. He was taken into custody without further incident.

A subsequent search of the dumpster revealed a loaded, unserialized AR-15-style pistol with a full magazine and a round chambered. Detectives also recovered a discarded backpack nearby containing a loaded 50-round drum magazine for a 9mm handgun.

Bailey was transported to the St. Mary's

County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown and charged with the following:

- Possession of a regulated firearm by a person under 21 years of age
- Wearing or carrying a loaded handgun on or about his person
- Handgun on person

This case remains under investigation and anyone with information is asked to contact Deputy Devin Absher at 301-475-4200, ext. 8054 or by email at Devin.Absher@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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

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

Press release from SMCSO

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- 5:00 - 7:00** The Copper Pennies Concert

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Friday, July 4

10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Visit the Old Jail Museum for FREE tours with extended hours for First Friday

3 p.m. - 8 p.m. FOURTH AT THE WHARF CELEBRATION. Afternoon of contests, activities, yard games tasty food, and a Free concert featuring The Copper Pennies. Veteran, pet and family friendly.

5 p.m. Join in on the fun at the Star Spangled Bash Patio Party at the Rex

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Face Painting by Azul at the St. Mary's Arts Council

5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Opening reception, "Animals of the County" at St. Mary's Council Art's Council

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. First Friday audience participation drum circle, free event open to all ages and skill levels.

Saturday, July 5

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

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. First Saturday of the Month Market at Town Market LLC

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

Sunday, July 6

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. Rise + Shine Yoga at the Leonardtown Wharf

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



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Delegate Visits Camp for Children Grieving Loss of Loved One



Delegate Todd Morgan visited the equestrian therapy program at Camp Sunrise

Edward Jones

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Happy Independence Day

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Financial Advisor

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Greenwell Foundation welcomed Delegate Todd Morgan to Greenwell State Park on Thursday, June 19 as he demonstrated his support for Camp Sunrise, a partnership camp with Hospice of St. Mary's and Greenwell Foundation.

Camp Sunrise is a summer camp for children ages 7-16 who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The camp ran from Wednesday, June 18 through Friday, June 20 and incorporated different activities, art projects, and games, to help campers learn about grief and how to process it. This year, Greenwell Foundation hosted the camp at Greenwell State Park and provided therapeutic recreational activities including horse connection sessions and guided kayaking on the Patuxent River.

St. Mary's Hospice Bereavement Coordinator, Patricia Watson noted the profound impact of this partnership: "It was inspiring to see the campers who attended Camp Sunrise go from being wary about coming to a "grief camp" to being excited to show up every day. Partnering with Greenwell Foundation allowed us to use new tools this year to help our campers navigate their grief, as we explored nature and practiced new skills! Our campers learned that they are not alone in their grief."

Delegate Morgan began his visit at the beach where he greeted campers and camp staff as they kayaked and explored the shoreline, posed for photos, and directly addressed the group. He then traveled to the barn where he met with Greenwell eque-

strian staff and horses and learned about the many benefits of equestrian therapy, including success stories from the foundation's expanded Veteran & First Responder Therapeutic Recreational Retreat Program.

Greenwell Foundation Executive Director, Maria McDonald noted how the show of support from Delegate Morgan made a difference for the campers, partnership, and Greenwell Foundation: "The visit with Delegate Morgan exemplified the power of a private-public collaboration between two nonprofit partners set among the abundant natural environment of Greenwell State Park. Three different entities working toward one common goal, to provide the children of Camp Sunrise a safe and welcoming environment to help heal and restore. We are tremendously grateful for the opportunity to do so."

For more information about Greenwell Foundation and their therapeutic recreational programs, please visit www.greenwellfoundation.org.

About Greenwell Foundation

Greenwell Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing accessible and inclusive programs, services, and facilities for all community members, with and without disabilities, in Southern Maryland. The foundation operates in Greenwell State Park, a 600-acre property along the lower Patuxent River in Hollywood.

Press Release from Greenwell Foundation

Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Concerts and Cuties



By Shelby Opperman
Contributing Writer

What a storm last night! We were at the Clements Cuties scholarship check presentation at The Rex in Leonardtown. The Rex, which was the old movie theater in Leonardtown way back when, is a pretty solid building and we were in the back which is very solid and sound-proof, though we could still feel and hear the thunder rumbling. I know the emergency alerts systems are working, because all of us received the severe storm/tornado alerts at the same time. I hope the last of our St. Mary's County residents have had their power restored. Next task is to fix the clocks.

I will get the names of all of the Clements Cuties high school scholarship recipients in the next column. Wow, what a group of amazing students! In their young lives they have contributed so much to our county by volunteering, creating fundraisers, and generally being outstanding scholars, athletes, and humans. Each recipient received a \$2500 scholarship in the name of one of our 7 Clements Cuties children who have passed and also 1 music scholarship in the name of the late musician Danny Ryce, who was a great adult supporter of our organization.

Last Saturday night we went with another couple and saw the old 70s band Orleans in concert at Rams Head in Annapolis. You may remember some of Orleans' hit songs: Still the One, Spring Fever, Love Takes Time, and Dance with Me. Dance with Me was the song I really wanted to hear since I was a lead singer for this song, and a few others, in my Junior High School Chorus. This year marks the band's 53rd year making music. I have always thought of Orleans in the musical genre of soft rock, though it has come to be known as Yacht Rock over the years. If you get to hear them play live you will hear some great rock guitar too.

The Rams Head is actually two business connected. There is the Rams Head Tavern, which is a great restaurant with two bars, and Rams Head On Stage Annapolis which you can reach by walking by the bar into the venue. That was really nice since I didn't want to go back outside in the 90 plus degree heat. The food in the tavern was great. I thought we would have room for dessert inside the venue, but we were stuffed.

Orleans was nice enough to sit out by the box office and sign everything the fans brought with them. But you could also buy signed photos and T-shirts. My friend and I got one of each. The band finished signing and went back into the venue to pack up for their next concert in Delaware the next day. Their manager was wandering here and there, so I asked if he though the band still had time to sign our shirts. Much to my surprise, he led us back inside and brought one of the founders Lance Hoppen out of the green room to sign our shirts along with the rest of the band, including another founding member, John Hall who is a former two term United States Representative of New York. The night was so fun. I felt like a giggling teenager again.

We stayed in Annapolis overnight and ate a great breakfast at Miss Shirley's, also on West Street. If you haven't eaten at a Miss Shirley's you should include that on any trip you make to Annapolis or Baltimore. I love their food. The Sunrise Mimosa was pretty good too. The entire weekend was wonderful from the Friday night jazz evening at Robin Hill Winery in Brandywine, to Orleans and Miss Shirley's breakfast, concluding with the scholarship presentation. Other than one mishap Robert had with a really hot cup of coffee while driving on our way home from Annapolis (you can imagine he was not happy) we had a great time. Now I guess I better try one more time to get the coffee stains out of his shoes.

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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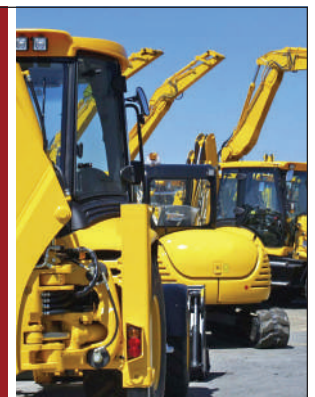
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In Remembrance

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.

LaLoni Bryan, 78



LaLoni Marie (Leisey) Bryan, 78, of St. Inigoes, MD passed away peacefully at her residence with her family by her side on June 20, 2025.

Born in

Coatesville, Pennsylvania, she was the loving daughter of the late Alvin L. Leisey, Jr., and Mary Helen (nee: Abbott) Leisey.

LaLoni attended Dover High School and graduated from Fairhaven High School in Fairhaven Massachusetts' class of 1964. After graduation, she attended Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA and transferred to Framingham School of Nursing, Framingham, Massachusetts. She completed her Nursing Degree at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu Hawaii, where LaLoni was Class President. Class of 1970.

LaLoni started a new adventure when she met Clark on an neighbors porch while they were chaffering a church group on their Caroling rounds, Christmas Eve 1963. This new adventure took them and their three daughters to Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Nevada before landing them in Maryland.

LaLoni played volleyball, softball and basketball in high school and college. Her interests included coaching youth softball and basketball, and girl scouts (Loni was involved Girl Scouting for most of her life, she even convinced Clark to be a Girl Scout and Cookie Mother). Loni volunteered tutoring at local elementary school, cake decorating and managing the family Blueberry Patch but most of all she loved joining in the activities and interests of the grandkids and great grandkids.

LaLoni is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Clark E. Bryan whom she married in Fairhaven, Massachusetts on March 30, 1968; her daughters, Amy Ridgell (Ralph) of Saint Inigoes, Abby Trossbach (Tom) of Dameron and Allison Bryan, Burbank California; Grand Kids, Theresa Trossbach (Justin) Dameron, Hollie Ridgell (Dan) Park Hall, Katie Ridgell (Jim) Saint Inigoes, Jodie Butler (Heath) Prague OK, JC Trossbach (Ashley) Lexington Park, Mary Trossbach (Ethan) Dameron; Great-Grand Kids, Hayden, Thomas, Drew, Raelynn, Tillie, Billie Ann, Hudson, Lottie, and two more due in August. She is also survived by her siblings, Randy (Beverly) Cody WY, Mary Ellen Frederick MD, Ronald (Cynthia) Glendale, AZ, Kim (Kathy) Lewes, DE, and numerous Nieces and Nephews.

Along with her parents, LaLoni is preceded in death by her Sister Kathryn.

Family invites friends to a Celebration of Life on Sunday, June 29, 2025 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Knight of Columbus Hall in Ridge, MD 20680.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's and mail to P.O. Box 625 Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Bob Russell, 85



Robert Allan Russell, Sr., 85 of Abell, MD passed away peacefully with his family by his side on June 24, 2025, at the Hospice House in Callaway, MD.

He was born on June 26, 1939, in Leonardtown, MD to the late William Paul Russell, and Sarah Elizabeth Russell (Mattingly).

Bob grew up in Mechanicsville and Abell, MD with his twin brother Bill Russell. He attended St. Mary's Academy and graduated from Ryken High School in 1957 as part of the first graduating class. He continued his education at the University of Maryland earning a B.S. and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering. Bob began his career through the Patuxent Plan Program as an Engineering trainee at Patuxent River, MD. Bob held many senior level positions throughout his career which spanned over 41 years of government service, retiring as the Technical Director of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS). During his federal government career, Bob was appointed to the Advisory Group for Aeronautical Research and Development (AGARD) under the umbrella of NATO. This brought many travel opportunities for Bob and Ella May. He continued his engineering career by working as a government contractor until recently.

On September 19, 1964, he married Ella May Hammond in Ellicott City, MD. After marrying they resided in Abell, MD for nearly 60 years before Ella May preceded him in death on June 26, 2023. Bob and Ella May were blessed with three children whom they adored. They enjoyed traveling together visiting numerous European countries. They also enjoyed travelling within the U.S., especially to the Homestead in Hot Springs, VA which they did annually and to their condo in North Myrtle Beach, SC with their children and grandchildren. Bob was an avid golfer with a standing Saturday tee time at Breton Bay Golf & Country Club. He loved to talk about his four grandchildren and was very proud of them.

He was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue where he served as a lector and a Eucharistic Minister. Bob served numerous organizations in St. Mary's County including, MetCom, Cedar Point Federal Credit Union, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance, St. Mary's Ryken High School (St. Francis Xavierian Society Pillars of the Community), Seventh District Optimist Club (Charter Member), Knights of Columbus (Past Grand Knight), and the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation (President for four years).

He is survived by his children, Melissa Ann Dicken of Salisbury, MD, Robert Allan Russell, Jr. (Jenny) of Abell, MD, and Andrea Maria Alderson (Mike) of Coltons Point, MD; twin brother, William "Bill" Paul Russell of Leonardtown, MD; four grandchildren, Sean Russell Alderson, Sophie Elizabeth Russell, Andrew Michael Alderson, and Chloe Lynn Russell, and

many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. with prayers at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Angels Catholic Church, 21340 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609. Interment to follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Bushwood, MD.

Pallbearers will be Andrew Alderson, Sean Alderson, Col. Matt Russell (USA, Ret.), Mark Russell, Michael Hammond, and Eric Beitzell. Honorary pall bearers will be members of the Seventh District Optimist Club.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Seventh District Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 7, Avenue, MD 20609, and Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Richard Stockman, 80



Richard Wayne Stockman Sr. "Rick", 80, formerly of Hollywood, MD, passed away to be at peace with the Lord on June 25, 2025, at St. Mary's Nursing Center in

Leonardtown, MD with his family by his side. Born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 11, 1944, to the late Carl Clifford Stockman and Genevieve Virginia (Day) Stockman.

Richard grew up in Essex, Maryland and spent his youth between there and his maternal grandparent's home in Brunswick, MD and his father's family in Frederick, MD. He fondly recalled many family Easter dinners after church at his grandparents' home in Brunswick. He frequently spoke with sentiment recalling sweet memories spent with his family in his early days. He often reminisced on his grandfather Ernie's job on the railroad. His grandmother Mary Ellen's homemade fudge and his paternal grandmother "Babbe's" coconut cake was a favorite of his. He also enjoyed his mother's cooking, baking and homemade root beer. His father Carl taught him how to always have a plan in life which he also learned in Boy Scouts, which served him well in life. He enjoyed attending horse races with his mom and dad in West Virginia. He loved being outdoors and loved his pet Chihuahua that he kept in his pocket as a child. He was proud of buying his first shotgun at 12 years old. As a boy and young man, he enjoyed being a Boy Scout and going pheasant hunting in Western Maryland with his friends. He was a hard worker his whole life and was very independent, often recalling how he saved up enough money to buy his first car. His first job was working at his aunt and uncle's bakery in Frederick, MD in the summer. Later he worked at Dutch Oven bakery

in Baltimore where he met his first wife, Thelma Jean Scurto. He graduated from Kenwood High School in 1964. Richard said his mother encouraged him to finish high school after struggling to cope with the death of his maternal grandmother and he was glad that he followed her advice. His first job after high school was Bethlehem Steel in Baltimore, MD, where he had many stories of his time working there with the dangers of the blast furnace and where he was when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. He had two sons with his first wife, Richard Wayne Stockman Jr. and Carl Vincent Stockman. Later, he met his wife, Carol Anne Sparshott in 1972 at his Aunt Thelma's home in Mt. Rainier, MD, where Carol, a US Postal worker, delivered mail and befriended Richard's aunt. They later married in 1974 and enjoyed road trips to New England and Niagara Falls, Canada. They lived in Hyattsville, MD after they married. He and his wife, Carol, had three daughters (Lara, Rhiana, and Carol). He worked for A&P grocery store in Prince George's County as a meatcutter in the mid to late 70s and then worked for Giant Food stores as a meatcutter for over thirty years, until his retirement. He met many friends there. While working full-time at Giant on Minnesota Ave. Washington, D.C., Richard enjoyed farming part-time on he and his wife's eight-acre Gentlemen's farm in Dentsville, MD where Richard and Carol tried their hands at raising tobacco, farm animals, gardening, and crop farming. Many lasting memories were made there that their children still hold dear to this day including the serenity of playing outside in nature and helping with many chores and hosting fun parties. Richard had a zest for many things, including being a Civil War history buff. Some of his passions were taking trips to Gettysburg and Civil War sites such as Harper's Ferry, WV with his wife and daughters, Petersburg and Antietam with his daughter, Carol, and other locations with his family. He enjoyed storytelling, attending parties with his wife Carol Anne's family, trips to King's Dominion with his wife and kids, travelling with his family to Niagara Falls, CA, Alabama, and Michigan, exploring waterfalls and hiking in the White Mountains of NH, sitting and watching the animals (squirrels, deer, birds, bears, rabbits, moose, etc.), farming/gardening, listening to oldies music, antique cars, especially 1957 Chevy Bel-Airs, watching old western movies, keeping up with the news and weather reports, shopping at antique stores with his daughter Carol, among many more things. He was always curious about knowing and exploring. But most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family; wife, children, grandchildren and helping his friends and neighbors. Richard will be remembered for his hard work and devotion to his family, his zest for life, his sense of humor, and his generous, warm and kind spirit to others. Life was not easy for him, but nonetheless he persisted, and his faith became stronger in God through many hardships in his life.

In addition to his parents, Richard is predeceased by his wife, Carol Anne (Sparshott) Stockman, his son, Carl Vincent Stockman.



In Remembrance

Mother and Father-in-law, Isabelle Anne Nivens and Paul Frank Nivens. Brother-In-Law Robert Emery Sparshott Jr. He is survived by one son, Richard Wayne Stockman Jr., of Essex, MD, his daughters, Lara Hood (Brandon) of Lusby, MD, Rhiana Haney (Logan) of Tall Timbers, MD and Carol Stockman-Quade (Chris) of Ridge, MD. He is also survived by thirteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One sister, Brenda Jean Evans of Sharpsburg, MD. Pallbearers were Chris Quade, Brandon Hood, Logan Haney, and Mason Hood. Honorary pallbearers are his daughters, Carol, Rhiana, and Lara. A graveside service was held on July 1, 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Cemetery in Newtowne Neck, MD. Memorial donations can be made to the Dementia Society of America.

Martha Henley, 96



Martha Greene Henley, 96, went Home to be with her Lord on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at Medstar St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, MD. Born June 15, 1929

in Linville, NC to Arl and Myrtle Greene, Martha was the 5th child of 10 and eldest daughter. She spent her early years helping her mother with her younger siblings and the daily chores of keeping a home. After graduating from high school, Martha attended Crossnore Business/Secretarial School and completed her studies there as well. On February 17, 1951, Martha married her life-long friend, Jim Henley, at the Evangelical Methodist Church in Linville, NC.

After marrying, they moved to Lexington Park, MD where Jim had a job at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. While their daughters were young, Martha stayed home with them. When the girls went to school Martha followed and worked as the Secretary of Hollywood Elementary School for 25 years until her retirement. Martha was an incredibly devoted wife, she spoiled Jim and they enjoyed 66 years of marriage.

Martha remained a "mountain girl" throughout her life. She and Jim had a home in the mountains where they would spend their summers. Martha continued her summer visits every year through 2024, she enjoyed going home and being near her siblings, nieces and nephews during her visits. Family was of the utmost importance to Martha; she loved having a house full of family and always made sure there was plenty of food to be eaten. The whole family would travel to White Lake, NC for a week every summer, even though swimming and lake activities were not things she was partial to she loved watching the grandkids play, swim, and ski. Martha enjoyed watching NASCAR, gardening, participating in church activities, and watching Everybody Loves Raymond in the evenings. Going to get her nails done was something she loved to do, even when getting around was hard later in her life.

Martha leaves behind her daughters

Linda Thompson (Jerry), Brenda Henley, Jean Currin (Guy), and Gayle Allen; her grandchildren Jamey Thompson (Kristin), Jeri Lynne Porter (Steve), Todd Currin (Natasha), Tiffany Abbott (Chad), Mandy Wohlfeil (Jake), and Jonnie Chesser (Adam); great-grandchildren Brooke, Max, Jesse, Tatum, Brynn, Tucker, Daisy, Beau, Violet, Laney, Taryn, Latelle, Ryder, and Rowan; her sister Rosa Hartley (Jay), many nieces and nephews, and many others who thought of her as a second mother.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jim, her parents, 8 of her siblings, and her sweet cat, Penny-Kitty.

Pall Bearers will be Jamey Thompson, Steve Porter, Adam Chesser, Todd Currin, Chad Abbott, and Jake Wohlfeil.

Funeral services will be handled by Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD and Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home in Newland, NC. Services will be held at the Linville Evangelical Methodist Church and officiated by Pastor Phillip Greene and Pastor Phillip Carver. Interment will be at Tanglewood Cemetery in Linville, NC.

Donations can be made to the Linville Evangelical Methodist Church's building fund in memory of Martha Henley at 384 W 3rd Street, Linville, NC 28646.

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Jimmy Spence, 86



James William "Jimmy" Spence, Sr., 86 of Bushwood, Maryland, passed away peacefully on June 29, 2025 in Leonardtown, Maryland surrounded by his

loving family. Jimmy was born on June 14, 1939, at Ioka Farm in Ellicott City, MD. He was the oldest son of the late George William Spence, Jr. and the late Frances Cecelia Lord Spence.

Jimmy is predeceased by his wife Eleanor Joyce Spence, whom he married at Holy Angels Church in Avenue, MD, on November 28, 1959. They celebrated over 64 years of marriage prior to her passing on October 28, 2024. He is also predeceased by his sister Margaret Elizabeth "Peggy" Guy (Jackie, deceased). He is survived by his three sons, James William "Jay" Spence, Jr. of Bushwood, MD, Jon Robert Spence (Jessica) of Chaptico, MD, and Jerel Hodges "Jerry" Spence of Bushwood, MD. Jimmy is also survived by his grandchildren, Jacob William Spence and Jenna Renee Spence, both of Chaptico, MD. He is survived by his siblings, Robert Henry "Harry" Spence (Maxine, deceased), Alan Thomas Spence (Jackie), and by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jimmy lived in Ellicott City, MD until the summer of 1946, when his family moved to Scotland, MD. The family later moved to St. Inigo, MD and then to Budds Creek, MD in 1950. He graduated from Margeret

Brent High School in 1957. He and his wife moved to Suitland, MD in 1959 and Jimmy worked briefly for the FBI. In 1960, he and his wife returned to St. Mary's County. After serving in the National Guard, he worked for Peoples Life Insurance Company and in later years, he worked for the State of Maryland, retiring as the Supervisor of Assessments and Taxation for St. Mary's County in 2003.

Jimmy played several sports while in high school. His love for baseball led him to play for the Old Gum baseball team. He was a Baltimore Orioles and a Baltimore Colts fan. He enjoyed listening to classic country and bluegrass music. Jimmy enjoyed working with horses from an early age, and in later years he raised Appaloosa horses, and he enjoyed participating in horse shows. As his family grew, he gave up his hobbies to focus on raising his children and providing them with a Catholic education. He dedicated a large portion of his life to serving the community and he was very committed to the support of Sacred Heart Church, Bushwood, and Holy Angels Sacred Heart School. Through the years, he participated in numerous committees in support of the community, the church and the school.

The family would like to thank MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital Stroke Team, and St. Mary's Nursing and Rehab Center for their compassionate care of Jimmy and his family

during this difficult time.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, July 6, 2025, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM, with prayers recited at 7:00PM, in the Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Church, Bushwood, MD, on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 10:00AM, with Father Kevin Fields officiating. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jacob Spence, Craig Spence, John Guy, Tom Hodges, Dale Williams, and Patrick Goode.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jenna Spence, Annette Hodges and Katherine Perry Mahon.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in the name of James William Spence, Sr. to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 23080 Maddox Road, Bushwood, MD 20618 or to the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad, 21530 Colton Point Road, Avenue, MD 20609 or to the St. Mary's Nursing Center, 21585 Peabody Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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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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, Jul 3

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Road; Avenue 7 p.m.

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

Sat, Jul 5

Sea Glass and Beach Crafts Maker's Market

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons
9am-2pm

Our wildly popular beach-themed market is back! Join us for a celebration of summer and all things sea glass and beachy! Browse more than 70 booths featuring an exceptional variety of handmade, homemade, and homegrown products! If you love sun and sand, this is the market for you! Food trucks: The Jamaican Grill, Cousins Maine Lobster, She's Fresh Lemonade. Live music with Bethany Yeh

Open House

Drayden African American Schoolhouse
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-

room African American schoolhouses the first and third Saturday of each month from April to October. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.

TEXAS Holdem Tourney

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
2-11 p.m.

\$120.00 Buy in (includes Bounty). Starting Stack 20,000 chips. Registration opens at 1pm. There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break. Blind levels will change every 20 minutes

Food available for additional cost. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry. For more information please contact James Dean: 240-577-0828 or jdeanjunior@gmail.com

Wed, Jul 9

Sunny Science: Summer Workshop

Historic St. Mary's City
Wednesday, July 9
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Ages 12-16. Explore how the power of the sun shaped science in the 17th century! Teens will experiment with sun dials, try maritime navigation tools, and learn about astronomer Arthur Storer. \$20 / \$15 mem-

bers. Weather dependent.

Darius Rucker Live

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$80 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Thu, Jul 10

A Jazz at Sunset Affair on the Potomac

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum
6-9 p.m.

Start off the 25th anniversary of the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival with this elegant evening at Piney Point Lighthouse. Relax to the sounds of live music from Higher Standards while enjoying the summer breeze off the Potomac River, wine from local wineries, seafood Hors d'oeuvres and dancing under the stars at Piney Point Lighthouse.

Be part of something special: This exclusive fundraiser supports the St. Mary's County Museums, helping preserve local history and fund vital educational programs in Southern Maryland. Tickets: \$85 per person or \$160 per couple (21 and older only). Your ticket includes delicious food, live music and two complimentary glasses of wine. JazzAtSunset2025.eventbrite.com

Upcoming

Sharkfest!

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, July 12
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate all things shark at the CMM! Live sharks will be featured in the Corbin Nature Pavilion, along with a full day of jaw-some fun. Get hands-on with shark-themed crafts and explore education stations with activities like shark skin exploration, a shark fin puzzle, and even a shark parasite investigation. Discover amazing "sharktoids" and examine evidence of prehistoric sharks. Food and drinks will be available for purchase on site. Please note: Strollers and carts are not permitted inside the museum during SHARKFEST. Capacity is limited—advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended for non-members.

Judged: Stories of Colonial Justice (and Injustice)

Historic St. Mary's City
Friday, July 11
5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Ages 18 plus. What does justice look like—and who gets to define it? This adults-only walking tour brings real 17th-century court cases to life, tackling topics like enslavement, interracial relationships, and public scandal. Ends with a dramatic outdoor court hearing. \$20 / \$15 members. Preregistration required: 301-994-4372.



ST. MARY'S COUNTY
Library
UPCOMING EVENTS

Libraries Closed for Independence Day

- All locations of St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.
- All locations will be open regular business hours on Saturday, July 5.

St. Clement's Island Then & Now

- Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St. Mary's County Museums, will give a special seminar on our local history. Maryland's story begins on St. Clement's Island, where the Ark and the Dove landed in March 1634. The Island then changed hands a number of times until its final designation as a state park. This talk will cover the

Island's role in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World Wars I & II, and will include highlights of the colorful history of the Blackstone Lighthouse, including its destruction in the 1950's, and its eventual reconstruction in 2008. This event is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebration, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding. Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, July 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Migration of Flavor: Spices on the Move Series

Delve into the rich, flavorful world of herbs and spices! Lexington Park Library

on Wednesday, July 9 from 6 - 7 p.m. Explore the fascinating world of herbs and spices, celebrated for their cultural significance and ability to enhance dishes. Dr. Deon Littles from the University of Maryland Extension will take you on a flavorful journey to discover new inspirations for your culinary adventures! Her expertise will deepen your understanding of these essential ingredients. World on the Move: 250,00 years of Human Migration was developed by the American Anthropological Association, together with the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and Smithsonian Exhibits. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Landscaping for Cleaner Waterways

From rain barrels and downspout redirecting to rain gardens and no-mow lawns, there is a lot the average household can do to help keep our waterways clean! Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, July 9 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Join Caroline DiGiovanni, Watershed Restoration Educator for the University of Maryland Extension, and learn how our home landscapes can help to pro-

tect water resources. We will explore our connection to local and regional waterways and learn about the many ways we can protect water resources without even leaving the backyard! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Cricut Design Space

Want to get better at using Cricut Design Space? It's the software needed to use Cricut cutting machines. Learn to create your own designs and then visit the Makerspace to complete a custom project. Leonardtown Library Computer Lab, Thursday, July 10 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Learn the basics of Cricut Design Space, the software used to create endlessly customizable designs with the Cricut Maker. You'll set up your own free Cricut Design Space account (or log in to your existing account) and then be guided through creating your own designs. If time allows, we'll visit the Makerspace to cut your designs. No experience necessary. Some crafting materials will be available but you are welcome to bring your own project materials as well. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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, Jul 3

Awful Artworks: Trashion Show

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

Have you ever looked at an art project and thought “I could do that,” but you in fact could not do that? Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! This Awful Artworks will be all about creating a piece of wearable art with recycled materials! Join us for an exploration of art in all its forms! We will provide the art materials (if you have art supplies gathering dust, bring them to share), you provide the creativity! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jul 4

First Fossil Friday!

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

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

Fox 5 Zip Trip

Solomons Riverwalk and Pavilion
14488 Solomons Island Rd
7-10 a.m.

Join us at the pavilion Meet adoptable dogs from the Humane Society of Calvert County. Meet the Fox 5 Zip Trip crew and discover Solomons Island

Humane Society Dinner at Plaza Mexico

9200 Bay Ave., North Beach
4-8 p.m.

Come support the Humane Society of Calvert County by letting Plaza Mexico cook tonight. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society.

Sat, Jul 5

Sea Glass and Beach Crafts Maker's Market

Annamarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons,
9am-2pm

Our wildly popular beach-themed market is back! Join us for a celebration of summer and all things sea glass and beachy! Browse more than 70 booths featuring an exceptional variety of handmade, homemade, and homegrown products! If you love sun and sand, this is the market for you! Food trucks: The Jamaican Grill, Cousins Maine Lobster, She's Fresh Lemonade. Live music with Bethany Yeh.

Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way, 12-3 p.m.

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jul 7

Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center
1-2 p.m.

Let's break the mold as we discuss Bonnie Garmus's wildly popular “Lessons in Chemistry.” One part culinary science and one part women's history folded into the 1960s makes a delicious and effervescent tale of girl power sprinkled with equal parts humor and grit. 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Jul 8

SEEDCO - Maryland Health Connection

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Got health coverage? SEEDCO can help you get it! Maryland Health Connection offers no-cost and low-cost health insurance. Second Tuesdays of the month. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Social Security: Retirement Information

Calvert Library (Zoom)
6:30-7:30 p.m.

We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn more about retirement eligibility requirements, family benefits, options, and the application process. Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Jul 9

Calvert County Veteran Services Program

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

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

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>

Darius Rucker Live

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and bev-

erage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$80 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce Development Specialists, Veterans Services, Senior Community Service Employment, and Justice Involved program representatives, along with Health Department staff will be available to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
1-4 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
3-4 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer's Association. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour

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

Come join us for a fun hour of bilingual conversation! 30 minutes in English and 30 minutes in Spanish! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636

Shark Teeth Minus the Serrations

Calvert Cliffs Discoveries Disprove Theories



Left, modern great white shark serrated tooth (*Carcharodon carcharias*) shown here with a fossil white shark unserrated tooth (*Carcharodon hastalis*) to the same scale.

The large triangular teeth of modern great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) are known for their boldly serrated cutting edges. As adults, their diet includes marine mammals (like seals and dolphins). The appeal for preying on marine mammals is the energy-rich fats in their bodies. The serrated steak-knife-like teeth help the sharks cut apart their prey into bite-size pieces.

However, 15 million years ago, ancestors of the great white, a Miocene Epoch shark known as *Carcharodon hastalis*, had comparably sized teeth, which lacked serrations. Between then and now, an intermediate species in this lineage (*Carcharodon hubbelli*, also now extinct) evolved teeth that were lightly serrated, prior to the advent of the boldly serrated teeth in the modern great whites.

It was long assumed that because the teeth of the extinct Miocene Epoch white shark *Carcharodon hastalis* lacked serrations, they only fed on smaller prey like fish. It was thought that the lack of serrations precluded them from eating marine mammals. Two new fossil discoveries from along the world-famous fossil-rich Calvert Cliffs prove otherwise. Two fossilized vertebrae, one from a small dolphin and the other probably from a small baleen whale, preserve the pointed crowns of two unserrated teeth embedded in these bones. These sharks were feeding on dolphins and whales before serrations evolved in this lineage of white sharks. These fossils prove that feeding on marine mammals predates the evolution of a serrated tooth. In fact, that act of feeding on large prey using their unserrated teeth may well have spurred the evolution of a more efficient cutting tooth through the evolution of a serrated cutting edge.

These shark-teeth-embedded vertebrae are described in a new publication anchored by Calvert Marine Museum Curator of Paleontology, Dr. Stephen J. Godfrey. The team also included representation from St. Mary's College of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University Materials Science and Engineering (where one of the fossilized vertebrae was CT-scanned), and syGlass (utilizing their virtual reality engine to process and 3D visualize the embedded fossil shark tooth).

Explore how the prehistoric past, natural environments, and maritime heritage come to life and tell a unique story of the Chesapeake Bay. The Calvert Marine Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$11 for adults; \$9 for seniors, military, and veterans with valid I.D., AAA and AARP members; \$6 for children ages 5 - 12; children under 5 and museum members are admitted free. Proud participant in Museums for ALL. For more information about the museum, upcoming events, or membership, visit the website at www.calvertmarinemuseum.com or call 410-326-2042. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

Press Release from Calvert Marine Museum

County Announces July 4th Schedule

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces county offices will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025, in observance of Independence Day. In addition:

- The Appeal Solid Waste Facility, which includes the landfill and transfer station, and all county customer convenience centers will be closed on Friday, July 4.
- The Solomons Septage Receiving Facility will be closed on Friday, July 4.
- The Water & Sewerage billing and customer service office will be closed on Friday, July 4.
- Calvert County's senior centers will be closed, and Meals on Wheels will not be delivered on Friday, July 4. Meal delivery is scheduled to resume on Monday, July 7.
- All community centers will be closed on Friday, July 4.
- There will be no county bus service on Friday, July 4. Regular service will resume on Monday, July 7.
- Calvert Library locations will be closed Friday, July 4, and will reopen at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 5. Downloadable materials and virtual services are available 24/7 at CalvertLibrary.info.
- The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store will be open with normal hours on Friday, July 4.
- Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts

Center will be closed on Friday, July 4.

- The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and Animal Control Division will be closed on Friday, July 4. Animal Control Officers will be available for emergencies at 410-535-3491.
- Chesapeake Hills Golf Course will be open on Friday, July 4.
- All recreation parks, including Dunkirk District Park, Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park, Hallowing Point Park and Cove Point Park, will be open with normal hours on Friday, July 4.
- Flag Ponds Nature Park and Kings Landing Park will be open with extended summer hours from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the last entry into both parks will be at 5 p.m. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and trails will be open with extended summer hours from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., but the nature center remains closed due to fire damage. For a full nature park schedule visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/NaturalResources.
- Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center, Cove Point Pool and Kings Landing Pool will be closing at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 4.
- Breezy Point Beach will be open with extended holiday hours on Friday, July 4, from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Press release from Calvert County government.

Agricultural Lending Library Launched

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, has created an Agricultural Lending Library for the Southern Maryland community to utilize. The launch date of the library was July 1.

The Lending Library is open to the public to check out books on agriculture for a two-week borrow period. The books found in SMADC's Lending Library are generally not found in the local county libraries and cover a wide variety of agricultural production and business topics.

Who should participate?

Anyone that is looking to expand their knowledge of agriculture.

Participants can browse library book titles and a short book bio by viewing the flipping book presented on SMADC's website at www.smadc.com.

To request a book, participants will need to fill out the "Book Request" form and wait for SMADC staff to approve their request and pick up time. Pick-up and drop-off times will be from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday at the SMADC offices located at 15045 Burnt Store Road, Hughesville, MD.

"We're excited to debut the SMADC Lending Library," says Shelby Watson-

Hampton, SMADC Director. "By offering free access to specialized agricultural books the library will directly support learning and innovation in a cost efficient manner for participants."

Please note that participants should be diligent with due dates and responsible with borrowed property. Book borrowers will receive email reminders close to return dates to ensure that all books are back on time. If books are not returned on time or are severely damaged, the borrower will be financially responsible for book replacements. Upon book return, SMADC staff will mark off the book as returned and assess for any damages.

View the Lending Library page here: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/105108956/>

About the Lending Library:

With the guidance of staff, the first class of SMADC Summer Interns was tasked with putting the Lending Library together. While working as a team, they created all documents, organized books, and planned the website layout.

The Summer Intern Class & the Lending Library are sponsored by RMC grant funds. For more information contact SMADC at info@smadc.com.

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of June 16, 2025 – June 22, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,981 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 71
- Disorderly: 21
- Domestic: 23
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 42
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 909
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 32
- Traffic Complaints: 84
- Traffic Stops: 378
- 911 Hang-Ups: 161
- ARRESTS: 38



Andre Jaijon Grice

CDS Violation: 25-50234

On June 18, 2025, Cpl. Kelly conducted a traffic stop for an equipment violation in the area of Rt. 4 and Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick. Senior Deputy Idol and

his K9 partner, Benjie, responded to assist. K9 Benjie performed a sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the presence of narcotics. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a silicone container with a white powdery substance inside suspected to be cocaine. The passenger, identified as **Andre Jaijon Grice**, 28, of Prince Frederick, was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Grice was charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

CDS Violation: 25-51642 On June 22, 2025, at approximately 10:59 p.m., Deputy Campbell observed two individuals trespassing on the playground equipment at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, located at 25 Church Street in Prince Frederick. Contact



Corey Cornell Thomas

was made with one of the individuals, identified as **Corey Cornell Thomas**, 44, of Prince Frederick, who was observed pulling items from his front pocket. Thomas was advised of the multiple 'No Trespassing' signs posted on the property and subsequently taken into custody. A search incident to arrest revealed two plastic tear-offs containing a trace amount of suspected cocaine, as well as a metal improvised smoking device containing burnt residue and a burnt copper filter. Thomas was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS Possession-Not Cannabis, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, and Trespassing: Posted Property.

Motor Vehicle Tampering: 25-50175 On June 17, 2025, DFC McCourt responded to the 1200 block of White Sands Drive in Lusby for a reported motor vehicle tampering. The complainant advised that around 3 a.m., an unknown suspect was captured on home security surveillance attempting to enter two vehicles parked outside the residence. At this time, nothing appears to have been taken. The case remains under investigation.

Property Destruction: 25-51231 On June 21, 2025, DFC R. Jones responded to Driftwood Beach, located at 995 Beach Drive in Lusby, for a report of property destruction. The complainant advised that between midnight and 5 a.m., unknown suspects damaged several picnic tables at the beach. The investigation determined that three picnic tables had been damaged and three were missing. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$1,050, with an

additional \$1,050 in stolen property.

Theft: 25-50083 On June 17, 2025, Deputy Hill responded to the 3400 block of Hance Road in Port Republic, for the reported theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) stole the tag off his trailer parked at the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$60.



William Henry Barcliff III

Theft: 25-50811 On June 19, 2025, DFC Crum responded to Walmart, located at 150 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that **William Henry Barcliff III**, 38 of Lusby, had entered the store on June 12, 2025, and exited with multiple items without rendering payment. Store management requested Barcliff be trespassed from the property. On June 19, Barcliff was located inside the same Walmart. As deputies attempted to make contact, he fled on foot through the store. Following a brief foot pursuit, Barcliff actively resisted arrest. A search of his person revealed a pack of Sylvania Longlife light bulbs, valued at under \$100. Barcliff was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. He was charged with Theft: Less Than \$100 (Shoplifting), Obstruction and Hindering, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order, and Disorderly Conduct.

Theft: 25-50472 On June 18, 2025, DFC Grierson responded to Port of Call Wine and Spirits, located at 14032 H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby, for a reported theft. The complainant advised that an unknown male had stolen a bottle of tequila and fled the store without making payment. The suspect



Howard Theodore Bright Jr.

was observed entering a gray sedan and crossing the bridge into St. Mary's County. The incident was captured on store surveillance, and the suspect was later identified as **Howard Theodore Bright Jr.**, 30, of Prince Frederick. Bright was located on June 22 and served a criminal summons, charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

Theft: 25-50982 On June 20, 2025, Deputy Grabill responded to the District 1 office located at 10500 Southern Maryland Blvd in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant reported that unknown suspect(s) stolen a STIHL weed eater from the carport located at the residence in the 11000 block of lakeview Drive in Dunkirk. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$200.

Theft: 25-51353 On June 22, 2025, DFC Fleenor responded to the 7800 block of Eagle View Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) stole the front license plate and bracket from the vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.

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

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

Woman Convicted of Child Neglect, Impaired Driving

A Calvert County jury On June 18 convicted Brandy Leigh Leagan, 31, of Prince Frederick, of two counts of child neglect and impaired driving. The jury deliberated approximately 15 minutes.

On the evening of January 21, 2024, Leagan left the Lord Calvert bowling alley with her two minor children in the back seat. After turning onto MD Route 4, Leagan crashed into a guardrail. She was determined

to be impaired by alcohol. Fortunately, no one was injured in the accident.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 11, 2025, before the Honorable Mark S. Chandlee. Each count of child neglect carries a maximum punishment of 5 years imprisonment and/or a \$5,000 fine.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Haris Sentenced to Life Imprisonment

Thomas Eugene Harris, II has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the 2024 murder of Shaquille Braxton. The sentence was imposed on June 20, 2025, by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

On February 15, 2024, the victim was on his way to deliver a Valentine's Day present to his child in Prince Frederick. Harris, who was in a relationship with the child's mother, stalked the victim and then stabbed him multiple times. The victim succumbed to his injuries. Harris fled to Prince George's County and disposed of the murder weapon. He subsequently turned himself in to Calvert County detectives.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney April N. Brown.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney



Thomas Eugene Harris, II

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Star Spangled Weekend on Tap for Calvert

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

There are multiple opportunities to enjoy fireworks displays in Calvert County this Independence Day weekend.

Solomons

The annual Independence Day extravaganza on July 4in Solomons includes fireworks beginning at 9:15 preceded with a full day of activities.

Solomons Business Association (SBA) released the event schedule for this year's 4th of July activities on Solomons Island.

Primary funding for the annual 4th of July Fireworks is provided by Calvert County government through a grant from the Department of Economic Development. Additional funds have been donated by a group of generous local businesses.

All events are FREE and open to the public. Updates are posted at www.Facebook.com/groups/SaveSolomonsFireworks

Schedule of Events for the day of July 4th Fireworks

- Flag Raising Ceremony
10:00 a.m.
Watermen's Memorial at entrance to Solomons Island
- Children's Bike Parade
Registration at 10:45 a.m., parade starts at 11 a.m.
Our Lady Star of the Sea Parking Lot, Alexander Lane, Solomons
- 1st Maryland Regiment Colonial Reenactors Encampment
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Corbin Nature Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum
- Boat Parade
12 Noon

Begins in Back Creek and proceeds to Patuxent River past the Riverside Boardwalk

- FREE Live Concert: SOCIAL
7 p.m.
Boardwalk Pavilion
- Fireworks
9:15 pm
Patuxent River in front of the Riverside Boardwalk

There is limited Street Parking on and around the island with overflow parking at Glascock Field for \$5 starting at 3 pm. 100 percent of the proceeds from parking at Glascock Field will be donated to a charity.

Vehicular traffic on the island will be restricted. Parking will be available in the grassy area of Glascock Field, proceeds go to Boy Scout Troop 451 and SBA Fireworks. Thanks to the Glascock Family for the generous use of the field. Please park in designated areas only; please respect private property. Cost of Parking in Glascock field \$5.

Fireworks by Digital Lightning, barge platforms by Ward's Marine. Thanks to Calvert Marina for hosting the barge during the extensive loading process.

Chesapeake Beach

The Town of Chesapeake Beach Fireworks Display is scheduled for Thursday, July 3, 2025. Weather and Bay Conditions permitting, the fireworks will be set off from barges docking in the Bay just beyond Veteran's Memorial Park. The fireworks are visible at various locations around the center of Town. Join us at Kellam's Field for food trucks, sweet treats, music, family activities and more, starting at 5pm!

The fireworks can also be viewed from the North Beach boardwalk.

Traffic Plan for Twin Beaches on the

night of Fireworks: The traffic plan is set up to eliminate all left-hand turns on a portion of Route 261 going through the Twin Beaches, eliminating the need to stop traffic randomly and enabling traffic to flow with minimal stopping. The centerline of Route 261 will be blocked with delineation devices that will prohibit vehicles from making U-turns. Traffic north of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make right turns and exit left on 5th Street to Boyd's Turn Road to Route 260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must make a right turn and exit on 27th Street to G Street to Route 260. Traffic south of Route 260 along Route 261 on the east side of Route 261 must make a right turn and must turn left onto Route 260. Traffic on the west side of Route 261 must turn right and continue along Route 261 to Summer City Blvd or continue south to Ponds Wood Road and proceed to Maryland Route 4.

Fairgrounds

The Star-Spangled Spectacular will be held at the Calvert County Fairgrounds on July 3 (Rain date: Sunday, July 6) from 4- 1 p.m. Fireworks are after 9 p.m.

Join us at the Calvert County Fairgrounds for an unforgettable Independence Day Celebration on Thursday, July 3rd, 2025 filled with Fun, Food, and Festivities for the whole family! This free community event offers live music, delicious local food vendors, exciting kids activities, commercial and artisan vendors, and a Spectacular Fireworks Display to end the evening! Bring your friends, family, and neighbors as we honor our nations spirit of freedom and unity! Oh, and don't forget to bring your lawn chair, too!

FAQs:

- *What time do the gates open? Is there a cost of admission?* Gates open at 4pm on July 3rd. Admission is FREE!
- *Can I bring a lawn chair(s)?* YES! Lawn Chairs/Blankets are encouraged- However, tents and umbrellas are prohibited.
- *Can I bring my pet?* Pets are not permitted at this event. Service animals only.
- *What time will activities/entertainment begin?* All Vendors will open and Entertainment will begin at 4pm.
- *Will there be Kids Activities?* Yes! Face Painting, Air Brush Tattoos, Pony Rides, Inflatables and More? (\$ may apply depending on activity)
- *Can I bring in outside food or drinks?* No outdoor food or drinks are allowed.
- *When will the fireworks start?* Fireworks will begin at dusk. After 9pm.
- *Is there a Rain Date?* Yes, July 6th — however, every effort will be made to keep original date.

Prohibited items:

- Firearms or weapons
- Animals other than service animals
- Alcoholic beverages
- Glass containers
- Illegal drugs or substances
- Bullhorns or noise makers
- Personal fireworks
- Tents or oversized umbrellas
- Drones or unmanned ariel vehicles
- Outside food or beverages
- Large bags
- Any items deemed as posing a threat to the safe enjoyment of the event shall be prohibited.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

North Beach Councilmember Elected MML Vice President

North Beach Councilmember Mickey Hummel has been elected as a vice president of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and Mayor Mike Benton has been elected as a Member at-Large.

The league represents 161 Maryland local governments. The 2025-2026 Board of Directors were inducted was part of the 2025 MML Summer Conference held at the Ocean City Convention Center, with 1,500 attendees from 121 Maryland cities having access to more than 75 workshops and nearly 300 community stakeholders in the nationally awarded exhibit hall.

Mayor Todd Nock of Pocomoke City was elected MML president.

"This year, the Maryland Municipal League will be in your communities with you," said President Nock. "I've said it before—I don't just want to come when you polish statues and cut ribbons. I want to be there when you're hosting community events, when you're connecting with residents, and when you're doing the hard work that truly matters."

"I look forward to another successful year

under President Todd Nock's leadership. His thoughtful approach and commitment to Maryland's municipalities will serve us well," said MML CEO Theresa Kuhns. "I'm confident we'll make meaningful progress together on the issues that matter most to our communities."

MML's new slate of Board of Directors are as follows:

- President: Mayor Todd Nock, Pocomoke City
- President-Elect: Mayor Takisha James, Bladensburg
- Immediate Past President: Mayor Michael O'Connor, Frederick, *ex officio*

District Vice Presidents:

- District 1: D'Shawn Doughty, Councilmember, Salisbury
- District 2: James Cook, Mayor, Rock Hall
- District 3: Brandon Scott, Mayor, Baltimore
- District 4 : Mickey Hummel, Councilmember, North Beach
- District 5: Monique Ashton, Mayor,

Rockville

- District 6: Wayne Creadick, Councilmember, Myersville
- District 7: Kevin Grove, Commissioner, Frostburg
- District 8: Howard Long, Mayor, Boonsboro
- District 9: Edouard Haba, Councilmember, Hyattsville
- District 10: Travis Marion, Mayor, Rising Sun
- District 11L: Christopher Nevin, Mayor, Hampstead

Members-At-Large:

- Jud Ashman, Mayor, Gaithersburg
- Mona Becker, Mayor, Westminster
- Celina Benitez, Mayor, Mount Rainier
- Mike Benton, Mayor, North Beach
- Nathan Brown, Mayor, Brunswick
- Jeannine James, Mayor, La Plata
- Emmett Jordan, Mayor, Greenbelt
- Abby McNinch, Mayor, Denton
- Raymond Morris, Mayor, Cumberland
- David Unglesbee, Councilmember, Hampstead.

North Beach Attorney Elissa Levan, who



MML board

also represents Bowie, Westminster, Church Hill and Mount Rainier, was elected municipal attorneys representative.

Press Release from MML



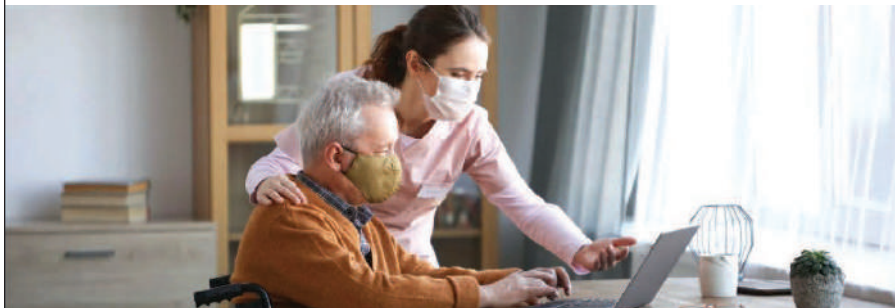
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For Young Volunteer Paramedic, It's a Life Balance

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

With the county becoming more dependent on paid career paramedics for the rescue squads up and down the county, there still is a new breed of volunteer coming along to continue that Calvert tradition.

Brian Platz is one of them. At 19 years of age, the Calvert County native and Patuxent High School graduate is juggling a full-time career as a Calvert County correctional officer with volunteering about 64 to 70 hours a month at the Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, the county's busiest squad.

His hours have varied lately because he just completed the academy for his full-time job. But even at his young age, Platz has reached the rank of sergeant, a testament to the appreciation of his dedication by his peers.

Does Platz have aspirations of becoming a paid EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)?

He told The County Times, "No, I like to do it for free. I get more out of it, I think, knowing that it's not my job."

He took the law enforcement curriculum at the Career and Technology Academy (CTA) and had that as his career path. He had a role model: his father had been Capital Police officer for 24 years.

At CTA, he said, "My teachers were awesome. I couldn't have asked for anything else from it."

It was his sister, who is a firefighter with the North Beach VFD&RS, who pushed him toward the parallel volunteer path. "She signed me up to join Solomons and then she told me that really I had to, so she kind of told me what to do. She kind of pushed me into it, and that was three years ago. And since then, I've just been going through it." That included the extensive training required to be an EMT.

He said it worked out better than he expected. "It's like I have a second family now. I always have somewhere to go. Always have something. I didn't expect it to be like that."

He started at Solomons riding as an aide,

"which is like a third on the ambulance. They just helped crews help patients. They're just not certified, so they have to be with another certified person to do anything."

As to the difficulty of filling the ranks with volunteers, Platz admitted, "I would say people are having to work a whole lot more. So, there's that, and sometimes with EMS, things aren't as fun. I would say (with) fire, sometimes there's a little more excitement."

He added, "There's excitement in both, but people get more excited with firefighting than they do riding the ambulance."

There are some dull times between calls. He said, "We do a lot as a group. So if we're not doing anything, we can be training, we could be playing anything. like card games, watching TV, cleaning. It does get boring in between, but there's always something to do."

And there's always a call in every shift at the busy Solomons department.

He said if someone is intrigued about volunteer service, but isn't sure, "They could always apply, then try it out for a little bit. And if they don't like it, they don't have to keep doing it because it's not their career, or they can always sign up to do a ride along. And in that you'll most likely be able to tell if that's something you want to do or not."

For him, the rewards are "a lot of pride and knowing you're being able to help your community. It definitely keeps you humble."

And it's far from easy as they deal with people who may be having the worst day of their life.

"They're calling you to help and you have to help them," and sometimes they don't even appreciate it.

The biggest headache for EMTs are people who call for things that aren't an emergency.

But it's always a learning experience. And that pride in doing the job and learning to do it better the next time.

As to the volunteerism's impact on his personal life, he explained, "It's more of like a priority. If I'm not at work, I'm with my girlfriend, and if I'm not with my girlfriend, I'm at the firehouse."

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School Board Approves Budget Amid Controversy

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

On June 30, with just hours remaining before the end of the fiscal year, the Calvert County Board of Education adopted their budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. The adoption was unanimous but not without angst.

The special meeting was called because the board said at their June 12 meeting that they did not have enough information to make their decision. Yet on June 30, board member Melissa Goshorn continuously insisted she still lacked information. The meeting was interrupted several times to give Chief Financial Officer Scott Johnson a chance to retrieve additional information and send it to the board.

The issue was over the items that were removed because of the \$1.7 million but by the county commissioners in their final vote. The cut reflected the reduction by the state in the minimum amount required from the county to support the school system, known as the Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

Johnson insisted that no programs or personnel were cut and that the changes were simply adjustments from previously stated amounts, such as the number of staff who had resigned or retired, freeing up some budget monies.

He explained, "The teacher retirement costs; that's shifting. That's going to be borne by the county. That's a \$1.25 million reduction in expenditures in the budget being proposed this evening. The next biggest reduction is the wage and salary lapse amounts that were included in this budget for

the first time. And then LWOP (leave without pay) saving \$650,000. So, for those three, they total \$2,650,000. Now those were offset by some additional cost increases."

Earlier the board had added some new positions in their budget, including seven new School Resource Officers to provide a full complement to the middle schools. Yet Superintendent Dr. Andraé Townsel, in a query by board member Pal Harrison for an explanation, said that only two were added consistent with a plan agreed to with Sheriff Ricky Cox.

Harrison said, "I would like in the future that if there's a change, that we would bring it back before the board."

But Goshorn was the most persistent critic. She said, "I'm feeling very uneasy about voting on this budget. I feel like we are in a less-than-ideal place, not really understanding how we magically balanced a change of \$1.1 million, not knowing if it is going to negatively impact the school system. It makes me very uneasy, and I know legally the lawyer says we have to pass a budget tonight. And, if I can't get my questions answered, I'm unsure. What safeguards do we have to ensure that this decision isn't negatively impacting our school system?"

Townsel said, "I just want to share that the budget at all times is a living, breathing document. You can come back any month, any board meeting to request to discuss budget at any time, to ensure, as superintendent, the budget that the board approved is not negatively impacting young people or staff. The goal is to be as fiscally responsible as we possibly can. And I do trust that we've done that."

He added, "If you look at just this past fiscal year of everything we've asked the board to approve or to readjust, realign, we've shown an academic return on those investments." He said test data, embargoed for release, will bear that out.

"I'm confident that we have a good budget that can continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning to our young people and also to keep our staff in place so far, at least in this upcoming year," Townsel insisted.

Goshorn said, "One of the things that I continue to question is, we are suggesting a use of \$11.7 million of fund balance. Last year we requested \$25 million. You guys underspent, we're going to see a savings of \$8 million there. So, we spent \$17 million. Obviously, that's not sustainable. We are going to run out of money."

Townsel reminded the board that the situation last year occurred because the state, at the last minute, cut \$22.5 million.

Goshorn said, "So we're just put in this position where we are by law legally required to approve a budget. I do not want to suggest sweeping changes because I don't understand what those changes are going to affect, because I don't have the answers to my questions. I also want to make sure that I'm doing what I am required to do and what everybody is expecting me to do, which is to go through this budget with a fine tooth comb and make sure that we are delivering a school system



School board member Melissa Goshorn

that is going to be good for the people that work here and the students that go here. I know that we have dedicated staff here and I'm not trying to diminish that for one second. I know that we deliver great results. I'm not trying to diminish that at all. I also know that people expect things from us that I don't feel like right now I can deliver. And so, I'm just being put in a really bad position, quite honestly. And that's disappointing."

She did, as did all of the board members, approve the budget.

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County Seeks Input on Cannabis Revenue Investment

The Calvert County Department of Community Resources invites residents of Prince Frederick and Lusby to participate in a community survey open from July 1 through July 31, 2025. The survey will provide insight and guide how local cannabis revenue is invested to benefit these two communities.

Complete the survey or learn more about the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund at: https://engage.zencity.io/calvert-county-md/en/engagements/1a5a5b90-c663-402c-89fb-0a3647af4545?utm_medium=referral

As part of Maryland's legalization of adult-use cannabis, voters approved a law in 2022 establishing the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund (CRRF). This fund dedicates a portion of cannabis sales revenue to communities that were disproportionately impacted by past cannabis prohibition and enforcement policies. The Maryland Office of Social Equity has identified Prince Frederick and Lusby as eligible communities in Calvert County.

Calvert County will receive CRRF funding to support programs and services that

address local needs. The Department of Community Resources is developing a plan to allocate these funds and is seeking direct input from residents to help determine community priorities.

"This is a meaningful opportunity to ensure that the communities most affected by past policies have a voice in how these funds are used," said Jennifer Moreland, director of the Department of Community Resources. "We encourage everyone in Prince Frederick and Lusby to take a few minutes to complete the survey and help shape the future of their neighborhoods."

The survey is brief and confidential. Responses will help guide a local reinvestment strategy that prioritizes equity, impact and long-term sustainability.

For more information, contact the Calvert County Department of Community Resources at 410-535-1600, ext. 8803, or email community.resources@CalvertCountyMd.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government

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“I’M FEELING VERY UNEASY ABOUT VOTING ON THIS BUDGET.”

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER MELISSA GOSHORN



LOCAL 4
School board approves budget despite doubts



LOCAL 6
North Beach Councilmember named municipal league vice president



ON THE COVER
Calvert has lots of options for fireworks

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 3	FRI, JUL 4	SAT, JUL 5	SUN, JUL 6
Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 69°	Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 68°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 88° Lo: 68°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 74°
MON, JUL 7	TUE, JUL 8	WED, JUL 9	THU, JUL 10
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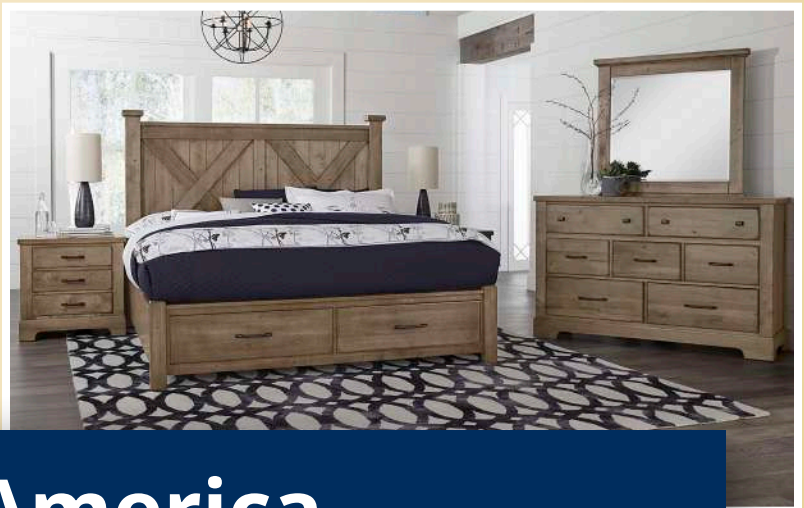
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Despite Controversy**

**Rescue Volunteer
Talks Life Balance**

**Life Sentence Issued
for 2024 Murder**

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