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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025

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**Charlotte Hall Transfer
Station Approved**

**Nolan Sentenced for
Drunk Driving Fatality**

**Commissioners Honor
Star of Life Recipients**



COUNTY DEBATES NUMBER OF GAS STATIONS

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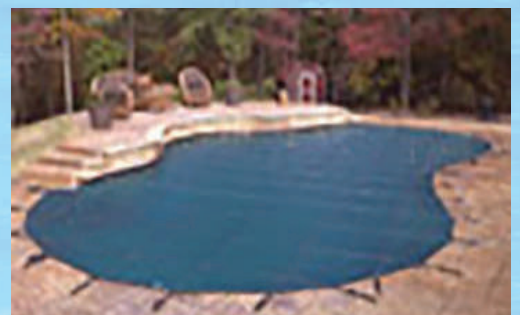


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“I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S...OUR PLACE TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT THEY CAN AND CANNOT DO WITH THEIR RIGHTFULLY OWNED PROPERTY.”

COMMISSIONER SCOTT OSTROW ON REGULATING NUMBER OF GAS STATIONS



LOCAL 4
Transfer station approved in Charlotte Hall



COMMUNITY 8
NAS Patuxent River holds change of command



ON THE COVER 5
Commissioners debate the number of gas stations in the county

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 73°	FRI, JUL 25 Sunny Hi: 95° Lo: 75°	SAT, JUL 26 Isolated Storms Hi: 91° Lo: 74°	SUN, JUL 27 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 73°
MON, JUL 28 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 73°	TUE, JUL 29 Partly Cloudy Hi: 93° Lo: 74°	WED, JUL 30 Mostly Sunny Hi: 92° Lo: 73°	THU, JUL 31 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 73°

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Friday August 1st

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Racing Starts	7:00 PM



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Solid Waste Transfer Station Approved



Artist's rendering of the proposed solid waste transfer station

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Planning Commission has given unanimous approval for a privately owned solid waste transfer station located on an 8.04-acre property that is included within the Industrial land use area of Charlotte Hall Town Center.

The approval came at the commission's July 21 meeting after being continued from the June 23 meeting.

According to the staff report, "The applicant is seeking an approval of a concept site plan for 17,400 Sq. Ft. Transfer Station and 12,008 Sq. Ft. Maintenance Building for a Recycling Center, Solid Waste Acceptance, Processing, Transfer Station and/or Resource Recovery Facility (Use Type 96). Use type #96 is a permitted use type in Industrial zoning districts."

The applicant also owns a similar facility in Charles County, and the proposal would add to their capacity. The plan as detailed to the commission involved large trucks hauling in solid waste from the north and smaller trucks coming in from local pickups. The solid waste would be sorted in the building and then hauled out to landfills in Virginia, including a large facility in Fredericksburg.

The applicant's attorney Steve Scott explained the hearing was postponed when they realized that their transportation consultant was presenting erroneous informa-

tion. "The consultant that we use for the initial traffic study had some assumptions that were erroneous in a large way, dealing with the timing of traffic to and from the site, and most importantly, the volume of traffic to and from the site."

Consultant Mike Lenhart updated the commission that all of the large trucks would be arriving very early in the morning or before evening rush hour. The large trucks would stack to make a left turn onto Carpenter Lane, and the smaller trucks, some of which would be heading south after drop off, would be able to fit in the Route 5 median to await a break in traffic. All of the large trucks would return to the north.

There are acceleration and deceleration lanes on northbound Route 4 at Carpenter Lane.

Company representative Larry Foster said the need for the facility has been recognized in the county's solid waste plan. "Yes, as a necessary facility to serve the county for years to come and to help alleviate the pressure that's being absolutely put on the services within the county by the growth that is occurring."

He added, "There's a benefit to the county, without a doubt. Every surrounding county has something similar, either a landfill or a transfer station, and the need is there."

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Does St. Mary's Have Too Many Gas Stations?

Proposal to Develop Regulations Fails on 3-2 Vote

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) have rebuffed a staff suggestion for an investigation into whether there are enough gas stations in the county. Possible outcomes would have been a zoning ordinance text amendment requiring a feasibility study for a new gas station proposals or even possibly a moratorium.

Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser explained, "It was brought to the county attorney's attention by a commissioner a few months ago to ask us to look into that topic, being the perceived prevalence from some quarters in the community about an over proliferation or oversaturation of gas stations in St. Mary's County and what, if anything, current zoning regulations do about that or say about that and what, if anything, they might be able to do in the future if the commissioners agree or at least feel that it's worth looking into and do more in the future about whether that perceived oversaturation is indeed something that might be there."

Houser said, "We did say the word moratorium, just to be upfront about that one. A moratorium is just one of the potential options that the commissioners would have to look into if the commissioners feel it would be in the public interest to get more attention and more thorough analysis of this issue in front of them."

"He said, 'It's not a binary choice between one or the other, it's just one of the options in front of the commissioners.'"

Houser reported, "There are approximately 45 gas stations in St. Mary's County right now, give or take, with another three that are currently permitted and at or near stages of completion. Those gas stations are not evenly divided across the county. Roughly half of them are in zip codes 20622 or the greater Lexington Park Development District, which includes 20653 zip code, 20619 or portions thereof and portions of 20636. Something I have seen in my experience with the Planning Commission and the Board of Appeals of when they have public hearings on proposed gas stations and we've had about five projects come through in my time the last three and a half years, you do frequently see members of the community show up and express an opinion that a gas station in that particular place is unnecessary because there's already one or more or multiple gas stations in close physical proximity



A third Sheetz is under construction in Charlotte Hall.

to the proposed gas station."

Houser noted that the comprehensive zoning ordinance considers the prevalence of a use in four instances: commercial cell towers, private waste transfer stations or recycling facilities, new water dependent facilities in the critical area and educational facilities in the Rural Preservation District.

Houser wanted the commissioners to decide whether additional staff time should be spent on the issue.

Commissioner Eric Colvin thought that was a good idea. He said, "I think being able to give our planning commission some additional tools to look at, it doesn't ban anything. It doesn't prevent anything from going in, but it gives them the tools to be able to say, is there a community need? Does it not meet the needs of the community? That makes sense to me. That seems like a very reasonable option to bring forward. I would think so. I'd like to see us take the next step to take a look at that."

Commissioner Mike Alderson agreed, "I've heard a lot personally from people in the northern county, in my district, saying we have enough gas stations. I think they're not too far off because if my math is correct, we're looking at seven total just north of Route 236 Thompson Corner Road to the county line."

Alderson added, "The thought occurred to me while you were going through your very thorough explanation, is that the northern part of the county, especially Charlotte Hall, is starting to remind me of a miniature version of Breezewood (Pa.)." He said the town is filled with gas stations, fast food restaurants and fireworks stands.

On the possibility of a moratorium, Commissioner Scott Ostrow said, "I don't believe it's appropriate or our place to tell people what they can and cannot do with their rightfully owned property. As someone who has worked for a major corporation (Safeway), and I sat on one of the panels that actually looks at new sites and new locations where they're going to build, all these companies, Safeway, Royal Farms, you name it, they have people dedicated to doing the research on whether or not there is a need in that area or whether or not that location would be successful. I would be in favor of having people produce a needs study that actually shows the need for that in that area and having that go forward to the planning commission so they can then review that. But I am not in favor of telling people that you cannot do something with your property."

Houser seemed to be hearing a consensus to move forward with a staff study. But Commissioner Mike Hewitt interrupted that thought. Hewitt, whose father started a gas station in Lexington Park, said, "I'm not sure what the text amendment would look like? I would assume that there's some detriment to the citizens of the county in this, and if somebody doesn't like the newest idea that's come out for fuel stations, that's fine. But I think what we've heard overwhelmingly whenever we see things is people want more recreational activities in the northern part of the county."

But he said the key to the station his father started in 1964, and he later operated was "because people need fuel now. Capitalism is what this country is based on," adding, "This is an opportunity for people to take

their ideas and capitalize on them, follow the rules, follow the zoning, and come up with a better mousetrap, come up with a better idea. Now the fuel facilities have morphed. I came from the days of a couple gas pumps out front with some bays, with some techs working in there and fixing cars and stuff like that. It's morphed into people want food. People want good food. They want the opportunity to get supplies they need, whether it be milk or whatever it needs on a short-term basis. So, when someone talks about whether it be a moratorium or even a text amendment that it sounds like we're trying to restrict something that's not for the good of the community. And tell me, where's the detriment here in these things other than the fact that you think there's enough."

Hewitt observed perhaps Dollar General Stores could be targeted next because people feel there are too many of them.

But the suggestion that a needs study be provided for any new application regardless of use, prompted Houser to note, "I think my concern with that, I'm not opposed to the idea. I think the concern is the fuel stations tend to be larger corporations that have the means to be able to look at that. But we don't want to impede small business that's trying to get started. So, if someone's opening a hair salon that's a locally-run, locally-owned business, they shouldn't have to do a need study."

Commissioner President Randy Guy said competition was good for the consumer. "The price of our fuel costs are down for most of our people. To me it's a correction if nothing else for everybody."

He added, "I'm not for a moratorium whatsoever. And as far as a needs study, I figure that if somebody's going to spend millions of dollars to build something, they're going to have done a study. They know it's needed in that area."

Hewitt observed, "I can't really see a clear vision of what it's (gas station restrictions) going to look like, when I see I pay 40 cents cheaper for gasoline on, Route 235 then when I go across the bridge and pay in Calvert County. I think that's a benefit to our residents. The fact that we are able to let capitalism work, let competition work and let people say, if I want my share, I have got to cut my margin. And I don't think that's something that needs to be corrected."

Guy, Hewitt, and Ostrow opposed proceeding with a study, which failed 3-2.

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Sheriff's Office Now Accepting Applications for Citizen's Academy

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the 2025 Citizens Academy, an eight-week program offering community members a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of local law enforcement.

The free course begins Thursday, August 14, 2025, and runs weekly through October 2. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at various Sheriff's Office facilities, including the Sheriff's Headquarters, district stations, the Detention and Rehabilitation Center, and the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy.

Participants will gain firsthand experience in patrol operations, criminal investigations, corrections, emergency services, and other related areas. Sessions include interactive presentations and tours, such as:

- A field trip to the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy
- Crisis intervention and mental health

response

- Traffic safety and accident reconstruction
- A tour of the detention center
- K-9 and Special Operations demonstrations
- Insights into the 911 Emergency Communications Center
- A graduation ceremony upon completion

Applications must be received by Thursday, July 31, 2025; participation is limited to 16.

To learn more or to apply online, visit www.firstsheriff.com/community/citizens-academy.

For additional information, contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Citizen Academy program coordinator at 301-475-4200, ext. 1910.

Press Release from SMCSO

Legal Notice

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

CASE NO: C18CV25000359

James V. Dahlstrom
Plaintiff

vs.

James Watkins
Cecelia Watkins
Commissioners of St. Mary's County
Office of the County Treasurer for St. Mary's County
ALL PERSONS that have or claim to have any interest in property described as Lot 15, Block 55, LONGVIEW BEACH, having an address of Upland Drive, Bushwood, Maryland 20618
Defendants

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property, sold by the Collector of Taxes for the State of Maryland and St. Mary's County to the Plaintiff in the proceeding described as: Lot 15, Block 55, LONGVIEW BEACH, and assessed to James Watkins and Cecelia Watkins, the improvements thereon being known as Upland Drive, Bushwood, Maryland 20618.

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amounts necessary for redemption have not been paid.

It is thereupon this 2nd day of June, 2025, by the Circuit Court for St. Mary County, **ORDERED**, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in some daily newspaper having general circulation in St. Mary's County once a week for three consecutive weeks, before the 2nd day of August, 2025, warning all persons with an interest in said property to be and appear in this Court by the 2nd day of August, 2025, and redeem the property and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a Final Decree will be entered foreclosing all rights of redemption in the said property, and vesting in the Plaintiff a title in fee simple, free and clear of all encumbrances.

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

Woman Sentenced for Killing Child in Drunk Driving Crash

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced July 21 that Ashley Nicole Nolan, 28, of Lexington Park has been sentenced to prison for multiple charges stemming from a single-vehicle drunk driving collision, where she killed one of her children and seriously injured two of her other children.

"Drunk driving is a completely preventable crime," said Sterling. "The defendant started out the evening with a designated driver for a kid-free night-out with a friend. But on the way home, she detoured to her mother's house, where her children were safely asleep, only to remove them and subject them to extreme danger. Instead of protecting her children, she made the decision to drive under the influence and tragically killed one of them."

The Maryland State Sentencing Guideline Range for this case recommended a sentence between 3 and 14 years in prison. The defense requested a sentence at the bottom of the guidelines of three years. The state sought the maximum sentence of 22 years in prison. The Court imposed a sentence of 22 years in prison, with 14 years of active incarceration, a sentence at the top of the guidelines.

"The maximum penalty in this case was only 22 years because multiple child victims were involved. Otherwise, the maximum penalty would have been far less," Sterling said. "Sadly, drunk driving has become one of the most socially acceptable forms of homicide in our society today, and



Ashley Nicole Nolan

that must change. My office and I have been on the front lines urging the lawmakers in Annapolis to take meaningful action."

The sentencing hearing was presented by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Corporal Dale Reppel of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator. The Collision Reconstruction Unit of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office assisted with the investigation.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.

Press Release from St. Mary's County State's Attorney

Mechanicsville Man Arrested for Assault

On Tuesday, July 22, 2025, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the 29000 block of Queens Landing Lane in Mechanicsville for the report of an assault.

Upon arrival, deputies made contact with two victims who reported that a verbal altercation had taken place inside the residence. The confrontation escalated outside, where a male suspect entered his vehicle and drove toward one of the victims, striking them. A third individual exited the residence to render aid, at which point the suspect drove toward and struck that person as well.

The suspect then exited his vehicle, continued the argument, and subsequently entered the victim's vehicle and fled the scene. A short time later, the suspect returned to the area on foot, re-entered his vehicle, and left again. Deputies initiated a pursuit, but the suspect evaded law enforcement and the pursuit was terminated. Shortly thereafter, deputies were alerted that the suspect had returned to the residence once more, and he was taken into custody without further incident.

The suspect was identified as Thomas Anthony Anderson, 27, of Mechanicsville. He was transported to the St. Mary's



Thomas Anthony Anderson

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

- Two counts of Assault First Degree
- Three counts of Assault Second Degree
- Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle
- Theft: \$1,500 to under \$25,000

Anderson remains incarcerated pending a bond hearing.

Press Release from SMCSO

Commissioners Honor Star of Life Recipients



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County on July 22 honored this year's Maryland Star of Life recipients. Director of the Department of Emergency Services Jennifer Utz explained the circumstances that led to the award:

"The award focuses on clinical excellence, particularly those responders who demonstrate exceptional skill and the ability to operate under extreme conditions. On November 6th, 2024, at 7 p.m., St. Mary's and Charles County Fire, Rescue and EMS units were dispatched with a report of a motor vehicle collision with rescue. Off-duty Mechanicsville Rescue Squad member Jimmy Breeden and off-duty Mechanicsville Fire Department member T.J. Faunce heard the call and responded to the scene. They found a single vehicle which had left the roadway and struck a tree.

"Inside was a single passenger, a 16-year-old male who was heavily entrapped with obvious multi-system trauma. The force of the crash compromised the structural steel of the car, leaving him with immediate life-threatening injuries. The first responders worked together to apply direct pressure to a serious wound and activated Maryland State Police aviation. Prior to the arrival of EMS units, Mechanicsville Squad 2 and Hughesville Squad 2 arrived and worked rapidly to extricate the unconscious patient.

"EMS Lieutenant Heather Forest, paramedic Amy Miller, paramedic intern Ellie Mason, EMTs Brian Bowen, Ashley Corley, Kaleigh Moore, and Bethany Higgs arrived and conducted a rapid trauma assessment.

"Upon transfer of patient from the vehicle, the EMS crew quickly stabilized the most critical injuries until the transfer of care to Trooper 7. Trooper 7 administered whole blood to the patient who then regained consciousness in the ambulance. The trooper flew the patient to the R. Adams Cawley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, where teams of doctors, nurses, and therapists worked around the clock to triage and treat his injuries.

"We are pleased to share that this patient has returned to our community and is continuing to recover from his injuries at home due to the actions of these first responders.

"Rural communities in Maryland depend on the dedication of highly skilled first responders in conjunction with coordinated efforts of fire, EMS and aviation. This

allows for immediate life-saving treatment, as well as the expedited transport of critically injured patients to trauma centers. This call accentuates the vital role of all partners within the Maryland EMS system, and particularly the importance in Southern Maryland to get patients to the appropriate facility as quickly as possible.

"Today, we are most grateful for the commissioner's support as we celebrate the ordinary people who perform extraordinary work in our communities each day. Above all, we send our continued well-wishes to the family affected by this incident and wish him all the best on his healing journey. Commissioners, thank you for your time and for always recognizing the work that we do in emergency services and our first respond community."

The individuals honored were:

- TFC Zach Saylor, Maryland State Police Aviation
- TFC Alex Calabro, Maryland State Police Aviation
- Mr. Jon Morris, Maryland State Police Aviation
- Mr. Manuel Franquez, Maryland State Police Aviation
- Heather Forest, Paramedic Supervisor
- Amy Miller, Paramedic
- Allison Mason, Paramedic Intern
- Brian Bowen, EMT
- Ashley Corley, EMT
- Kaleigh Moore, EMT
- Bethany Higgs, EMT
- Mark Trowbridge, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Bill Hemming, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Callen Thompson, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Landon Johnson, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Delontaye Herbert, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Keith Hemming, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- T.J. Faunce, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Ryan Raley, Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department
- Jimmy Breeden, Mechanicsville Rescue Squad
- Chris Cole, Hughesville VFD
- Rick Feist, Hughesville VFD
- Trevor Simpson, Hughesville VFD
- Todd Connick, Hughesville VFD

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

Zematis Takes Charge at NAS Patuxent River Change of Command *Burfield Closes Out 27 Years of Service*

Naval Air Station Patuxent River held a ceremony July 17 in which Capt. Mark Zematis assumed command of the installation from outgoing Commanding Officer Capt. Douglas Burfield.

Zematis' role as NAS Patuxent River commanding officer follows his previous position as the base executive officer, which he took on in January 2024, falls under the Navy's Fleet-Up program. In that program, executive officers serve in that position for approximately a year and a half before they "fleet up" to become the commanding officer for their command tour on the same ship or station. This practice provides focused command leadership stability throughout a base's life, according to OPNAVINST 1412.14. Commanding officers reap the benefits of the actions and policies they institute as executive officer.

A native of Barkhamsted, Connecticut, Zematis graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering. Additionally, he holds a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Zematis reported to his initial oper-

ational assignment with Patrol Squadron Five (VP-5) in January 2002. Designated as an Instructor Pilot and Mission Commander, he deployed to Sigonella, Sicily, Keflavik, Iceland, and Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Subsequent operational tours included Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine (CSG-9); Department Head tour in Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP 47); and command of Patrol Squadron Four Five (VP-45) where he led the squadron on a multi-site deployment to the Seventh and Fourth Fleets.

Capt. Zematis' shore assignments included Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Duty in Patrol Squadron Thirty (VP-30); Deputy Chief of the Joint Reconnaissance Center in the US Pacific Command's Operations Directorate (J-3); Deputy Executive Assistant to Director, Air Warfare Division (OPNAV N98); and Multi-Mission Branch Head in OPNAV N98.

In his new role as commanding officer, Zematis said he would continue to build on the foundations of leadership laid by his predecessor and provide the best service possible to Pax River's mission partners thanks to the team-

work exemplified by those on "Team Pax."

"To my predecessor Doug, AKA 'Flanders,' thank you for your outstanding leadership, and the exceptional example you set during your tenure as commanding officer," said Zematis. "You led with humility, always putting the welfare of people first, while keeping the command laser-focused on the mission. Your legacy of excellence provides a strong foundation on which we'll build. I'm proud to have been your XO, to follow you in command, and to call you a friend."

The ceremony not only served as a change of command for NAS Patuxent River, but also as a reflection of outgoing commanding officer Burfield's total career as he retires after 27 years of naval service.

During the change of command ceremony, officiating officer Rear Adm. David Faehnle, Commandant, Naval District Washington, highlighted Burfield's abilities while in the unique position of leadership at NAS Patuxent River.

"Under his command, Pax River was nominated every year for the region Installation Excellence Award; that kind of consistency reflects not just great leadership, but a command climate where success becomes the standard," said Faehnle. "Doug, your legacy here is one of quiet momentum, lasting impact, and unwavering commitment to mission. You've left this installation stronger and better positioned for the future."

Faehnle also noted Zematis' leadership at NAS Patuxent River and other commands as he ascends to the role of commanding officer of the air station.

"Today we also look ahead as we welcome Captain Mark 'Z' Zematis," said Faehnle. "Mark is no stranger to this command; he's been XO for 18 months, and has already demonstrated the leadership, insight, and dedication required to guide Pax River to its next chapter... Captain Zematis understands not only how systems fly, but how they work and how to lead the people behind them. He knows the mission, respects the culture, and believes in the power of teams. Z, this is a command that rewards vision and collaboration. You are ready and the team is ready for you. We're all excited to see where your leadership will take Pax River next."

Faehnle then cited Burfield for his specific achievements as NAS Patuxent River commanding officer and presented him with the Legion of Merit for his efforts.

"Captain Burfield's superior leadership enhanced Naval Aviation's premier Research, Development, Acquisition, Test, and Evaluation facility," stated Burfield's citation. "Through robust community partnerships and extraordinary vision, he led efforts to mitigate encroachment, enhance safety, and ensure physical security for the installation's three fence lines and over 25,000 personnel. His leadership and engagement enabled tenant



Incoming NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer (CO) Capt. Mark Zematis shakes the hand of outgoing CO Capt. Douglas Burfield.

commands to safely conduct over 105,000 manned and unmanned flight operations and the completion of aviation test and evaluation missions with assets valued at more than \$4B. He led the safe and orderly removal of hangar Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) and the implementation of directed risk mitigation measures to safely continue normal maintenance evolutions. Captain Burfield set the conditions for the seamless transition to the return to work, adjusting force structure to enable greater installation throughput while maintaining an appropriate security posture. His actions were directly responsible for the installation's selection for the 2023 and 2024 Naval District Washington Installation Excellence Award. His actions fostered a culture of excellence and were the culmination of a 27-year career of honorable and dedicated military service. By his dynamic direction, keen judgment, and loyal devotion to duty, Captain Burfield reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

In his own remarks to the command, Burfield noted the team effort that makes the work at NAS Patuxent River possible.

"It's teamwork that the Pax Pros display here every day, day in and day out, providing outstanding support to 64 mission partners on this base," said Burfield. "At NAS Patuxent River, we make deliberate efforts to practice the daily attitude of 'Not because we have to, but because we get to.' We are blessed with almost 1,000 dedicated professionals each doing their part in helping their teammates to run the framework for this base so that those 64 tenant commands can operate here and do their missions more securely and safely, and I'm honored to have served alongside you."

Press Release from Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland

RIVER CONCERT SERIES 2025



FINAL CONCERT, JULY 25 | 7 P.M.

CONCERT THEME:

July 25: Rhapsody in Blue! Featuring Thomas Pandolfi, piano soloist

This concert is free and open to the public. No pets allowed. Food trucks on site for cash and card sales.



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Museums Celebrate National Lighthouse Weekend

St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division welcomes all community members to join in celebrating National Lighthouse Weekend on Saturday, August 2 and Sunday, August 3 at the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park in Piney Point. The museum and lighthouse will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for free tours.

At Piney Point, visitors can explore the museum grounds and celebrate the oldest lighthouse on the Potomac with tours of the Piney Point lighthouse tower, Keeper's Quarters, Potomac River Maritime Exhibit featuring full sized workboats, and two floors of exhibitions in the Main Museum building. While admission and tours are offered free of charge this weekend only, donations are greatly appreciated to support the museum.

Visitors are also encouraged to visit the Blackstone Lighthouse replica on St. Clement's Island. Blackstone Lighthouse is accessible by the St. Clement's Island Museum Water Taxi from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., when the last boat heads over to the island. Fee is \$7 per person, for all ages; visitors are encouraged to call (301) 769-2222 before visiting to ensure operation as extenuating circumstances and inclement weather can prevent cruises.

Guests can also celebrate National Lighthouse Weekend at Point Lookout State Park on Saturday, August 9, and Sunday, August 10. Visitors can enjoy self-guided tours of the newly renovated Point Lookout Lighthouse from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a ranger-led tour offered each day at 1 p.m. There are no fees for the lighthouse tours, but all visitors must pay the park entry fee. Day-use reser-



ervations are required on weekends and holidays and can be made up to 7 days in advance online at www.parkdayuse.maryland.gov. For more information about Point Lookout State Park and the Point Lookout Lighthouse, please visit: www.dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/southern/pointlookout.aspx.

National Lighthouse Day, designated by Congress on August 7, 1989, is the anniversary of the signing of the Congressional Act "for the establishment and support of lighthouses, beacons, buoys, and public piers" and the date of the first commissioned Federal lighthouse.

For more information on Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, please call (301) 994-1471 or visit www.facebook.com/1836Light.

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division

St. Mary's 'Mystery Man' Claims Second Top Lottery Win

"Mystery Man," Lottery player from St. Mary's County who won a big prize several years ago, reprised that role when he claimed a \$50,000 prize on the Lots of Cash game.

A familiar face returned to Maryland Lottery headquarters this week and chose the moniker "Mystery Man" to tell his story of claiming a second Lottery top-prize lottery, a \$50,000 score on July 16.

The longtime player from St. Mary's County shared that he's been trying his luck for more than 20 years. His first big win — a \$100,000 prize — came several years ago. Though he continued playing, he never expected lightning to strike twice.

"At the time, I never thought I'd win another top prize," Mystery Man said. "Years later, I'm back again."

His latest win was a moment of snap decisions and happenstance. After buying a few \$1 scratch-offs from his favorite retailer, St. Mary's Gas Station at 23950 Colton Point Road in Clements, the Maryland state

employee won \$20. He spent \$15 of it on gas and used the remaining money to purchase a \$5 Lots of Cash scratch-off.

When he scratched the ticket, he said, he "lost his breath for a second." The moment immediately brought back memories of his first major win, a feeling he describes as "blissful."

With his latest prize, Mystery Man plans to pay off outstanding bills and lend a helping hand to family members who may be behind on theirs.

"I'll definitely keep playing," he said. "Maybe lightning will strike a third time."

St. Mary's Gas Station receives a \$500 bonus, 1 percent of the value of the prize, for selling the winning ticket.

This is the fifth Lots of Cash top prize to be claimed since the game launched in June 2024. Three prizes at that level remain unclaimed, along with tens of thousands of prizes ranging from \$5 to \$5,000.

Press Release from MD Lottery.

A View From The **BLEACHERS**



The Epitome of Class

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

In July 2023, the universe proved merciful: The \$6 billion sale of the Washington Commanders from Dan Snyder to Josh Harris was completed. After decades of organizational rot, the depth of which there is no comparable in major sports, Harris was greeted as a conquering hero simply because he wasn't the deplorable Snyder. Thinking back to that moment, I recall being joyous because the malignancy was gone and it was again emotionally safe to re-engage with a great love that had been adrift. It was okay to hope again. But for what exactly? The nightmare was over, but the future was very shrouded in mystery.

The reality was dismal: The team had been run into the ground. The roster lacked top-end talent, depth, adequate coaching and anything promising at quarterback. Harris, too, while riding a popularity wave, was unproven. As owner of the New Jersey Devils and Philadelphia 76ers, he had forged a reputation that screamed middling billionaire with a couple expensive toys that he left collecting dust in the garage.

But his heritage and words indicated the Commanders would be different. He was from the D.C. area after all and had grown up watching the franchise at its peak. The Burgundy and Gold were in his blood. Which, as any gray-bearded fan of the team will tell you, is exactly the pitch Snyder gave when he bought the team in 1999. So, it was easy to be happy in July 2023; having any expectations of what this broken franchise would accomplish, particularly in the near term, would have been a reckless handling of one's mental health.

The future has arrived and reality has exceeded even what a beer-fueled optimist could have cooked up two years ago. Elite front office. Talented coaching staff. Franchise quarterback. Energized fan base. In all likelihood, a new stadium on the way at the old RFK site. And a franchise fans can proudly support again. It's not the same as it was (yet), but the darkness has cleared. Dreaming is authorized again.

One of the most heart-breaking aspects of Snyder's regime was how disconnected the team had become from the great players of its past. Harris has made it a priority to repair those fractured relationships. Actions have included inviting former players to events, exploring a more significant Sean Taylor memorial, alternate jerseys that resemble those worn by the Super Bowl teams and retiring numbers of franchise legends. Darrell Green's number 28 was retired last season. This November, another is on deck: Art Monk's number 81.

Before going any further, an admission of bias: The list of my favorite athletes of all time is Cal Ripken, Len Bias, Mike Gartner and Monk (who probably ranks first of the four). Dated references, but as older fans know, and as youth will eventually find out, childhood connections with athletes are the deepest.

What to say about Monk? He was an elite player – sticky hands, acrobatic, big, fast, courageous, dependable – a wide receiver ahead of his time. In today's game of softened pass defense and aerial assaults, Monk's numbers would be gaudy. And he would speak not a word of them. Monk was quiet and selfless to a fault; his lack of self-promotion and flamboyance certainly delayed his Hall of Fame induction (he waited eight years) and has dimmed his historical greatness. But if you know, you know. Monk was the epitome of class.

We wouldn't know what to do with Monk if he played today – an unassuming man on the surface but one with tremendous personal and professional depth and substance. Imagine a star who said little, never demanded the ball, never boasted of his greatness, never drew attention to himself, never barked at a teammate or a coach, never fired off a "look at me" tweet and was never in the police blotter. If such a man was under-appreciated in the 1980s and 90s, today he would be all but dismissed by a superficial world that increasingly values flash, selfishness, bombast, embellishments and half-truths, and casually overlooks ethical and moral failings. That says a lot about Art Monk; it says more about us.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Should you trust a 'finfluencer'?

In the age of social media, it's easy to find advice on just about anything — including how to manage your money. Content creators known as "finfluencers" — short for financial influencers — use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram to share their takes on investing, budgeting and building wealth. Many of them are charismatic and relatable, and they often speak from personal experience. But while their content may be engaging, taking financial advice from a finfluencer without digging deeper can come with significant risks.

While some finfluencers may have formal training or credentials, many do not. Instead, their influence stems from their popularity rather than professional experience. But popular advice may not necessarily be good advice. A 2025 study by the Swiss Finance Institute even found that unskilled finfluencers typically have larger followings than skilled ones.

Why be cautious?

For young or new investors, social media can make finance feel accessible. In fact, a 2022 FINRA study says that more than 60% of Americans younger than 35 get investing information from these platforms. But social media isn't regulated the same way traditional financial advising is, so anyone, qualified or not, can offer financial tips.

Unlike traditional financial advisors, finfluencers don't know your unique goals, financial situation or risk tolerance. And likely, they're not licensed (you can check here: [Check Out Your Investment Professional | Investor.gov](https://www.investor.gov)). Even well-meaning guidance might lead you down a risky path if it's not tailored to your needs. And unfortunately, some finfluencers have exploited the trust they build with followers to promote questionable investments or outright frauds.

Warning signs to watch for

Here are a few signs that a finfluencer's advice may be worth avoiding:

- *Unrealistic "get-rich" promises:* Claims like, "Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year," are highly improbable and may indicate a scam.
- *Hurry, hurry:* Be wary of advice that pressures you to act fast or plays on fear of missing out. Important financial decisions shouldn't come with a countdown clock.
- *Flashy displays of wealth:* Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views than offering sound advice. If a finfluencer is trying that hard to convince you to take an action, it often means they will profit — perhaps they'll get paid to promote a product or service, or earn a fee for referring you, or are trying to boost clicks and followers to earn more.

What you can do

- *Do your own homework.* Don't take finfluencers' advice at face value. Cross-check it with reliable sources. The finfluencer may even be under investigation by a federal or state securities regulator. Talking to a licensed financial advisor you trust can help you discern good advice from the bad.
- *Recognize conflicts of interest.* If a finfluencer promotes a product or service, find out if they're being paid to do so. And remember, online personalities make money by generating high viewership, not because their advice has a track record of success.
- *Use common sense.* When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. And of course, never disclose your bank or brokerage account numbers to a finfluencer, and never send money.

Finfluencers can make financial topics more engaging and accessible. But when it comes to your money, a social media video from someone who doesn't know you is no substitute for informed, personalized guidance. Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

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

Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650 301 997 1707

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.

Grace Miedzinski, 84



Mary Grace Miedzinski, "Grace", 84, of Solomons, MD (formerly of Great Mills, MD) passed away peacefully at her home with her devoted family at her side.

She was born on October 26, 1940, in Washington D.C. to the late Joseph Luke Bean and Mary (nee: Smith) Bean.

Grace was a lifelong resident of Saint Mary's County and a 1958 graduate of St. Mary's Academy. She completed two years of college at St. Mary's Seminary Junior College (now St. Mary's College of MD) and transferred to Towson State Teacher's College where she earned her bachelor's degree in 1962. She went on to earn her master's degree from George Washington University in 1978. On November 17, 1962, she married her beloved husband, William Francis "Bill" Miedzinski at Holy Face Catholic Church. Together, they celebrated over 47 steadfast years of marriage. Grace was employed as a teacher with the St. Mary's County Public Schools for 28 dedicated years. She spent most of her career teaching second grade at Greenview Knolls Elementary School but also served on the staff at Chopticon High School for the first several years of her career. In between her high school and elementary

teaching years, she taught middle school at Little Flower School.

Throughout her working years, Grace maintained a steady focus on service to the Lord and her community. She led a weekly bible study group, who met faithfully for 30 years. She taught the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) at Immaculate Heart of Mary for 20 years, guiding many to the Catholic faith. Worshipping together with her "graduates" from RCIA was among her most deeply satisfying and spiritual experiences. Following her retirement from teaching, Grace worked as the Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Grace had a deep love for travel and eagerly explored new places. Shenandoah National Park, "God's headquarters on the East Coast" was one of her all-time favorites as was the country of Ireland. These places were followed closely by anywhere that offered a possible moose sighting. Grace was wild about moose, and she collected moose in every form, from figurines to fabrics, earrings to art. She was always on high alert to spot one in the wild.

Grace poured her creativity into crafts—ceramics, quilting, crochet, and making things that brought comfort and beauty to others. She had a gift for turning simple materials into something special. She enjoyed cooking and thought nothing of cooking a full sit-down meal for family and friends any night of the week, after she

arrived home from a full day of teaching!

Grace lit up around babies, especially her grand and great grand babies. Her face would soften, and her voice would change, as she gave each child her full attention and gentleness. To her, there was nothing more precious than holding a baby close.

Grace is survived by her daughters: Tracey Heibel (Jake) of California, MD, Lisa Rader (Tim) of Vienna, VA and Linda Miedzinski (Andrew) of California, MD; sister, Ann Bean Taylor of California, MD; grandchildren: Jeffrey Wettengel (Caroline), Christina Wettengel Seeley (Tim), Michaela Richardson (Andrew), Lauren Heibel (Jackson), and Zachary Rader; great-granddaughters: Winnie Wettengel and twins, Grace and Eva Seeley; her beloved fur baby, Willow; and extended family and friends. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, July 24 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 22375 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions in Grace's name may be made to:

- Hospice of the Chesapeake, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, MD 21122 or online at www.hospicechesapeake.org
- The St. Vincent De Paul of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Food Pantry, online at <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/ihrmc>

Select "Give Now", "One-Time". Select fund SVDP of IHM to complete the donation.

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

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

Charlie Raley, 83



Charles Preston Raley, "Charlie", 83, of Park Hall, MD, formerly of Clements, MD, passed away peacefully on July 19, 2025, at his home. Born on August 10,

1941, in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Mary Jeanette Russell Raley and the late Joseph Howard Raley Sr. Charlie was married to the late Mary Lee Trossbach Raley, on April 27, 1963, at St. Michaels Catholic Church, Ridge, MD, and who preceded him in death on June 16, 2016. He is survived by his children, Charles L. "Chip" Raley of Park Hall, MD, Ronald H. Raley of Dameron, MD, Deborah L. Fenhagen of Park Hall, MD, and Thomas A. Raley (Lisa) of Park Hall, MD, his sister, Carolyn Norris (Bubby) of Chaptico, MD.

Charles is also survived by nine grandchildren: Dustin (Cara aka Kat), Casey

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and Thomas Raley Jr., Lindsey and Amber Fenhagen, Jordan and Lacy Raley, Brandon (Keri) and Robin Reece, as well as 6 great grandchildren: brothers Riley and Ronan Raley, Isabelle Boucher, Boston and Bentley Boucher, soon to be joined by Harper Reece.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Joseph H. Raley, Jr. and Mary Jeanette "Jean" Brown.

Charlie was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Margaret Brent in 1960. He worked at various jobs after high school beginning a ten-year career and became a brick mason for Gordon H. Ragan Inc. Charlie then became self-employed in the same trade for the next five years, in which time his company grew to five total employees during the mid-seventies, after which he worked for Guy & Guy Masonry for a few years before beginning a 20-year career in government service. He served as a brick mason at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for eight years, beginning about 1980, before working as a carpenter at the Indian Head Naval Ordnance Station for another 12 years, starting in November 1987 before his retirement in December of 1999.

Charlie was an avid recreational boater in his spare time. He also loved country music, dancing, and mealtimes (most especially if there was a seafood feast to be enjoyed).

The family will receive friends on Monday, July 28, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD, with Fr. Paul Nguyen officiating. Interment will follow at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be grandsons, Dustin Raley, Casey Raley, and Thomas Raley Jr., nephews Randy Raley, Michael Brown, and Mark Norris. Honorary pallbearers will be grandchildren Lindsey Fenhagen, Amber Fenhagen, Jordan Raley, Lacy Raley, Brandon Reece, and Robin Reece, nieces Karen Stinson, Diane Gooding, and Chrissy Page, granddaughter-in-law, Cara "Kat" Raley, Keri Reece, and nephews Gary Norris, Sean Norris, David Brown, and Joey Raley.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad in Charles' name.

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.

Mary Gateau, 82



Mary Tice Gateau, 82, of Leonardtown, Maryland, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at the Hospice of St. Mary's on July 17, 2025.

Mary was born on July 20, 1942, at St. Mary's Hospital in Leonardtown, Maryland, to Thomas Maddox Burroughs Sr. and Mary Pilkerton Burroughs. She graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1960, then moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for National Geographic. For most of her adult life, Mary was a businesswoman, owning multiple rental properties and retail furniture stores.

In her personal life, Mary loved entertaining family and friends and had a special knack for bringing joy and laughter to her gatherings. She was always quick to laugh - especially at herself. She also enjoyed gardening and other artistic endeavors, some of which she proudly sold to the public.

Mary is survived by her loving husband, John A. Gateau; her children, Tracey Tice Siegel, Charlotte Tice Gadowski (Mark), Herbert Tice Jr. (Carol), and Darlene Tice; and her three grandchildren, Herbert Tice III, Eliza Siegel, and Madeline Tice. She is also survived by her brother and sisters, Thomas Burroughs Jr. (Jeanette), Dianne McWilliams (Andy), and Brenda Wood (Rick).

She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Herbert G. Tice; her grandson, Joseph Maddox Emm; and her beloved pets, Corky, Willy, and Wally.

Mary will be remembered for her kindness, her ability to bring people together in love and laughter, and the open home she always kept for those in need of rest and respite. Her friends and family will forever cherish the many gatherings at "the big house" and "the creek," where good times were shared by all who visited. Her wisdom, compassion, and sense of humor will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

All services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, PO Box 625, 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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IN STOCK



St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jul 25

Food Truck Friday

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department
24801 Three Notch Rd. Hollywood;
4:30–7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Hollywood VFD. Check our Website or Facebook Page for Participating Vendors. Many choices. Beer sold. www.hvfd7.com

Family Fun Fridays: Maritime Magic

Calvert Marine Museum
9–11 a.m.

Designed for families with children ages 5-12. They are a chance to enjoy the museum and a special program with activities and crafts that begin before the museum is open to the public. Please keep in mind that this is not a drop-off program. Registration is required. \$15/per person for non-members, \$12/per person for members; The fee includes museum admission.

Sat, Jul 26

Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd.,
Mechanicsville
12–4 p.m. (or until sold out)

Pulled Pit Pork Sandwich with Cole slaw, Baked beans and Chips. \$20 each cash only. Seating is available for those who wish to eat on the premises. More information: email: daisyxxl@comcast.com

Mon, Jul 28

Finding the Right College Fit:

Lexington Park Library meeting room
Monday July 28
5– 6:30 p.m.

Navigating the college admissions process can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Join F. J. Talley, dedicated college success coach and author, for a free workshop that will help students:

- Discover colleges that align with their unique strengths and passions.
- Craft stand-out applications that highlight individuality.
- Prepare for a smooth transition to college life.

For more information, email fjtalley@tailoredpathcc.com.

Republican Women of St Mary's County

The Pax River Ale House
46590 Corporate Dr., Lexington Park
11 a.m.

Meetings take place in the meeting room of the Ale House. Social begins at 11 a.m. and the meeting starts at 11:30. FYI, there are plenty of men who attend the meeting.

Elk's Monday Night Poker

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge
45779 Fire Department Ln., California
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$35. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building.

Wed, Jul 30

Embroidery Workshop

Historic St. Mary's City
Margaret Brent Gazebo
9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

All ages. Explore 17th-century stitching techniques and create your own sampler in this hands-on workshop. Beginners and experienced stitchers welcome. \$20 / \$15 members. Reservations: 301-994-4372 or hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov

Ongoing

North End Gallery Show

North End Gallery
41652 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown
July 29–August 31

“Inside Out: The paintings of Freeman Dodsworth.” Opening reception FIRST FRIDAY August 1, 5–8 p.m. 301-475-3130

Disney's Freaky Friday: The Musical

Three Notch Theatre
21744 S. Coral Drive, Lexington Park
Through August 3

The Newtowne Players present Disney's *Freaky Friday: The Musical*. Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by Mary Rodgers and the Disney films.

Show times: Thursdays–Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 3 p.m., through August 3. Visit NewtownePlayers.org for tickets and more information. Adults \$20; seniors/

students/military \$17; children 6-11 \$15; under 5 free (not recommended for young children)

Summerstock 2025—Disney's Tarzan: The Musical

Chopticon High School
25390 Colton Point Rd., Morganza
July 18–20 and 25–27

St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks' Summerstock Production. Based on the 1999 animated film. With music and lyrics by Phil Collins, and a book/script/libretto by David Henry Hwang, TARZAN is sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Tickets at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/recreate/summerstock.

Upcoming

10th Annual Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School
Great Mills
September 6

A special community celebration honoring our heroes and supporting our school! This family-friendly event includes a 5K race, kid's fun run and community gathering filled with school spirit, remembrance and gratitude. If you would like to sponsor or register for the event, please visit LFS website for event details: <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k>

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Preparing Healthy Snacks

Join local health and life coach, Shaniqua Cousins, as she demonstrates to families how to assemble healthy snacks as part of the More to Explore program. Attendees will receive a free goody bag while supplies last. This event is a partnership between the Healthy St. Mary's Partnership and St. Mary's County Libraries. Lexington Park Library on Friday, July 25 from 2 - 2:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The History of Ellis Island - The Island of Hope and Tears

"Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses." Join us for a history talk and Q&A with Historian Paul Rose

on the topic of Ellis Island. Ellis Island, located in the New York Harbor, was once the busiest immigrant inspection and processing station in the United States. Paul Rose is a researcher at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum but is not acting a representative of the institution in this presentation. Lexington Park Library, Saturday, July 26 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Magician Anthony Salazar

Prepare to be amazed by Anthony Salazar, magician! This show includes award-winning sleight-of-hand magic with elaborate props, mind-reading, and music. Most seating will be on the floor-

feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Lexington Park Library: Monday, July 28, 10:30 a.m.

Leonardtown Library: Monday, July 28, 2 p.m.

Writer's Workspace

Are you a writer looking for some space to work on your next project? Would you like to discuss your writing with other writers? Writer's Workspace is the place for you! Are you a writer looking for some space to work on your next project? Would you like to share your writing and discuss with other local writers? Writer's Workspace is the place for calm music, constructive discussion, and tasty snacks! Please feel free to bring your own notebook, laptop, or any other device you use to write. Charlotte Hall Library on Tuesday, July 29 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Colonial Era Migration to the Chesapeake: Migration Journeys with SMCM

Discover the migration patterns of peo-

ple to Maryland in the 17th and early 18th centuries. Register to receive a reminder email or text message. Walk-ins welcome! Learn about the roots of early naturalization policies in the region and their significance in shaping local history. Speaker - Henry Miller, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at St. Mary's College of Maryland and Senior Research Fellow at Historic St. Mary's City. Lexington Park Library on Wednesday, July 30 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Guided Art for Adults: Cubism

Learn about Cubism, a modern art style using basic shapes to show a new perspective. We'll have an example art piece to discuss and then create our own versions of the piece using oil pastels! No experience needed and all materials will be provided. Leonardtown Library on Thursday, July 31 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. 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 24

JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

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

Yoga on the Terrace - All Levels

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

Join us for a gentle flow class for all levels on the beautiful Twin Beaches Branch terrace overlooking the Bay. In the case of inclement weather, the class will be canceled. Amy Melcher has been practicing yoga for over 20 years. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jul 25

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 servingtontogetherproject.org/calvert for more information.

Rooftop Car & Truck Show

Rooftop of the Rod N Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay
4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
4–8 p.m.

FREE, DJ tunes. 866-312-5596

Pins and Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other projects. Mully's Brewery/Prince Frederick, MD

Family Fun Fridays: Maritime Magic

Calvert Marine Museum
9–11 a.m.

Designed for families with children ages 5-12. They are a chance to enjoy the museum and a special program with activities and crafts that begin before the museum is open to the public. Please keep in mind that this is not a drop-off program. Registration is required. \$15/per person for non-members, \$12/per person for members; The fee includes museum admission.

Sat, Jul 26

Dogs Days of Summer 5K

Mully's Brewery
Prince Frederick
7:30 a.m.

Register online at www.facebook.com/share/16RUHmvQd6/

Presented by CrossFit Merit and Mully's Brewery, in partnership with the Friends of Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter.

Grab your four-legged friend and join us for a fun run/walk before checking out the various local vendors on site. Check-in starts at 7:30 AM; 5K run starts at 8:30 AM

Registrants receive an event cup and a complimentary drink at Mully's Brewery.

Cosplay 101: What is Cosplay?

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
12–1:30 p.m.

Learn all about cosplay and how to transform into your favorite characters! Join Calvert Library while we dive into the ins and outs of cosplay. This session will cover

some of the history of cosplay and some tips about getting involved in cosplay. This event is open to participants 13+ of various levels of experience. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Mon, Jul 27

Game On!

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
2–4 p.m.

Teens and Tweens drop in for some fun and games with friends! So many board games to try! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Jul 29

Humane Society at Chesapeake Market and Grille

7150 Lake Shore Dr., North Beach
All day

Show your support for the Humane Society of Calvert County by letting Chesapeake Market and Grille cook lunch and or dinner for you. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society.

Wed, Jul 30

Active Play-Active Fun!

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
2–3 p.m.

Kids and Tweens can come jump and play on our Active Floor—an interactive gaming system you play with your feet! You'll be floored! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies

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

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. It's a great way to socialize and build reading confidence! Does your K-5th grade child love to read out loud, or needs help building reading confidence? 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! It will be a time for community members to help each other out with their language needs! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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>

Upcoming

Kayak Trip on Hellen Creek

Private boat ramp
Located off Turner Rd., Lusby
August 16
9:30 a.m.

The Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust and Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust are co-sponsoring the kayak trip. We require pre-registration as a courtesy to the owner and to coordinate parking. Please contact RobertBoxwell1@outlook.com for more information and to register. Hellen Creek is off Patuxent River and has plenty of water, so tides aren't a factor. Enjoy the sights and sounds of a creek with some houses, but mostly untouched shorelines.

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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

Knights of Columbus Presents Charles Serabian Scholarship



Kennedy Sloan accepts a scholarship award from Knights of Columbus Deputy Grand Knight David Sydnor and Pastor Robert Kilner

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

The Knights of Columbus Council 9258 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Solomons presented their 2025 Charles Serabian Scholarship to Kennedy Sloan, a recent honors graduate of Patuxent High School.

Kennedy is the daughter of Justin and Erin Sloan of Solomons and has been accepted at the University of Maryland College Park.

This scholarship is for \$5000 and is paid in four increments at the start of each school year providing the recipient attains an overall grade point average of 3.0. Kennedy was very pleased to receive this award in front of her parish prior to Saturday mass.

Several graduating students from local high schools applied for this year's award. They submitted applications that included information about their family, their latest school records, and a written essay about themselves and their future plans. Each application is reviewed by a panel of three evaluators who take into account the individuals' school history, abilities, and potential to succeed in college.

Additionally, the evaluators consider the applicants' financial condition as their selection takes into account not only the student's performance, but their family financial situation as well. This year the three evaluators were unanimous in deciding Kennedy was the best qualified and showed the greatest promise to do well at the college level.

The Knights of Columbus at Our Lady

Star of the Sea have presented \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving young men and women over the past 14 years. The monies used for this cause are derived from funds bequeathed to their Council by Charles Serabian, a Knight and longtime Parishioner at Our Lady Star of the Sea. Charles was a wonderful gentleman known for his great generosity here in Southern Maryland. He had no children, but has a reputation for taking care of young people. He was one of the founders of "Boy's State" here in Maryland, a program that brings together many civic minded young students for an annual three-day conference held in Annapolis each year.

He was a past Commander of American Legion Post 274 in Lusby and was known for his great love for the American Flag that he fondly spoke of many times before the US Congress and state of Maryland legislatures. As one additional testimony to the great love he had for the citizens of this country and this state, a tall flag pole with a large American flag and history marker are dedicated to Charles and are displayed just off the north side of Route 4 as you head out of Solomons. You can view his marker on H B Trueman Road across from the Hilton Garden Hotel.

With her parents beaming large smiles, Kennedy was presented a large cardboard check by Deputy Grand Knight Dave Sydnor as Pastor Father Bob Kilner led a large group of fellow parishioners applauding this fine young lady and wishing her good luck with her college career.

Gallery Show Goes 'Out of Africa'



Leo by Donna Tizol



By Cynthia Martin-Brennan



Bedouin by Lonnie Harkins

Join Artworks@7th and artists Cynthia Martin-Brennan, Donna Tizol, and Lonnie Harkins for the new show "OUT OF AFRICA" showcasing the people, culture, and wildlife of the African Continent.

Cynthia Martin-Brennan is a photographer that alters her photographs with paint to give her work a stylized look that blends the best of both mediums.

Donna Tizol works in multiple mediums including scratchboard, pen and ink, and acrylics.

Lonnie Harkins is also a multimedia artist who chose scratchboard as his medium for this show.

Drop in to the Gallery August 2nd to immerse yourself in art and be transported to another continent where you can experience, through art, the wildlife and people that live and breath there.

The show will run from July 31st to August 31st. A reception where you can meet the Show Artists and other Gallery artists will be held on August 2nd from 1-4 p.m. Light

refreshments and drinks will be available.

Also, this month our guest artist is Sharon J. Burton. Sharon is a visual artist, author, poet and certified creative coach based in Maryland. She is a visual artist whose preferred medium is collage and mixed media and has exhibited her art in galleries, art venues and other settings across the country since 2007. Sharon has curated a number of art exhibitions in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area since 2006 and has served as an art consultant for novice art collectors. Sharon currently serves as a Teacher Artist with a variety of community-based art organizations in Art Works Now and Del Ray Artisans. Learn more about Sharon and her work at <http://sjbcreativeart.com>

ArtWorks@7th is located at 8905 Chesapeake Avenue (near 2nd street) in North Beach. Our summer hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Press Release from ArtWorks@7th

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of July 7, 2025 – July 13, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,051 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 69
- Disorderly: 26
- Domestic: 19
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 44
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 741
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 27
- Traffic Complaints: 91
- Traffic Stops: 436
- 911 Hang-Ups: 84
- ARRESTS: 42

Damaged Property: 25-56005 On July 8, 2025, DFC Morrison responded to the 1000 block of Lower Marlboro Road in Huntingtown, for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported an unknown suspect(s) placed a firecracker in the victim's mailbox. The mailbox sustained damage to the interior. The estimated value of damaged property is unknown at this time.

Damaged Property: 25-56226 On July 9, 2025, DFC Lewis responded to the 300 block of Serenity Court in Prince Frederick for a report of property destruction. The complainant advised that sometime between July 7 and July 9, an unknown suspect(s) punctured all four tires of the victim's vehicle using a knife. The estimated damage is valued at approximately \$400.



Marika Shontell Driggers

Disorderly Conduct: 25-56390 On July 9, 2025, at approximately 9:49 p.m., DFC R. Jones responded to Coast 2 Coast Seafood Bar & Grill located at 14442 S. Solomons Island Rd, Solomons, for the report of inde-

cent exposure. Upon arrival, deputies located a female, later identified as **Marika Shontell Driggers**, 45 of Lexington Park, in the lobby wearing only a shirt and coat. Restaurant staff reported Driggers became intoxicated, removed her clothing, and acted disorderly while yelling, throwing chairs, and attempting to access restricted areas. Staff advised

Driggers to vacate the property, to which she refused and continued to act disorderly, yelling profanities at deputies. While in custody, Driggers kicked a responding EMS provider and later bit a deputy during transport. Driggers was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center without further incident and charged with Trespassing, Disorderly Conduct, and Second-Degree Assault (x2).



Angelo L. Maradiaga Ramirez

Leonard. DFC Grierson attempted a traffic stop, but the suspect vehicle fled southbound, reaching speeds over 122 mph, passing vehicles on the shoulder and weaving through traffic. A vehicle pursuit was initiated, and the suspect eventually came to a stop near Calvert Cliffs State Park, where a felony stop was conducted. The driver, identified as **Angelo L. Maradiaga Ramirez**, 21 of Baltimore, was taken into custody without incident. A check revealed he did not possess a valid driver's license. Ramirez was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, Fleeing and Eluding, and numerous traffic-related charges.



Gary Orlando Harrod

observed a male subject, later identified as **Gary Orlando Harrod**, 61, of no fixed address, running toward the Holiday Inn Express. DFC Plant instructed Harrod to stop and speak with him, but Harrod fled toward the Dunkin' Donuts at 30 Old Field Lane.

Fleeing and Eluding: 25-55854

On July 8, 2025, at approximately 7:53 a.m., DFC Grierson observed a vehicle travelling in excess of 120 mph in a 55-mph zone along Rt. 4 just south of Ball Road in St.

Deputies Plant and Hendrickson, along with K9 Atlas, gave multiple loud and clear commands for Harrod to stop, but he continued fleeing and ran into a dense wooded area near occupied residences. K9 Atlas was deployed, and after clear verbal K9 warnings, Atlas let out a commanding bark, prompting Harrod to surrender. Harrod was placed into custody and charged with Resisting/Interfering with Arrest, Obstructing and Hindering, and was also served with an active arrest warrant.

Theft: 25-55691 On July 7, 2025, DFC Plant responded to the 3200 block of Warren Gibson Road in Huntingtown for the report of a theft. The complainant advised that sometime between July 2 and July 3, an unknown suspect(s) stole a delivered package from the residence. The package contained a "chicken door" valued at approximately \$65.

Theft: 25-55664 On July 7, 2025, DFC Dymond responded to the area of English Oak Lane and Burr Oak Court in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's Segway Ninebot electric motorized scooter. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,100.

Theft: 25-55847 On July 8, 2025, Deputy H. Jones responded to the 1200 block of Lottie Fowler Road in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. The complainant advised that between 8 p.m. on July 7 and 6 a.m. on July 8, unknown suspect(s) stole several items from the property. The stolen items include two gray metal tables, a DeWalt sander with a battery, and three green deer lights. The total estimated value of the stolen property is \$355.

Theft: 25-57253 On July 12, 2025, Deputy Baxter responded to the Rod'n'Reel located at 4160 Mears Avenue in Chesapeake Beach for a reported theft. The complainant advised that sometime between 9:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., a black Adidas sports jacket containing cash in the pocket was stolen. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$225.

Theft: 25-57431 On July 13, 2025, shortly after 2 p.m., deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded to a panic alarm at the Verizon Store located at 304 Market Square Drive in

Prince Frederick. A preliminary investigation revealed that a male suspect entered the store, cut several phones from a display stand, stole headphones, and fled the scene on foot. The suspect is described as a tall black male wearing a light-colored (possibly gray) shirt, dark pants, and a ski mask. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$9,539.81.



Anisa Joy Leonard

Trespassing:

25-55736 On July 7, 2025, at 7:19 p.m., Deputy Baxter responded to Hook and Vine Kitchen in North Beach for a report of trespassing. Upon arrival, a female later identified as **Anisa Joy**

Leonard, 25 of Washington D.C., was found seated inside the restaurant and refused to leave despite multiple commands from deputies. Leonard was escorted outside and advised that she was trespassed indefinitely from the property per management. She continued to loiter nearby, eventually moving to a neighboring yard where the homeowners requested she leave. An hour later, deputies were called back to the business after Leonard returned and was reportedly yelling at patrons and staff. Management confirmed she was harassing customers and creating a disturbance. Leonard showed visible signs of intoxication and admitted to consuming alcohol. Leonard was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where she was charged with Failure to Obey a Lawful Order, Trespassing: Private Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Public Intoxication.

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

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

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Speed Limit Change Announced for Cox Road

The Calvert County Department of Public Works advises motorists of an upcoming speed limit change on Cox Road near Tidewater School in Huntingtown. Effective Monday, Aug. 18 the posted speed limit on Cox Road will be reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph to enhance pedestrian safety. The school zone speed limit will be reduced to 20 mph during posted school hours.

Electronic message signs will be temporarily placed in the area to alert drivers of the changes. Motorists are urged to remain alert

to the new speed limits and pay attention to signage in the area.

Keeping our roads safe is a shared responsibility. Your attention and cooperation help protect our students and the community.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 410-535-2204 or by email at Public.Works@CalvertCountyMd.gov.

Press Release from Calvert County government

Holbrook Sentenced to Life in Prison

Brandon Ross Holbrook, 49, of Reedsville, PA was sentenced on July 18 to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for the murder and dismemberment of renowned Washington, DC, photographer Joseph Shymanski. The sentence was the maximum allowed under Maryland law.

The Honorable Mark S. Chandlee presided over the trial and sentencing.

On September 3, 2023, Holbrook drove 200 miles from his house in Reedsville, PA, to the home of Joseph Shymanski in Huntingtown. In the driveway of that home, Holbrook shot and killed Shymanski. Holbrook then loaded Shymanski's body into his pick-up truck and drove back to Reedsville, PA. Once there, Holbrook dismembered Shymanski's body with a power saw, burned the body parts in a metal barrel, and scattered the remains in a clearing near his house. Holbrook then cleaned his truck with bleach before covering the bed of the truck in chicken organs and fluid.

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey said, "Brandon Holbrook was convicted of the brutal and senseless murder of Joseph Shymanski following a fair and impartial jury trial. Holbrook thought he could escape the consequences of his actions by dismembering and disposing of the body, but he was proven wrong. Today's sentence will ensure that Holbrook spends the rest of his life in prison. I sincerely hope that the sentence brings some measure of peace and justice to the family and friends of Joe Shymanski."

"I am extremely proud of the work done in this case by the trial attorneys, Benjamin Lerner and Christopher Monte, and by their



Brandon Ross Holbrook

victim advocate, Christine King. This was an extremely difficult case. There were no eyewitnesses, no murder weapon, no confession, and no body. Mr. Lerner and Mr. Monte were thoroughly prepared to address each contested issue and presented the State's evidence in a straightforward and seamless fashion. As the verdict clearly indicated, they left no room for doubt in the minds of the jurors. The trial was a masterwork of criminal justice."

State's Attorney Harvey and Sheriff Ricky Cox would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Dennis Dirkmaat and the Applied Forensic Sciences Program Staff of Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA, for their assistance in the recovery and identification of Mr. Shymanski's remains.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Residents of Three Town Centers to be Surveyed

Part of Town Center Update Process

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning is taking the first steps to update the plans for three small town centers. The agency will be mailing out postcards and conducting online surveys soliciting public comments for residents who live in the postal codes for Owings, Huntingtown and St. Leonard.

According to Long Range Planner Tay Harris, "On February 19, 2025, the Planning Commission endorsed the format for The Master Plan of Town Centers to streamline the update process. Draft Chapter 1: Town Centers, Chapter 2: Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan, and Chapter 3: Dunkirk Town Center Master Plan are currently in the adoption phase."

"The Department of Planning & Zoning (P&Z) will mail postcards in July and post an online survey from mid-July to mid-August for the Town Center Master Plan Updates for Owings (Chapter 4), Huntingtown (Chapter 5), and St. Leonard (Chapter 6). Each survey will be available on the respective Town Center's update webpage. P&Z will seek feedback from residents and businesses in the Owings, Huntingtown, and St. Leonard zip codes to assess each Town Center's vision and whether the Town Center designation remains appropriate."

Harris told the planning commission at their July 16 meeting that the Owings and St. Leonard plans showed slight expansions from the existing plan.

For instance, the St. Leonard plan adds the St. Leonard Elementary School property into the town center.

Harris said, "Employment centers are being incorporated into town centers where they exist adjacent to the town centers."

Questions asked in the survey include:

- What are the biggest challenges for the town center?
- What is the biggest change you've seen in the town center?
- In one word, what do you love about your town center?
- What is the most important issue from the following: land use, housing, water resources, public safety, environment and natural resources, transportation, older adult and senior facilities, and education (school, college library)
- One key element of your town center that you would like to see retained or enhanced.
- Do you think it should remain a designated own center?

P&Z will present survey findings to the Planning Commission at its regular meeting on September 17.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Hearing held on Hallowing Point Park Plan

Synthetic Turf Fields Proposed

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a public hearing on July 22 on the proposed Hallowing Point Park Master Plan. There was no opposition, and no one spoke. The record will remain open at least for 10 days before a decision.

According to Parks and Recreation Director Bob Brabham, Hallowing Point Park (HPP), located at 4755 Hallowing Point Road, Prince Frederick, MD is an 81-acre park in Calvert County featuring athletic fields, walking paths, a playground, a basketball court, tennis courts, and pickleball courts. There is also a pavilion available for rental by the community. The most recent Master Plan was developed in 1998, and an update is needed to guide park improvements and growth over the next 15-20 years. In fall 2023, the Department of Parks & Recreation began updating the HPP Master Plan, gathering public input and working with Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects. A



Historic barns at Hallowing Point Park

draft was completed in September 2024, proposing improvements such as paved and natural trails, synthetic turf fields, upgraded ballfields, better signage, and a new skatepark. Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners work sessions were held in October 2024, and the plan was deemed consistent with the County

Comprehensive Plan. On February 27, 2025, the Planning Commission directed staff to circulate the draft and schedule a public hearing. The plan was sent to neighboring jurisdictions and County staff, and feedback was received from four state agencies, two county commissions, and four community members. On May 21, 2025, the Planning

Commission voted unanimously to close the record and recommended adoption by the Board of County Commissioners."

The most interest at the earlier planning commission hearing and in comments from agencies has been about two historic barns on the property. Park Planner Stephanie Sperling said those concerns had been incorporated into the plan.

Sperling told the BOCC, "We solicited input from in a survey in fall of '23. We had over 2000 people who responded to the survey."

Based on the input, she said, "We are proposing to convert a few of the fields in the northwest corner to synthetic turf. Based on a lot of feedback we've gotten from residents with strong desire for synthetic turf."

She said, "It's a very hotly contested issue, let's put it that way. But there is a lot of desire from sports parents to have synthetic turf. We're pretty much the only jurisdiction in the region without a publicly accessible synthetic turf field currently."

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Town Approves Method of Waiving Competitive Procurement

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Chesapeake Beach Town Council has approved a charter amendment to allow them to bypass the bidding process “for good cause upon certain conditions.”

Four votes, a simple majority, would be required. The council, at their July 17 meeting, rejected a proposed amendment by Council Vice President Jamey Shuls that would have required five votes and also would have limited the provision to an emergency situation.

Although the town has allowed such “sole source” decisions in the past, the change codifies the process. It could allow the town to issue a contract without a lengthy request for proposals (RFP) for the proposed replacement waterpark. The original park builder Paddock Pools, which wants to build the new one, has said they did not want to enter into a bidding war.

Town Attorney Elissa Levan said, “This is just a charter amendment to incorporate into your code provisions that many other jurisdictions have, that allow council to waive the competitive bidding requirements to allow the procurement process to be more flexible. However, we’ve written in parameters to ensure that the procurement process continues to be transparent, and to ensure that in fact the town continues to get the benefit of the best prices and proposals that are possible in the judgment of staff.”

Shuls said, “I do like the transparency part of this, but I really do find that it’s important

to run an RFP as often as possible and get as many businesses as you can. Clearly, sometimes you’re only going to get one bid back, but at least you made an effort in a bidding process to get the best price for the public.”

Councilman Anthony Greene said, “If we change it for emergency purposes, we might hinder some things that we’ve already been doing.”

Shuls said he talked to the town administrator about the bidding process. “I inquired about the amount of time and duration that we would need to put out RFPs for certain amounts and such. And I believe she said 21 days for \$50,000 or more, which is not a whole lot of time. If it’s an emergency because it’s time sensitive because the wastewater treatment plant needs something immediately because of an emergency, changing this ordinance to have this emergency language would be suitable, I think.”

Councilman Jonathan Evans said, “You’re not taking into account the time required of the staff to put together an RFP. And this isn’t tied to the waterpark, but the waterpark is a great example because we asked Jay (Public Works Administrator Berry) how long it would take to put this RFP together and he said months and months and months. Now that was obviously a massive project, but if you could just extrapolate that concept to everything that could potentially happen.”

The waterpark was not discussed at the July 17 meeting at which the code revision was passed.

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Anti-Trump Protesters Rally



Anti-Trump protesters have been rallying alongside Calvert County roadways in recent days. Pictured is a demonstration on July 18 in Prince Frederick.

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Economist Recommends Public Water and Sewer for Dunkirk

Commissioners Push Back on New Plan

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County is facing potential economic problems in the future, with stagnant population growth and an aging population, along with employment that has yet to recover from the pandemic. Those findings were presented with release of a five-year economic plan for the county prepared for the Department of Economic Development by Anirban Basu of the Sage Policy Group.

Basu said, "The policy can shift. But the question then becomes whether you want policy to shift. I think a fair number of people in this county don't want that much growth." That opinion was elicited from a survey of county leaders.

Basu said, "Many people indicated that one of the most important things for them was for Calvert County to retain its rural heritage. We heard that constantly. And I'm hearing some of that from you commissioners, that you want to maintain that rural heritage. No one wants to look like Waldorf and that great fear of Waldorf. No, very limited land area. You can't afford to have a Waldorf. That's poor planning, frankly. So, I appreciate what rural heritage really matters. And so, the question becomes, again, can the county retain its quality of life, its existing legacies, meaning that rural legacy, for instance, and still pay its bills, still be of interest to young people who want to come back to the county because they grew up here."

"As an economist, I want things to work for you. I want you to be able to pay your bills," he added.

Some of Basu's recommendations ran into a hornet's nest of push back from the county commissioners, who reminded Basu that they were elected and thus obliged to follow public sentiment, which is decidedly anti-growth. Basu reminded them that puts the county in the possibility of fiscal difficulty in the future if they are unable to supplement Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant and Cove Point LNG's current revenue streams or a new data center.

The disagreement was most evident over the Dunkirk Town Center. Basu said, "I was very surprised to hear that Dunkirk Town Center is not on public water and sewer. I don't know why that would be."

He was advised that people don't want it.

He added, "The town center concept is very appealing. How the town centers have been managed is not as appealing. And if you're going to embrace more economic development, it's got to be in the town centers. But the town centers have to be empowered to embrace that development. You need water and sewer in Dunkirk. That would be one of my recommendations."

Commissioner Mike Hart, who sparred

with Basu throughout the meeting, said, "I would love to be able to help those people (with failing septic) in case something happened. Because I worry about that all the time when I look at the square footage. And these folks have got so much in this, but you cannot regulate good behavior. So, if you could find some type of state policy that would hold up in the court of law, that says a guy can't come in and exploit that. And those folks up there have known that long before I've been in the game. The Dunkirk residents, they knew; they saw it. They watched those communities that they lived in be safe and walkable."

Basu said, "You've got failing septic systems right now. You have to do something don't you, commissioner?"

He added, "You have seven town centers. You've said you've embraced this town center concept, that that's where you want the bulk of new development to be. That's where the activity is. That's where your entrepreneur will be. That restaurateur, that amenity provider. Where else are you going to do it?"

He said the county can continue on its course and forcing people to Anne Arundel County, but "it would make the county less appealing from a quality-of-life perspective. And what you're left with, at the end of the day, private owners with failing septic systems; you still have a problem. And I don't think the state of Maryland's going to bail you out anytime soon. They're not!"

Basu was reminded by Commissioner President Buddy Hance that apartments don't fiscally pay for themselves. He responded, "I'm not suggesting to you, I've not recommended at any moment, Mr. Chair, even one new apartment unit be added."

Hance said, "That residents in Dunkirk that came from Prince George's County understand when you put water sewer in place, that brings apartments."

Hance said, "The citizens of this county greatly appreciate their quality of life. And you've done a very good job in your report of expressing the situation that we live in, where residents don't want to see one more car on the road. (Economic Development) Director (Julie) Oberg has the worst job in county government because they don't want economic development because that brings more cars on the road."

"Let it be condominiums. I'm not suggesting what housing type we're talking about," Basu said.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso, who lives in Dunkirk, says citizens have been organized against public water and sewer. Basu said, "I appreciate that. And there's a reason why you do not have municipal water and sewer. because you've been organized against it."

The plan does address the housing short-

age in the county, particularly lack of workforce housing. But Hart said the county had tried incentives for developers to build affordable housing, but they have opted for market rate housing instead.

Basu said some young families can't afford anything but apartments. But Hart said the county only has market rate apartments and families can't save money to move to single-family housing at those rates.

Basu said, "What I wanted to explore is that there are some options here that you need to consider. I will tell you that yes, water and sewer is expensive. Providing services to new residents is expensive, but also demographic deterioration and physical deterioration are also very expensive. Whether it's we're talking about septic systems or just an aging population that's increasingly moving towards fixed incomes, that can also make economic life more difficult. So, there's an expense to that too."

Following the meeting, in a press release Oberg said, "This plan offers well-informed, strategic framework for how Calvert County can thrive in the years ahead."

She added, "We appreciate the Sage Policy Group and everyone who shared their insights to help shape our county's economic future."



Anirban Basu

View the strategic plan and presentation at ChooseCalvert.com/3241/Strategic-Plan.

For more information, contact the Department of Economic Development at 410-535-4583 or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/3715/Economic-Development.

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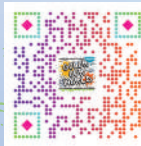


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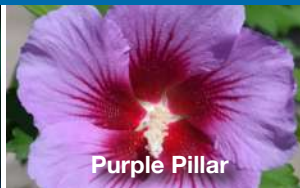
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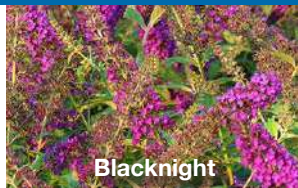


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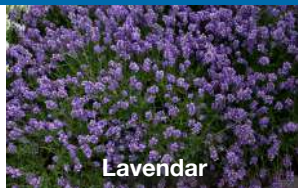


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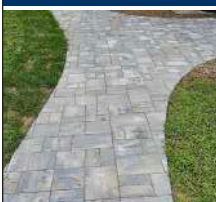
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Planners Finalize Prince Frederick Plan

Intersection Concerns Added to Plan

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

After a five-year process and then a two-month delay, the Calvert County Planning Commission has finalized the update of the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan and forwarded it to the county commissioners for their own public hearing. The latest delay allowed staff time to revise the plan to include concerns about Route 2/4 intersections in Prince Frederick.

The following language was added to the plan: "In Prince Frederick, signalized intersections at Sherry/Old Field Lane, MD 231, MD 402, Fox Run Boulevard/Chapline Place, Traskers Boulevard, and Stoakley Road/Hospital Drive are the primary branches from MD 2/4. There is also a signalized light for access into Armory Square along MD 2/4. Intersections along MD2/4 within the Prince Frederick Town Center and its surrounding area are of critical concern and may require operational or capacity improvements to meet adequate public facilities standards."

The plan then adds a caution: "Proposed projects that impact these intersections must demonstrate that projected traffic volumes meet the adequate public facilities standards or must propose mitigation measures acceptable to the Department of Public Works and/or the SHA."

"If no acceptable mitigation is identified or approved, the proposed project shall be deemed to have inadequate public facilities and shall be deferred for a period of six years, in accordance with the provisions of the adequate public facilities as required by the Calvert Code. 88.24 acres 9 parcels 1 Failing intersections as of July 2025 are MD 2/4 at Dares Beach Road (MD 402), MD 2/4 at Commerce Lane, MD 2/4 at Church Street, Main Street at MD 2/4 at Stoakley Road."

The language was added at the insistence of new planning commission member David Bury, who said that important aspect of land use in Prince Frederick wasn't addressed.

At the July 16 planning commission meeting, Bury said, "The proposed language here addresses my concern. So, I wanted to thank you."

The June planning commission meeting featured a presentation from a consultant for the Department of Public Works to address the concerns raised by Bury. But at the July 16 planning commission meeting, Member Chris Gadwat criticized that presentation. He said, "Last month Public Works had a traffic expert who made a presentation. I had questions on the presentation last month, and I went back, and I looked at it again and I looked at it again. There were a lot of holes in his presentation. There were a lot of inaccuracies in his presentation. I would encourage if Public Works thinks so, or if they went back and looked at it, they may want to look at possibly a different person to make a presentation or a separate presentation because for him to sit there and say the things that he said in reference to the lights through Prince Frederick, Route 4, that they were all computerized, that were all interlinked, and they were all synced. We

know that that's not true. And he sat there and he said it was, and I questioned him about it. His answer was, well, they have to be maintained. So I'm just bringing it up at this point because we're talking about those failing intersections. And since that meeting on at least seven occasions, I've sat at a red light at Trackers Boulevard heading south between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. at a red light. No one's going through Trackers intersection and the light at Fox Run (is) going through two revolutions of the light while we're sitting at Trackers at a red light with nobody going through. So maybe it's maintenance, maybe it's not, but something's got to be looked at that whole corridor there."

Before the unanimous planning commission decision to forward the recommendation to the county commissioners, Long-Range Planner Tay Harris provided a background: "On February 19, 2025, the Planning Commission endorsed the format for The Master Plan of Town Centers to streamline the update process. On March 19, 2025, and April 16, 2025, the Department of Planning & Zoning presented draft Chapters 1 and 2 of The Master Plan of Town Centers to the Planning Commission for review. At the April 16, 2025, meeting, the Planning Commission directed staff to hold a public hearing on May 21, 2025. On May 21, 2025, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and voted to keep the public record open until the intersection level-of-service was addressed. A work session on traffic studies was held on June 18, 2025. Chapter 1: Town Centers provides background information applicable to all Town Centers. Draft Chapter 2: Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan Update includes updates specific to the Prince Frederick Town Center. Both chapters incorporate comments from agencies, departments, and the public on the December 2024 draft, received during the 90-day comment period from June 27, 2025, to September 25, 2024. Title 3 of the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, as amended, requires the Calvert County Planning Commission to hold a public hearing and determine whether updates to Town Center Master Plans align with the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. In response to the Commission's direction, staff revised the draft chapters and made them available to the public on May 14, 2025, via the Calvert County Town Center Master Plan webpages. Legal notices were published in the newspaper on May 2, 2025, and 9, 2025, and the public hearing was announced via press release and social media on May 8, 2025. The public hearing record has remained open since May 21, 2025. The Department of Planning & Zoning has revised the draft chapters regarding intersection level-of-service and the county's adequate public facilities for roads per the Planning Commission's direction. In addition, revisions were made to the land use categories, replacing them with sub districts to be consistent with the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance Update."

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“I DON’T KNOW WHY THAT WOULD BE.”

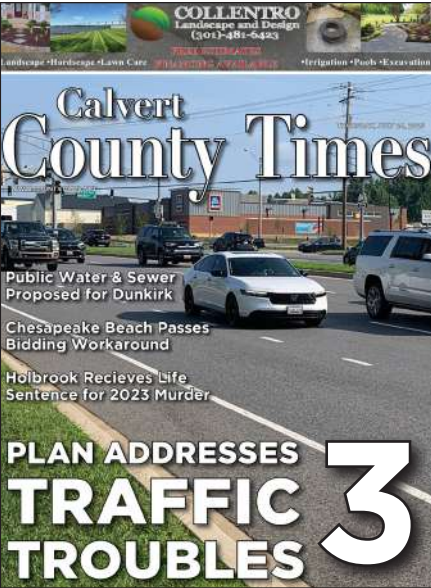
CONSULTANT ANIRBAN BASU ON THE LACK OF PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER IN DUNKIRK



LOCAL
Consulting firm proposes public water & sewer for Dunkirk



LOCAL
Life sentence issued for 2023 murder



ON THE COVER
Prince Frederick Town Center plan finalized, including traffic updates

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUL 24 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 73°	FRI, JUL 25 Sunny Hi: 95° Lo: 76°	SAT, JUL 26 Isolated Storms Hi: 89° Lo: 75°	SUN, JUL 27 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 74°
MON, JUL 28 Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 74°	TUE, JUL 29 Partly Cloudy Hi: 94° Lo: 75°	WED, JUL 30 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 92° Lo: 74°	THU, JUL 31 Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 73°

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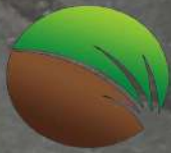
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