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# St. Mary's County Times

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

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**ST. MARY'S COUNTY  
GIVES THANKS**



# GIVE THANKS

To my gracious and loving Southern Maryland community,

As Thanksgiving 2025 approaches, my heart turns once again to the beautiful reminder "In everything give thanks." This simple phrase carries profound weight. It calls us not only to give thanks for the blessings we can see, but to give thanks in every season of life. This means in times of trouble, in good times, in sad times, in happy times, in grievous times, and in loving times, in All we do give thanks. Whatever season you are in right now. No matter if it's a peak or a valley— trusting that God's hand is at work for your good even when His plan is not yet fully visible. "GIVE THANKS"

This year has brought its share of victories and challenges, grief and happiness, setbacks and blessings yet through it all, I have witnessed the remarkable love and charity of our community. I've seen it time and time again. The miracles of what God's LOVE and our communities CHARITY can do. In the warm fellowship of our gatherings, in the compassion shared with those in need, in the strength and faith offered during times of difficulty, and in the way we continually lift one another in prayer. I am truly humbled and grateful to be the Shepard to the homeless and less fortunate. Seeing the Grace of God save souls and change lives. Through His beloved Son Jesus Christ, and His sacrifice and love for us.

**Psalm 100:1–5 — A Song of Praise for the Lord's Faithfulness to His People**

**A Psalm of Thanksgiving.**

**1** Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands!

**2** Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

**3** Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

**4** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

**5** For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

With love and thankfulness always,

***Pastor John Viland***  
***The Mission***



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## “I ONLY GET TO LIVE THE HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE ONCE.”

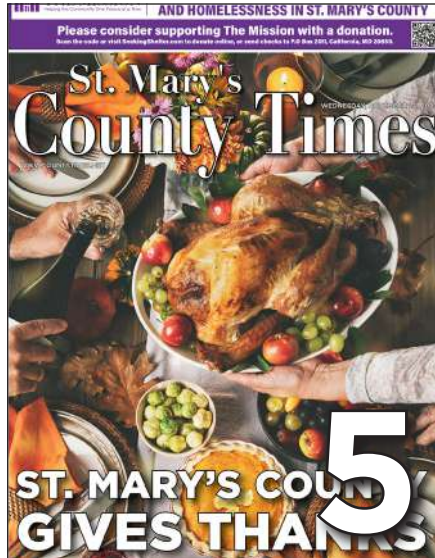
LEONARDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PIPER CHARLTON ON HER PROPOSED SHIFT TO CHOPTICON.



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Redistricting plans draw criticism



**COMMUNITY** 12  
The history behind a local delicacy



**ON THE COVER**  
Local officials share what they're thankful for

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 27	FRI, NOV 28	SAT, NOV 29	SUN, NOV 30
Partly Cloudy Hi: 48° Lo: 31°	Sunny Hi: 43° Lo: 27°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 44° Lo: 34°	PM Showers Hi: 49° Lo: 41°
MON, DEC 1	TUE, DEC 2	WED, DEC 3	THU, DEC 4
Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 44°	Showers Hi: 52° Lo: 34°	Showers Hi: 50° Lo: 35°	AM Showers Hi: 45° Lo: 33°



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 40 Heavy equipment locking mats. 12' x 8' & 3" thick

25 Late model excavators  
 10 Bulldozers  
 20 Mini Excavators  
 20 Track skid steers late model w/low miles  
 20 Electric golf carts w/lithium batteries  
 4 Rubber tire backhoes  
 2 Caterpillar wheel loaders  
 10 Crawler Loaders

15 Tri Axle dump trucks  
 10 Road Tractors  
 20 Heavy duty trucks  
 40 Light pickups  
 15 utility trailers  
 2 air-brake tag along 10 ton trailers  
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 200 Lots of support equipment



**2021 Chevy Truck**  
 w/utility body. X2



**CAT 725 Articulated Haul**  
 Truck w/tailgate - low hours



**CH Mack 427 & LL8**



**Mack Granite Tri Axle Dump**  
 1 of 10



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# Local Officials Give Thanks

The County Times asked local officials what they had to give thanks for this year, both personally and professionally. Here are the responses we received:



**Commissioner Eric Colvin, District 1**

This year at Thanksgiving I am especially thankful for time with family and friends. I am thankful for food on our table and a warm home and an opportunity to slow down life for a bit and spend time in gratitude. I am thankful for a generous community that reaches out to help neighbors during difficult times.



**Commissioner Scott Ostrow, District 4**

This year, I'm thankful for quite a lot both personally and professionally.

Personally, I'm especially grateful

for my family. My wife Jennifer, our kids, Joshua, Kelly, Clove keep me grounded, motivated, and reminded of what truly matters. Their support makes it possible for me to give so much of myself to this community, and I never take that for granted.

Professionally, I'm incredibly thankful for the trust the people of St. Mary's County have placed in me. Every day, I get to work alongside dedicated county employees, community partners, and residents who genuinely care about making our home stronger, safer, and more vibrant. We've made real progress together, new infrastructure, community improvements, and investments in our schools and public safety and I'm proud of how far we've come.

Most of all, I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve. Being your commissioner is

an honor, and I'm grateful every day for the chance to fight for this community and the future we're building together.



**County Attorney Buffy Giddens**

This year, I am especially thankful for the dedicated County employees and public servants who work tirelessly every day on behalf

of the residents of St. Mary's County. In my role as County Attorney, I have the privilege of seeing the professionalism, integrity, and commitment that drive our County forward. Their work, often quiet and unheralded, strengthens our community and makes it an honor to serve.

**Director of the Department of Land Use & Growth Management (LUGM) Jessica Andritz**

I am thankful for the opportunity to lead the team at the Department of Land Use & Growth Management. Every day, the staff within our Department assist residents and business owners achieve their land use goals while helping to create a vision for the future of our County. We look for ways to engage, serve, and give back to the community, especially around the holiday season. I am so thankful for their generosity and their commitment to excellence!

**Communications Director Jenna Guzman**

This year, I am especially thankful for the unwavering support, unconditional love, and shared laughter of my family and friends. They remind me every day what is most important in this life. Professionally, I'm so grateful for the opportunity to help tell our story—supporting leaders, departments, and partners who work every day to serve our community and make St. Mary's County an amazing place to live.



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# Leonardtwn to Chopticon Redistricting Draws Ire



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

A redistricting proposal by consultant Cannon Design Partnership has some students and their parents up in arms. The proposal would have them transferred from Leonardtown High School (LHS) to Chopticon High School (CHS). They say the move would harm them socially and in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

The move is included in all three redistricting options Cannon has presented, which are listed in the school systems redistricting section of their website.

The three proposals are:

- Plan 1
  - Utilization goal for each high school is 104 percent.
  - Utilization percentages range between 103 – 106 percent
  - Neighborhoods remain intact
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown High School are assigned to Chopticon High School
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown High School are assigned to Great Mills High School
  - Elizabeth Hills neighborhood is assigned to Great Mills High School
  - 12 percent of high school students are affected
- Plan 2
  - Utilization goal for each high school is 104 percent.
  - Utilization percentages range between 103-106 percent
  - Neighborhoods remain intact
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown High School are assigned to Chopticon High School
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown High School are assigned to Great Mills High School
  - Elizabeth Hills neighborhood is assigned to Great Mills High School
  - Breton Bay area is assigned to Chopticon High School
  - 12 percent of high school students are affected
- Plan 3
  - Utilization goal for each high school is 104 percent.
  - Utilization percentages range between 103-105 percent
  - Neighborhoods remain intact
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown High School are assigned to Chopticon High School
  - Northern areas of Leonardtown

High School are assigned to Great Mills High School

- Elizabeth Hills neighborhood is assigned to Great Mills High School
- 11 percent of high school students are affected

The concerns about the high school redistricting were aired during the St. Mary's County Board of Education's Nov. 19 meeting. The school board will begin to address redistricting during their first meeting in December.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, Baylin Derby, a LHS sophomore, said, "While this produces more level enrollment, it prevents us being as successful as I know we can be. Take me for example, at Leonardtown this year. I've upheld a 4.33 GPA because of a teacher network I know and understand. Moving to Chopticon forces me to learn a new network and choose from a less robust AP program, thus inevitably lowering my cumulative GPA and lessening my chances at obtaining the AP CAP award. I filled the position of class president for the Class of '28 this year and moving me to Chopticon lessens my likelihood of ever being elected for class office again."

"Removing me from my class, prevents me from learning valuable leadership skills and how to advocate for people who can't advocate for themselves. My class and I are codependent upon each other and separating us hurts both the class and myself."

Concerns were also expressed about the impact on athletics. Leonardtown just earned state championships in Field Hockey and boys' Soccer.

Derby said, "I know sports aren't the main focus of this redistricting, but they should be considered when they have real world consequences. Being moved to Chopticon obviously takes me off the Leonardtown football team. And have you considered how that affects athletes? Chances of getting scholarships (are greater) with a football program like ours dedicated to helping athletes get scholarships through recruiting, tutoring, and teaching real world people skills."

He said, "Taking me away from coaches that I've already built a lifelong bond with, compromises my progress towards becoming a successful college athlete."

He pleaded, "Please don't make me abandon my family for the last two years of my high school career."

Other speakers echoed Derby's sentiments and included the option of grandfathering existing students or requiring them to provide their own transportation.



Sophomore Piper Charlton said, "I would like to speak on the importance of a grandfather clause. Over the two years I've been at Leonardtown, my grades have been exceptional, and I've also been a part of the National Honor Society, soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams. And I'm currently in the Academy of Health Professions Program at the tech center."

She said she would be returning to soccer from an injury. "I'll also have many limitations that only a coach who knows my situation could handle. If my injury isn't handled properly, there could be serious repercussions setting me back another year."

She added, "If I were redistricted to attend Chopticon next year, that would give me two years left of high school. I only get to live the high school experience once, and in this

case, I would only get to live half of it. Not to mention the importance of senior year. Those memories last for a lifetime. And having to start from scratch halfway through could be detrimental to my high school involvement, including my participation in clubs that will also cultivate positive memories."


In addition to the school board, the county commissioners have been inundated with complaints about the Leonardtown to Chopticon redistricting, even though they don't have a role in the process.

Several said that the three high schools offered equal opportunity, Commissioner President Randy Guy noted his son attended CHS and he has had a successful personal life and professional career.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

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# New Health Department Building Draws Sticker Shock

## Commissioners Question \$61M Price Tag

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

St. Mary's County Health Officer Dr. Meenakshi Brewster and county staff have been asked to go back to the drawing board by the county commissioners after presentation of a proposal for a new \$61 million, 91,999-square-foot health department building. The proposal was significantly more expensive and larger than an earlier proposal.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt called it a Taj Mahal.

The Department of Public Work's and Transportation's Deputy Director Gary Whipple explained what happened. At the commissioner's first budget work session for FY 27 on Nov. 18, Whipple said, "The existing facility is 29,600 square feet. And then also the health department has leased space that they're using to meet their current needs. There're about 176 parking spaces right now for the Peabody St. location on about five acres."

He explained, "We conducted a feasibility study in 2021, and that feasibility study looked at the nine different operational units of the health department. We went through a space needs analysis and looked at efficiencies, public facing needs versus things that had more confidential nature, the different

type of uses. The 2021 study is the one on which the current CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) sheet has been based for the last four years. They looked at national averages for office space use. That was the standard that they used."

He added, "That study also identified a need for 24,000 square feet for just general storage. And we looked at two alternatives for that project. One, partial renovation and then new construction versus all new construction. And what we determined during that study was that it was not feasible for us to renovate the existing building. That would trigger code upgrades, fire suppression. There's not enough head space in the building for even fire mains. So that looked very cost prohibitive. So the CIP sheet was based upon a new facility." That would have been 58,100 square feet.

Whipple explained, "We worked with the health department last year to update the study." Using the same consultant and "their review of the requirements of the health department was the next level of detail." And "they used, instead of national averages for office space, the Facility Institute guidelines for outpatient facility."

Which led Hewitt to observe, "It's going to be a hospital," adding, "You intended to be an ancillary to the hospital to do outpa-

tient stuff."

Brewster explained, "We provide clinical services. This is not an inpatient hospital."

Brewster said, "That element was not as developed in the first study. And we found that out when we did the most recent study. Also, what we've uncovered in this second study was after the effects of COVID have been assessed in the operations of the health department, we determined that there was a significantly larger need for condition storage. Things that are stored in climate and humidity control in addition to the general storage needs. So, we have about 7,800 square feet of requirement for condition storage."

She said the 91,000 square feet, which also includes a drive through vaccine test area similar to what was done at the Hollywood Fire Department, is a projection for her department's needs in 2040.

Brewster said the premise of both studies was to keep all her department in one location. But Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "I'd like to push back on that premise just a little bit. I know everything in county government when we talk about space needs is flexing and swinging on the sheriff's headquarters. And once that is built, the sheriffs are able to occupy that new building, freeing up space in (the existing) building. In my mind, I would love to see the environmental services branch of the health department co-located next to Land Use and Growth Management. I think that would make a lot of sense for our citizens that need to get permits for different things. They can go to one place in order to get those services."

Brewster countered, "We're always looking at ways to improve the door for citizens in our community and try to make services easier for them. And that's why the health department has focused so much with your support, in finding ways to implement electronic records management so people can access the things they need electronically. We also have methods now for people to submit applications electronically, which has removed the requirement in many cases for people to go between agencies. Wells and septs are a portion of what we do in environmental health. But certainly, a lot of our other work involves engaging with infectious diseases, the rabies control program, for example."

Regarding things being done electronically, Colvin said, "I just don't want us to ever lose sight of the face-to-face customer service."



County Health Officer Dr. Meenakshi Brewster

"I think we could be really set up very strategically and very well in one location for that face-to-face," Brewster said.

She added, "Our environmental health laboratory involves biohazards. We have site certification related to that. We have venting associated with that. And for environmental health, wherever environmental health team is located, we need to ensure our laboratory is able to be located there as well."

But Colvin stuck to his guns about going back and reviewing shared space. The commissioners also wanted a look at what phasing in the entire building would look like. Whipple said there was money available to study that.

Brewster reminded the commissioners, "We provide quite a bit of clinical services to our community, including behavioral health, clinical services, and other types of outpatient primary care, urgent care types of clinical services. These are services our community members really rely upon. These are services that benefit the economy by helping people stay healthy and stay at work and stay in schools."

But Hewitt said, "I guess the answer is, is 91,000 square feet a new paradigm. For this commissioner, I don't think I'd heard this number before. And \$61 million is just not reasonable."

Regarding looking at different approaches, Colvin said, "We definitely want what's best for our citizens as much as possible, but I think this is a little too far of a reach for us and for what we can afford."

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# Lexington Park Woman Arrested in October Fatal Shooting

Djhonna Mari Jones, 46, of Lexington Park, was arrested via warrant on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and carrying a loaded handgun on or about her person in connection with an October shooting.

On Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, at approximately 6:40 p.m., deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in the 21000 block of Bellevue Court in Lexington Park for a reported assault in progress. While deputies were en route, dispatchers advised that shots had been fired. Upon arrival, deputies located a deceased male near the driveway of the residence with apparent gunshot wounds to the head and upper body.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division assumed the investigation, and a warrant for Jones' arrest was issued on Nov. 17, 2025.

Jones was taken into custody and incarcerated at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, where she is being held without bond.

The investigation remains active. Anyone with information who has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Detective Andrew Burgess at 301-475-4200, ext. 8041, or by email at Andrew.Burgess@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also submit tips anonymously:

- Text 847411, starting your message with "SMCSO", add a space, and then your tip.



Djhonna Mari Jones

- Online: Submit a tip through the Sheriff's Office website at [www.FirstSheriff.com/tips](http://www.FirstSheriff.com/tips).
- App: Send a tip directly through the SMCSO app. Download the free app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

For those who prefer to make a phone call, tips can also be shared through the Crime Solvers line at 301-475-3333. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

*Press release from SMCSO*

# Nominations Sought for Sustainability Awards

The St. Mary's County Commission on the Environment (CoE) is seeking nominations for the 2025 Sustainability Awards, which recognize St. Mary's County organizations and residents for outstanding efforts to improve our local environment.

Community members are encouraged to submit nominations for students or schools, restaurants, businesses, non-profits, farms or agricultural organizations, and even individuals or a household that has demonstrated environmental stewardship, resource conservation, innovative or best practices and/or pollution prevention. Nominees for the 2025 calendar year should demonstrate an impressive commitment to improving local environmental impacts.

Eligibility: Open to any business or organization based within St. Mary's County and County residents that have demonstrated outstanding efforts to improve the environment. Recognition may be granted for voluntary initiatives, projects, or for efforts exceeding regulatory requirements within the 2025 calendar year (January through December 2025).

Sustainability Award Winners in recent years include:

- Southern Maryland Sierra Club
- Environmental Division of the Department of Public Works at Naval Air Station Patuxent River
- Southern Maryland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Father Andrew White, S.J. School
- Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School
- Master Gardeners (UMD Extension)
- Bay Fibers Studio
- Enso Kitchen

Nomination forms are due by 5 p.m. on February 28, 2026. Submit nominations online at <https://forms.gle/Rbhg2vpzh5HC4JQt5> or via email to [CoEstMarys@gmail.com](mailto:CoEstMarys@gmail.com).

For more information on the Commission on the Environment, please visit [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/COE](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/COE) or [www.facebook.com/GreenInStMarys](http://www.facebook.com/GreenInStMarys).

*Press release from St. Mary's County Government.*

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND  
CASE NO: C-18-FM-25-000650

TO: JEFFREY BAIER, UNKNOWN ADDRESS  
IN THE MATTER OF BAILEY IRELAND BAIER

### NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF A MINOR (Md. Rule 15-901(d))

FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO: Bailey Ireland Hudgins

A petition to change the name of Bailey Ireland Baier to Bailey Ireland Hudgins has been filed with this court.

You must consent to (agree) or object to (oppose) the petition in writing no later than 30 days after being served (receiving) this notice and the documents filed in this case. **If you do not file a written consent or objection within 30 days of being served with this notice, the court will consider your silence to be consent and may grant the name change.**

You can use form CC-DR-063 (Parent's/Guardian's/Custodian's Consent/Objection to Change of Name of a Minor).

Any objection must be supported by an affidavit (a written statement signed by oath or affirmation) and served on all parties. (Md. Rule 1-321.)

Changing the name of the minor will not change any existing child support obligation or paternity.

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

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 4:15 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Resolution No. 2-25 request for Annexation of a parcel of real property consisting of 16.35± acres of land shown on Tax Map 32, Parcel 96, which property is contiguous and adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the Town

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodation will be provided for people with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Resolution No. 3-25 request for Annexation of a parcel of real property consisting of 52.18± acres of land shown on Tax Map 41, Parcel(s) 235, and a parcel of real property consisting of 3.21 acres of land shown on Tax Map 41, Parcel(s) 266, which properties are contiguous and adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the Town.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodation will be provided for people with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

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

# Jury Convicts Lexington Park Man of First-Degree Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced on Nov. 25 that a St. Mary's County jury convicted Joseph Daren Brooks, 23, of Lexington Park of charges that include first-degree murder, the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and regulated firearm possession by a disqualified person for his role in the fatal shooting of a 23-year-old victim.

Brooks was convicted of the following offenses following a five-day jury trial:

- First-degree murder (maximum penalty life in prison);
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a violent crime (maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum of five years without the possibility of parole); and
- Regulated firearm illegal possession by a disqualified person (maximum penalty of 5 years in prison).

"This verdict brings long-awaited justice for the family members devastated by this senseless violence," said Sterling. "The jury's decision reflects the strength of the evidence and the tireless work of the detectives and prosecutors who refused to allow these brutal acts to go unanswered. Our office remains firmly committed to prosecuting all violent offenders."

Brooks will continue to be held without bond pending a sentencing hearing where he faces a maximum penalty of life plus 25



Joseph Daren Brooks

years in prison.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Mosier and Assistant State's Attorney Shaye Reynolds prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Warren Forinash of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Joseph Stanalonis presided over the case.

*Press release from St. Mary's County State's Attorney*

## Maryland Libraries Receive Federal Grants *St. Mary's Included in Recipients*

The Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) is pleased to announce the awarding of \$404,715 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to public library systems across the state.

These competitive grants, funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and administered by MSLA, support locally developed initiatives such as improving reading skills, bolstering workforce development efforts, developing strategic plans, providing access to mobile libraries and telehealth booths, and other important library services.

"Maryland public library systems work hard to serve the evolving needs of their communities, and these innovative new projects are a direct result of those efforts," said Maryland State Librarian Morgan Lehr Miller. "We're grateful to our federal partners at IMLS for continuing to support pub-

lic libraries and the millions of Marylanders who rely on them."

MSLA distributes approximately \$1.7 million annually in LSTA funds through the Grants to States program to all county public library systems.

St. Mary's received this funding in the latest LSTA competitive grant cycle:

- Closing Reading Gaps: To address low reading achievement in an underserved community, St. Mary's County Library will collaborate with three after-school programs, training volunteer tutors in the evidence-based Story Champs program and providing students with quality reading materials and essential technology.

*Press release from Maryland State Library Agency*



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*County Times*



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# Stuffed Ham: A Southern Maryland Delicacy's Origins in Slavery

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

St. Mary's County families have spent recent weekends grinding kale and cabbage and simmering hams for hours in preparation for Thanksgiving dinner. Those not cooking it at home have placed orders for it at long-standing spots like Chief's and Chaptico Market.

Stuffed ham, Southern Maryland's staple delicacy, is most popular around the holidays, but many are unaware of the food's origins.

Though the meal's history may never be confirmed, the story that has survived generations says enslaved people were the first to make stuffed ham.

As the story goes, enslaved cooks on Southern Maryland plantations were often given discarded or poor cuts of meat. Oral history says jowls were sometimes distributed to enslaved people during the holidays.

To stretch and improve the flavor of the meat, enslaved people filled it with vegetables grown in their own small gardens, most commonly cabbage and kale. They would then wrap the meat in rags and leave it to boil until it was tender.

Plantation owners eventually tried the dish and adopted it, believing they could elevate it using higher quality cuts. Corned



W.J. Dent and Sons' stuffed ham sandwiches. The restaurant gets swamped with orders for their beloved stuffed ham every holiday season.

ham became the preferred choice because it preserves well and holds seasoning.

Since being woven into Southern Maryland culture, stuffed ham has become a deeply local tradition, one that families pass down through generations, each adding their own variation.

Everyone does stuffed ham differently. To make the slits to fill the meat, some use knives, while others use electric drills. The most common way to wrap the ham now is

with cheese cloth, but some still use pillowcases to cook it in instead.

It's said that in more northern parts of Southern Maryland, they prefer more kale to cabbage, while the inverse is true the deeper south you get.

Southern Maryland locals who have moved away still enjoy their stuffed ham, often having loved ones mail it to them across the country or overseas.

The dish has become a love language for

many. One St. Mary's County resident of almost 60 years recalled moving to the area as a newlywed and wanting to surprise her husband, a lifelong county native, with a homemade stuffed ham.

Since the recipe called for red pepper, she got a small paper bag full of them from the market. Unaware of the heat, she used the full bag.

"I was so excited to do it while he was at work and didn't know anything about it," she said.

When her husband took the first bite, she said he had to put his mouth right to the kitchen faucet for water. "We were newly married, and I was just trying to show him what I could do. That was something I had to live with all these years, he would tease me about it all the time."

She has made stuffed ham every year since, carefully following her husband's family recipe, and being much more cautious with the red pepper.

In a county that is constantly modernizing, stuffed ham endures as a symbol of local identity. Whether families are coming together to grind vegetables and make it themselves or enjoying it around the dinner table, stuffed ham is a St. Mary's County exclusive treasure that many families are thankful for this holiday season.

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# Christmas on the Square: A Tradition Since 1933

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

Leonardtown's beloved annual Christmas on the Square will celebrate the holidays and the community on November 28 with over 100 vendors, sleigh rides, free photos with Santa, and the iconic tree lighting ceremony.

Festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m., where guests can enjoy holiday music or hop aboard a hayride. Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. to light the tree, and then he will make his way to his chair for free photos.

Santa isn't the only one visiting from the North Pole. Mrs. Claus will be reading stories throughout the night, and elves will be around helping lead crafts. The Grinch and other holiday characters will be roaming the event as well.

With around 5,000 attendants expected, the town has prepared a plethora of fun activities and services like balloon art, train rides, hot cocoa and specialty drinks. There will also be a live nativity scene.

The tradition owes its longevity to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, who donates and helps put up the artificial tree used every year.

According to department records, the first community Christmas tree was erected in 1933, donated from John Ralph Abell's farm and powered by Nuttrell's Store.

By the mid 30s', decorating the town tree had become an annual responsibility, with committees appointed each fall to prepare for the holidays.

The tradition continued into the 50s', where in 1959 the concept of bringing Santa Claus in on a firetruck was introduced.

One year, the tradition faced uncertainty, as the town had been facing an energy shortage and was asked to conserve power. The town opted to illuminate the tree using a sin-



Santa Claus speaking to the crowd at the 2024 Christmas on the Square. Photo by Ron Bailey, courtesy of the Town of Leonardtown.

gle spotlight and decorated it with wrapped packages donated by local businesses.

A major turning point for the event came in 1988, when the department launched its first annual train display and formal tree-lighting ceremony at the square. More than 1,600 attended the first year, and that number nearly doubled the second.

Since then, the event has only grown, bringing in more support from Leonardtown businesses. Today, an artificial tree is used instead, hoping to conserve mature living trees.

## Local Farm Delivers White House Christmas Tree



The Clydesdales of Suttler Post Farm in Mechanicsville delivered the White House Christmas tree on Monday, Nov. 24. This is Suttler Post Farm's ninth year delivering the White House tree.

# Join Santa & Mrs. Claus for a Festive Storytime

Experience the magic of the season with our Museum Division! Families are invited to don their coziest Christmas jammies or festive holiday outfits and head to the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center on Sunday, December 14 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a joyful holiday Open House you won't want to miss!

This special event will feature:

- Two Polar Express Storytimes: Gather 'round for two special readings of the beloved holiday classic, *The Polar Express* at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Children and parents alike are encouraged to wear their pajamas to truly capture the spirit of the story!
- Santa & Mrs. Claus: Meet the jolliest duo of the season – don't forget to smile and capture the perfect holiday card moment.
- Holiday Treats: Enjoy delicious cookies and refreshments.
- Festive Fun for All Ages: Holiday coloring activities will be provided, and guests are encouraged to explore the fascinating exhibits at the interpretive center while there.

The open house will take place at the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center,

located at 21675 S. Coral Drive in Lexington Manor Passive Park in Lexington Park.

This free event is brought to you by St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division and the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums. Mark your calendars and join us for this heartwarming celebration filled with holiday spirit, family fun, and a little Santa magic!

Our amazing museums offer holiday fun and local shopping all season long! Learn more: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/pio/docs/2025-199NewsReleaseMuseum-HolidayEvents.pdf>.

For more information on hours of operation, programs, events, admission prices, and more, following our museums on Facebook at:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: Facebook.com/SCIMuseum
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: Facebook.com/1836Light
- U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center: Facebook.com/USCTCenter

Press Release from St. Mary's County Museum Division.

## Pets of the Week



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### MEET RUBBLE

Hi, my name is Rubble. I'm a longer-haired kitten who believes every hallway is my personal racetrack! I zoom like a NASCAR champion, then I'll immediately demand cuddles as payment for my amazing athletic performance. I'm that friendly fluffball who wants nothing more than to play, explore, and then melt right into your lap. Adopt me today. Your home (and your heart) will never be quiet again! Visit me during adoption hours-Mon thru Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



### MEET AVA

This gorgeous 5-year-old Lab mix is as sweet as she is chatty – she loves to "talk" and share her opinions. Ava is a total people-lover, but she has a special soft spot for the fellas! She does well with most dogs and enjoys playtime, though her confident personality can come off a little bossy. Ava is also okay with cats and is learning great manners in her foster home. She's working on sharing food and treats with other animals – she's a little protective of her goodies sometimes, but she's improving every day. If you're looking for a loyal companion with lots of love (and personality!) to give,

Ava might just be your perfect match. If you are interested in meeting with Ava or learning more about her please contact Animal Relief Fund (ARF) at 301-866-0303 or visit [www.animalrelieffund.org](http://www.animalrelieffund.org)





## *A View From The* **BLEACHERS**



### **Where Giants Once Roamed**

By Ronald N. Guy  
Contributing Writer

If one could sit perpetually motionless in one location, basic sustenance not required, the landscape would not hold static. Change — be it welcomed, unfortunate, beautiful or grotesque — is a promise of life. Hair turns grays or departs. Babies grow up. Loved ones transition to another dimension. Professional endeavors, homes, presidents, perhaps a spouse or two, come and go. The natural world wakes in the spring, turns green in the summer, offers a wonderful array of colors in the fall and goes gray in the winter, providing a neutral backdrop to accentuate the brilliant white of fallen snow.

Individual relationships with change are complicated. It is likely not universally dreaded or welcomed — change can be good, it can be bad, it can be an unexpected tonic to reinvigorate life or an unfortunate twist that begets a psychological malaise. Whatever the emotional response, change will be encountered; it is as inevitable as the expiration of life itself.

For the last few years — I suspect like many of you, my dear readers — I've been wandering around our little blue dot in some state of bewilderment. Something feels off. A pandemic, devastating weather events, toxic politics, acceleration of artificial intelligence and a government shutdown, mixed in a cocktail with normal stuff that just happens over the course of five years, will do that, I suppose. I'm trying to hold on and keep up in this Land of Confusion, as Genesis crooned about many years ago. Wisdom indeed does come with age; I assumed it would bring a greater understanding of life. Although maybe understanding is the folly of youth; age brings the wisdom to know that any moment in life is as fragile as a tiny turtle hatchling struggling find the sea. Leaves in the breeze, we are, flipping, fluttering and changing course at the whims of mysterious and invisible forces.

For a few decades now, the landscape at the corner of Newtowne Neck and Bayside roads has provided solace with each passage. Bar on one side, softball field on the other, it has remained perfectly unchanged by the passage of time: the great oak in a relentless storm of change, a beacon for how things used to be, a visual that comforted my confounded soul.

The earth underfoot has shifted again. The ball field is now gone; its day finally came. Plowed over, it is being repurposed for something other than the only thing I've ever known this magical spec of land for: softball. I know little of the details that led to this outcome. Maybe it could have been saved through some proactive local government initiative. It is an historic place, after all, something that would seem worth saving, at least in some form. It doesn't seem to matter now. The result is the unfortunate result. File it with all the other things that have had the world on tilt.

I'm certain that many reading this piece know this ball field well and hold their own special memories of it. I would love to hear them, if you're so inclined to drop me a line. For me, it is synonymous with the Hobos softball team. When dreaming of this field, it is perpetually the summer of 1982 and I am 11 years old. The Hobos, donned in their blue and white uniforms are locked in an epic clash with Pennie's or the Hollywood Stars. The stands are packed. There's an audible buzz in the air. Bats line the dugout. Gloves pop with the arrive a swiftly thrown softball. Coolers stuffed with beer await consumption after the duel's conclusion. There is nowhere else I'd rather be. In the eyes of my childhood self, I'm at the center of the universe, at the edge of a magical sandlot, watching giants roam.

In the years since, these memories have been refreshed by the presence and visual encounter of that field; I hope its physical departure does not cause them to fade. Time will tell. Instead of melancholy, I'll endeavor gratefulness — this being the season of thanksgiving — to have lived these grand experiences at an enchanted corner in Compton.

Send comments to [RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com](mailto:RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com)

## **FINANCIAL FOCUS®**

### **Millennials and fraud: Protecting yourself in a digital world**

Fear of fraud is universal. Today, 77% of Americans are concerned about fraud and identity theft when managing finances online, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Even more striking: 26% of Americans have personally experienced financial fraud.

While fraud is often associated with the elderly, millennials are among the hardest hit. Over one-fourth (28.6%) of millennials reported experiencing financial loss due to scams — more than any other generation, per 2024 research from PYMNTS Intelligence.

Here are common scams targeting millennials:

- *Cryptocurrency* — Promises of guaranteed profits or zero risk are red flags. Watch for Ponzi schemes and fake crypto launches.
- *Payment apps* — Watch for scammers impersonating someone you know or spoofing app emails to steal credentials.
- *Online shopping* — Beware of fake sites or ads selling trendy items at unrealistic prices.
- *Student loan forgiveness* — Scammers who offer debt relief for a fee just want your info or money.
- *Government* — IRS calls or texts about an unclaimed refund or an unpaid tax bill are scams. The IRS only contacts taxpayers in writing by U.S. mail.
- *Job and gig* — Avoid unusually high-paying online jobs requiring upfront purchases.
- *Romance* — Requests for money in online relationships are a major warning sign.

Learning to spot fraud matters. Be suspicious of these warning signs: unexpected windfalls, like contests you didn't enter; pressure to pay immediately or upfront; requests for payment via gift cards, wire transfers or crypto; or receiving a check and being asked to wire part of it back.

Also look out for spelling and grammar errors in emails and texts, fake social media profiles, requests to access your computer to "fix a problem" and unsolicited contact, especially from a bank, government agency or tech support.

Some practices can help you stay safe. Use strong, unique passwords and different ones for different accounts. Use multifactor authentication (MFA) wherever possible; it can block unauthorized access. And before entering personal or financial information on a website, make sure the URL starts with <https://> and shows a padlock icon. This means it's a secure site.

If you think you've been scammed, don't beat yourself up. Scammers are professionals who exploit human psychology. Anyone can fall victim. Here's what to do:

- *Act quickly.* Contact your bank or payment company immediately to try to stop any payments in progress. Change your passwords and usernames right away if they may have been compromised. Run an antivirus scan on devices that might be affected.
- *Report the crime.* File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov). For online fraud, also file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center ([ic3.gov](https://ic3.gov)). These agencies can provide resources and connect you with law enforcement.
- *Protect yourself going forward.* Monitor your credit reports regularly and consider freezing your credit with the credit agencies. Learn more ways to protect yourself at [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov).

The digital world offers incredible convenience but also opportunities for criminals. Stay alert and know how to respond to help protect yourself and your financial future.

*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*



# SOMB Holiday Events

## 14th Annual Turkey Trot

November 27, 7 a.m.  
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum  
10515 Mackall Rd., Saint Leonard

Come strut your stuffing with us at the Calvert County Community Partners Turkey Trot 5K! This is a family-friendly, fun-filled race through Jefferson Patterson Park and a long-standing tradition for Project ECHO going back to 2012.

## Annmarie Garden In Lights

November 28-January 1  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center  
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons

Enjoy a unique holiday experience at Annmarie Garden in Lights! Experience the most magical time of the year at Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center as the garden is transformed into a twinkling wonderland! Explore an enchanting world of glowing light sculptures, wondrous light installations, and fantastic photo ops around every corner. Annmarie Garden in Lights is never the same show twice! With beautiful new light sculptures handmade by our talented staff, enchanting photo ops, activities, food trucks, and more—there are so many new things to discover!

## Christmas on the Square

November 28, 4:30–8:30 p.m.  
Leonardtown Square  
Admission: Free

The holiday season begins in Leonardtown when Santa arrives for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Town Square. The festivities begin at 4:30pm with holiday music, entertainment, horse and carriage rides, sleigh rides, train rides, hayrides, live nativity, petting zoo, face painting, children's crafts, hot drinks, fresh kettle corn, and other fun activities! Many downtown restaurants and shops around the Town Square will be open and decorated for your holiday pleasure.

## Hearth and Home

November 28 & 29, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Historic St. Mary's City  
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City  
Admission: Included with museum admission; \$1 off with canned good donation for Chapline House

Close out the museum season with warmth, food, and history during Hearth & Home, the final open weekend of 2025 at Historic St. Mary's City.

Stroll through the scenic museum landscape and experience the aromas and sights of the past as interpreters prepare seasonal dishes inspired by the lifeways of 17th-century English colonists and Indigenous peoples. From the crackling hearths to the stories behind the meals, this event invites you to slow down, savor the season, and take home a complimentary recipe booklet to continue the experience in your own kitchen.

All food food prepared at our living history sites is for demonstration purposes and not for consumption.

## Evening Tides: Candlelight Christmas

November 29, 5–8 p.m.  
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum  
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point  
Admission: Free; \$5 donation per person suggested

Enjoy a festive holiday evening on the grounds of the beautiful historic park at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum featuring candlelight, carolers, hot chocolate bar, Buddy the Elf, and the return of the annual Building Bricks Lighthouse Challenge competition. Admission is free; a \$5 per person donation is suggested.

Vendors include:

- Primal Brew Coffee Co
- Tea's Heavenly Treats
- Hooked with Love
- Handmade by Meg
- More to come

Complete your holiday shopping for a wide range of unique and local items inside our museum store while at the event. There is something for everyone on your list, including ornaments, art, kids' items and much more.

## Holiday Shopping

November 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
The Belmont Farm  
24079 Budds Creek Rd., Clements

Head to The Belmont Farm for festive shopping ahead of the holiday season. It's going to be a day full of great shopping, amazing food and festive fun. Come hungry! Rita B Catering will be serving up:

- Delicious stuffed ham & chicken salad sandwiches
- Mouthwatering fried chicken dinners
- The famous macaroni shrimp salad

## Family Holiday Open House

November 30, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Piney Point Lighthouse Museum  
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point  
Admission: Free

Kick off the holiday season inside the museum and Keeper's Quarters at Piney Point Lighthouse with family activities, refreshments, and more. This event is a special opening that encourages the public of all ages to experience this unique Christmas setting in the museum.

Free admission & refreshments available for all visitors. Get a jump on your holiday shopping inside the Museum Store, including the special edition 2025 museum ornament.

## Winter Market

December 5, 5–8 p.m.  
Marie and Nash  
22675 Washington St., Leonardtown  
Admission: Free

It's cozy season! Enjoy a cozy and festive evening of great company, shopping, small bites, mocktails, and local artisans!

We'll be hosting:

- Bites by Hicks Family Creating
- Mocktails by Topshelf Mixology
- Artisans:
- Hook & Jo ~ hand-crocheted goods
- Jayne Designs ~ hand-crafted bags
- R.E. Boswell ~ local silversmith (jewelry)
- Christine Trent ~ local Author, book signings
- Uncle Stan's Honey ~ various honey & beeswax candles

We can't wait to celebrate the holidays with some of our favorite people!

## Frost Fair

December 5 & 6, 4–8 p.m.  
Historic St. Mary's City  
18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City  
Admission: \$10 adults; \$5 children; \$20 family (two parents and up to 3 children)

Experience the magic of the season at Historic St. Mary's City's first-ever Frost Fair—a festive holiday village inspired by the Frost Fairs once held on the frozen River Thames.

Between 1607 and 1814, the River

Thames would freeze for months at a time. Beginning in 1607, there were seven total Frost Fairs held over the years when the Thames froze, allowing vendors to set up booths on the ice.

While our version won't be on ice, it will feature twinkling lights, local artisan vendors, warm seasonal beverages, live music, and plenty of holiday cheer. Stroll through the illuminated grounds, shop for handcrafted gifts, and soak in the spirit of winter past and present.

This outdoor event is perfect for families, friends, and anyone looking to kick off the holiday season with something unique and memorable.

## Christmas Market

December 5, 5–9 p.m.  
December 6, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Barefoot Farms  
21851 Oakley Rd., Avenue  
Admission: \$10 parking

Come experience the magic of the season with photos with Santa, special appearances by Santa's elves and the Grinch, festive lights, and local vendors.

Food lineup:

Continued on page 17

**Thursday Night Lights in Leonardtown**

**December 4, 11 & 18, 2025**

**Most Retail Locations Open til 7pm**

**Take a stroll through Leonardtown, enjoy the Holiday lights and do a little late-night shopping at one of these locations.**

- Old Jail Museum
- St. Mary's Arts Council Gallery
- Fenwick Street Books
- Crafts N Stitches
- The Craft Guild Shop
- New View Fiberworks
- Shepherds Old Field Market
- The Griffons Court
- Quality Street Kitchen
- Kings of Cards
- Sneades Ace Hardware
- Marie & Nash
- Happy and Zen
- Method Gym

**Leonardtown**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

VisitLeonardtownMd.com



**Southern Maryland**

**Live, In-Person,  
Community Auction Event**

# *Farm & Country Christmas Auction*



**Saturday, December 6, 2025 - 9 AM**

**Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn  
26689 Laurel Grove Rd. Mechanicsville, MD**

***Auction Preview & Early Registration Friday (Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - 3 to 7 pm.***

Unable to make it to the auction? Stop by Friday evening and we will assist you with leaving absentee bids.

**Expected and Early Consignments Include:**

- ❖ Locally-crafted, Live Evergreen Wreaths & Centerpieces
- ❖ Locally-grown Poinsettias (various sizes, colors)
- ❖ Hand Painted Signs by D. Poe (including "Leonardtwn Carnival" and "St. Mary's County" signs)
- ❖ New/Reclaimed Furniture/Crafts (including items from HSK – Kurtz Furniture, R. Chesser & others): Cedar Chest, Wine Rack, Lazy Susan, Hall/Sofa Table, Walking Sticks, Hall Tree; Crafts/Décor Items; & More
- ❖ New locally-made Poly Furniture from Willow Farm Outdoor Products & others such as: Rocking Chairs, Glider Rockers, Picnic Table
- ❖ Handcrafted Quilts (various sizes, patterns)
- ❖ New/Unused IRGC80 Golf Cart (by Ingersoll-Rand)
- ❖ Enclosed Cargo Trailer
- ❖ Lawn/Garden Items (Wrought Iron Silhouettes, Flag Holders, Concrete Items, Metal Lawn Art, Winter/Holiday-Themed Inflatables, 6pc Solar Sets, Porch Swings, Fire Pits, & More)
- ❖ Variety of New Tools, Shop/Garage Items: Milwaukee & DeWalt Battery-Op Tools (Drills, Impacts, Saws, Etc.), Aluminum Shovels, Electric Trailer Jacks, Rechargeable Chainsaws, Drones, Tool Bags, Voltage Testers, Craftsman Roller Work Seat, Irwin Vise Grips, Grease Guns, Tactical Flashlights, Plier Sets, Tire Repair Sets, Levels, Tool Cart, "Grease Monkey" Gloves, 4 pc. Husky Ratchet Straps, Air Hose Kits & Much More
- ❖ New Items: File/Storage Cabinet, Hand Warmers, Dash Cameras, Car Wash Soap, Meat Grinders, Pyrex Sets, Cast Iron Pans, Nostalgic Signs, 3 pc Luggage Sets, Wrangler Travel Cases, Juicer, Winchester Boots, Wood Framed Laser Cut Hunting-Themed Signs, Fishing Reels, Nerf Toys, Variety of other Toys & Items!

**Consignments of New, Quality  
Items Accepted.**

**Food and refreshments available  
by A. Stoltzfus Family  
(including Soft Pretzels).**

**Selling with more than one  
auctioneer at a time.**

**Auctioneers: Ronnie Farrell, Randy  
Farrell, Jason Farrell and Zach Shelley.**

**Terms: Cash, Good Check  
Credit Cards Accepted  
(Add'l 4% CC convenience fee).  
10% buyer's premium. MD Sales Tax.**

*For more details and pictures -*



***Thank you for supporting our  
local craftsmen & producers  
through your participation in  
this fun & exciting  
Community Auction Event!***

**www.FarrellAuctionService.com  
301-904-3402**



Continued from page 15

- Friday: Lauren's Lumpia
- Saturday: Slim Chickens

Bring the whole family for holiday fun, shopping, and memories you'll treasure.

We're still accepting vendor applications. If you'd like to be part of the market, email us at barefootfarms24@gmail.com for more information.

### Jingle Bell Run

December 6, 8 a.m.  
Tiki Bar & Grill  
85 Charles St., Solomons  
Admission: Free

Get ready for this year's Jingle Bell Run, the original festive race for charity brought to you by the Arthritis Foundation. Wear your favorite holiday gear, and let's jingle all the way toward a cure! Whether you're running, walking, or strolling, bring your friends, family, and coworkers along for the ride. Together, we're spreading joy and making strides towards a brighter future — saying "YES" to life, despite arthritis. Don't miss out on this special occasion to make a real difference while celebrating four decades of impact with the Jingle Bell Run. Let's lace up, hit the pavement, and jingle our way toward victory over arthritis!

### Lord of Misrule

December 6  
Historic St. Mary's City  
47414 Old State House Rd., St. Mary's City

Step into the merriment of 17th-century hol-

iday traditions during this spirited seasonal event at Historic St. Mary's City.

Led by the mischievous Lord of Misrule, who once presided over Christmas revelry, this family-friendly guided tour explores the customs and celebrations of the colonial winter season. Along the way, guests will create a festive craft, learn a period dance, and enjoy a playful puppet show: How Cromwell Stole Christmas.

Perfect for all ages, this joyful and educational experience offers a lively glimpse into the holiday spirit of the past. Space is limited—reserve your tour time in advance and join the festivities!

Tour times: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. Tour meets at Farthing's Picnic Area.

### Daytime Holiday Market

December 6, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center  
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons  
Admission: Admission to the market area is free

Outside, you'll find more than 65 booths offering a wide assortment of handmade, homemade, and homegrown gifts. Jewelry, pottery, works of art, beauty products, holiday and home decor, small batch food and drink, stocking stuffers, and more! Whether you're looking for affordable gifts for friends, or something really special for a loved one, there's something for every budget. This is the market to find thoughtful, unique, hand-crafted gifts. We hope you will visit.

Inside the Arts Building, you will find

live music, holiday exhibits, the Nature Nook - and more shopping in the Annmarie Gift Shop, the Holiday Gift Show, and the Ornament Show & Sale. There'll be something for everyone on your list!

### Winter Market

December 6, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Southern Trail Distillery  
27227 Morganza Turner Rd., Mechanicsville  
Admission: Free

Come out and shop with local vendors and artisans to prepare for the holidays. Grab your favorite Southern Trail spirits (for you or as a gift), a delicious Southern Trail cocktail, and listen to the one and only Bradley Turner from 12pm-3pm. This year the Chopticon Band will also play Christmas Carols at 11:00am & 3:30pm!

### Winter Wonderland Wreath Workshops

December 6  
Historic Sotterley  
44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood  
Admission: \$49.87/person

Have you tried DIY holiday décor projects before, but just couldn't seem to pull it off? Great news, the Sotterley Garden Guild is offering wreath workshops to share their expertise! These beautiful wreaths are made with real foliage and are stunning pieces of décor that everyone will notice.

Only 16 participants per session and each session is 1 1/2 hours long.

Various times throughout the day available for you to choose from: 8:30, 10:30, 1:00 & 3:00

Make this Christmas event part of your family tradition!

If you experience any trouble making your reservation for a workshop, please call the office at 301-373-2280 (9 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday) and we will be happy to help.

### Christmas Open House

December 6, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
Herring Creek Furniture  
28054 Indian Bridge Rd., California

We've got a festive day planned full of fun, food, and local shopping!

- Santa Claus — come take your Christmas photos!
- Scratch Mobile Kitchen — serving up delicious bites
- Sip & Klatsch Coffee Truck — grab your favorite cozy drink
- Shopping — unique furniture, gifts, and local finds
- Desserts & Hot Cocoa
- Fire pits & river view seating

Bring the family, shop local, and kick off the holiday season with us at Herring Creek Furniture!

### Annual Wreath & Greens Sale

December 6, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
American Chestnut Land Trust  
South Side Trailhead  
1985 Scientists Cliffs Rd., Port Republic

Begin the holiday season by purchasing a beautiful wreath made by volunteers from

Continued on page 19



**Gingerbread Lane**  
December 5, 2025 to January 5, 2026

Over 100 Gingerbread characters on display in Leonardtown

Leonardtown MARYLAND

Hosted by the  
**Leonardtown**  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

VisitLeonardtownMD.com



**CHRISTMAS on the Farm**  
Summerseat Farm  
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Saturday, Dec 6th 11AM - 2PM

Santa, cookies, hay ride, farm animals, crafts and more

A donation of \$10 per family is appreciated

Summerseat Farm is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by all volunteers



# Experience the Holidays at St. Mary's County Museums



## EVENING TIDES: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS AT PINEY POINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Saturday, November 29 • 5PM – 8PM

Join us for a festive holiday evening on the grounds of the beautiful historic park at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, featuring kids' activities, craft vendors, and more.

301-994-1471 • [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)

FREE

FREE

## FAMILY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT PINEY POINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Sunday, November 30 • 10AM – 5PM

We're kicking off the opening of the holiday season inside the museum and Keeper's Quarters here at Piney Point Lighthouse with family activities, refreshments and more.

301-994-1471 • [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)



## STORYTIME & COOKIES WITH SANTA AT THE U.S. COLORED TROOPS INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Sunday, December 14 • 1 pm – 3 pm

Join us for a free and festive Open House for all ages featuring Christmas storytimes, holiday cookies and refreshments, and more - including Santa and Mrs. Claus!

[Facebook.com/USCTCenter](https://www.facebook.com/USCTCenter)

FREE

## Shop Local Gifts at the Museum Stores!



Toys & Games



Books



Museum Ornaments

**Museum Store at St. Clement's Island Museum**  
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Colton's Point, MD 20626  
301-769-2222

\*Museum closed for construction; store open regular hours

**Museum Store at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum**  
44720 Lighthouse Rd., Piney Point, MD 20674  
301-994-1471

**Museum Store at The Old Jail Museum**  
41625 Court House Dr., Leonardtown, MD 20674  
240-925-3427

Museum stores open daily, 10am-5pm; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day  
Can't visit in person? Shop online 24/7! [FriendsMuseumStore.square.site](https://www.friendsmuseumstore.square.site)



Continued from page 17

greens gathered locally.

### Christmas on the Farm

December 6, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Summerseat Farm  
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville  
Admission: A \$10 family donation is suggested to support the nonprofit farm

Get ready for a magical day of holiday cheer and family fun! Ho Ho Ho! Santa's making a special stop at Summerseat this Christmas season, and he can't wait to meet you! Bring your wish lists, your smiles, and your holiday spirit for a day full of festive adventures. Here's what's waiting for you:

- Visit with Santa - Tell him what's on your list and snap the perfect photo!
- Hay Rides - Bundle up and enjoy a ride around farm.
- Warm Apple Cider & Cookies - Warm up with a cup of warm cider and a sweet treat.
- Feed the Barn Animals - The goats, sheep, pigs and others can't wait to see you!
- Tour the Manor House - Step inside and experience the halls decked out in live greenery and vintage decorations.
- Holiday Crafts for Kids - Little elves can get creative and make festive decorations to take home!

### Christmas Open House

December 6, 1-4 p.m.  
Tudor Hall  
41680 Tudor Pl., Leonardtown  
Admission: Free with Registration

Join us as we once again fill historic Tudor Hall with Good Cheer! Bring along your favorite savories to share with a most appreciative group of friends.

There will be familiar Songs and Carols you can sing along to while Ellynne Brice Davis plays the St. Mary's Hotel Piano as Lois Stephenson accompanies on violin.

Along with the joy and savories, consider bringing a non-perishable food item or two, diapers, or other items which will be donated to the Feed St. Mary's food bank.

### Holly Days Extravaganza

December 6 & 7  
Lexington Park Library  
21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park  
Admission: Free

The Lexington Park Business Association will host its third annual Holly Days at the Lexington Park Library on December 6 & 7, 2025. Saturday evening (Dec 6 from 5:30-6:30p) will feature a community Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting, caroling sing-along, free hot chocolate provided by the Lexington Park Rotary Club, and the possible arrival of someone familiar to children worldwide! On Sunday (Dec 7 from 1-4p), the Holly Days Extravaganza continues indoors with an opportunity for Selfies with Santa, arts and crafts for kids of all ages, and a holiday shopping village featuring local vendors.

### Ugly Sweater Christmas Cocktails Class

December 11, 6-7 p.m.  
Quality Street Kitchen and Catering

41655 Park Ave., Leonardtown  
Admission: \$70

Throw on your most festive (and ridiculous) holiday sweater and join mixologist Brooke Fritz for a merry evening of Christmas cocktail crafting! In this fun, hands-on class, you'll shake, stir, and sip your way through three holiday-inspired cocktails—perfect for cozy celebrations and winter cheer. Light bites included to keep the spirits bright.

Cocktails:

- Partridge in a Pear Martini
- Cherry Gin Sour
- Rosemary Gimlet

### Holidays in the Hangar

December 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Pax River Naval Air Museum  
22156 Three Notch Rd., Lexington Park

Join us for a magical day of holiday cheer at Holidays in the Hangar! We've got something for everyone—bring the whole family for a day filled with fun activities and festive treats!

- Arts & Crafts – Let your creativity soar with fun holiday crafts.
- Sweet Treats & Hot Cocoa – Enjoy delicious holiday treats and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa.

Don't miss out on this festive event—mark your calendars, bring your holiday spirit, and make memories with us at the museum!

### Holiday Open House

December 13 & 14, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Suttler Post Farm  
38750 Chaptico Rd., Mechanicsville  
Admission: \$10

Spend a day on the farm with the gorgeous Suttler Post Clydesdales (they love to meet new pals!), 20+ vendors, food trucks and wineries. There will be plenty of raffle table items to grab a chance on, a 50/50 raffle, and a bake sale.

The farm will be open for visitors Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th from 11am-4pm each day. Proceeds from the event benefit Hospice of St. Mary's.

### COSMIC Symphony Winter Concert featuring St. Maries Choral Arts

December 14, 3-5 p.m.  
Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge  
Performing Arts Center  
47855 College Dr., St Marys City  
Admission: Free

COSMIC Symphony's Winter Concert featuring St. Maries Choral Arts, titled "Gloria" will be filled with magical holiday surprises that are sure to be fun for the whole family. COSMIC is pleased to present this concert free of charge.

### Last Chance Christmas Market

December 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Dixon Family Farm  
27075 S. Sandgates Rd., Mechanicsville  
Admission: Free

Growing bigger every year, join us for some last minute Christmas shopping! Local craft vendors, food trucks, fire pit, live music and free pics with Santa! Bundle up and bring the kids! (Please leave your pets at home).

## Join us for 2 free events!

Lexington Park Library: 21677 FDR Blvd



Scan for Info.

## 5:30 p.m. | Christmas Tree & Menorah Lighting Saturday, December 6



**Free Hot Chocolate**  
From Lexington Park Rotary Club

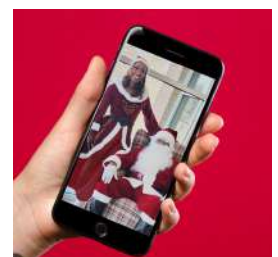


**Sing-Along Carols**  
With The Nightingales

## Holly Days

## 1-4 p.m. | Extravaganza Sunday, December 7

Selfies  
with  
Santa!



### HOLIDAY MARKET

- cocoa bombs
- holiday decor
- lotions & scrubs
- custom tumblers
- hand-crafted jewelry
- handmade soaps
- scented candles
- and more!



### ACTIVITIES

- Selfies with Santa
- Crafts for all
- Kids' Activity Zone

### SPONSORED BY







## Celebrate the Magic of the Season in Leonardtown!



### Christmas on the Square & Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Fri., Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**

4:30pm - 8:30pm



### Small Business Saturday

**Sat., Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>**

All Day



### Thursday Night Lights in Leonardtown

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>**

Shop extended hours  
until 7pm



### Gingerbread Lane Holiday Stroll

**Dec 5<sup>th</sup> - Jan 5<sup>th</sup>**

All Day

*Enjoy*



*Shop*



*Relax*



*Dine*





# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Sat, Nov 29

### Community Christmas Tree Lighting

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department  
Social Hall  
Doors open at 5 p.m.

- Fire truck rides 5-5:45
- Make reindeer dust
- Write a letter to Santa
- Goodie bag
- Light refreshments available
- Pictures with Santa

### Band of Brothers

Flashback Restaurant  
21797 Coral Dr. N, Lexington Park  
9 a.m.

PTSD/Suicide Prevention Group of So. Maryland. Our group offers support for all Veterans in need of our services, as well as support for the local community. We provide help with VA Military Compensation Claims by appointment. Our method is derived from our military experiences when we were surrounded by others who think and dressed as needed to work together to survive.

Our members are supported by text, phone or personal interaction and are avail-

able at a moment's notice. For more information call (301) 481-6752

## Thu, Dec 4

### American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Road; Avenue  
7 p.m.

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

## Ongoing

### The Farndale...Christmas Carol

The Newtowne Players  
21744 South Coral Dr., Lexington Park  
Through Dec. 14

In a festive mood, the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society mount an assault on classic Dickens with their stage version of A Christmas Carol. They enthusiastically portray a dizzy array of characters from the

well-known tale (and a few which aren't), and engineer some novel audience participation while bravely contending with an intrusive PA system. And, a real Farndale first: two specially-composed songs providing unique, show-stopping opportunities for the ladies to wrap their vocal cords and feet around.

Show times: Thursdays-Saturdays 8 PM, Sundays 3 PM. Visit [newtowneplayers.org](http://newtowneplayers.org) for tickets and more information.

### 39th Annual Holiday Show

North End Gallery  
Nov. 25 – Dec. 31

FOUR and MORE Holiday Events:

- Open late during the Christmas Tree Lighting! Friday, November 28th thru 8pm.
- Support your local artists on Small Business Saturday. Open 11-5 p.m.
- First Friday, Dec. 5, holiday reception, 5 until 8 p.m.
- A Jewelry Trunk Show on Sunday, Dec. 7: featuring Mickey Kunkle, Judy Larsen, and Kennedi Milan

Show lead contact: Bea Poulin <[president.northendgallery@gmail.com](mailto:president.northendgallery@gmail.com)>

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories  
Calvert Marine Museum, Sundays, Nov.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30; 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Join museum educator Lori to explore the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Hear how World War II shaped Solomons and discover hidden details in the museum murals. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

## Upcoming

### Scuba with Santa

College of Southern Maryland Wellness & Aquatics Center (WAC)  
22950 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown  
Saturday, Dec. 6; 12 – 4 p.m.

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is hosting Santa Claus for an unforgettable holiday experience. Join the professionals of Southern Maryland Divers for a short Discover Scuba course to learn the basics of scuba diving, then have your photo taken with Santa—underwater!

Registration is required, and participants must be age 8 or above. Anyone under 18 will need to have a parent on site to sign waivers.

# Home Grown Farmers Market

Open Saturdays Through the Winter  
10AM-1PM

Closed December 27<sup>th</sup> • Reopening January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fresh Produce | Local Dairy | MD Apples  
Meats | Cheeses | Baked Goods



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LEXINGTON PARK, MD





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What projects are you considering?  
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- Cedar
- Cherry
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- Poplar
- Red Oak
- Walnut
- White Oak



Hours: Monday-Friday (8am-4pm)  
Phone: 301-475-5757

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We use an easy five-step design-build process to get your dream remodel done on time and on budget.



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# Cold Spring Structures

**301-884-SHED (7433)**

Shop and Office: 26888 Mary Dixon Rd. | Mechanicsville

**Quality Storage Sheds and Garages**



**"FOR ALL YOUR STUFF!"**



Self-Service Display: 23710 N. Patuxent Beach Rd. | California  
By the Solomons bridge (St. Mary's side)

**LOCALLY OWNED! BUILT! SOLD!**

Jay Brubacker, Builder/Retailer

# Handy Gal Services

Commercial and Residential Cleaning, Odor Removal Ozoning, Laundry Services, Errand running and Grocery services, Organizing and Packing/Moving services (on a smaller scale), Pet sitting & Walking, Power Washing, Window Cleaning, Grass Cutting, Elderly Care & Assistance, Boat Cleaning, Weeding Gardens, Gutter Cleaning, Help around the house, Help getting back and forth to the Doctors, Trash And Junk Removal

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**  
**ALL FOR A LOW PRICE!**

Just call Sam 410-830-1223  
References Available



**COLE TRAVEL**

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[www.coletravel.biz](http://www.coletravel.biz)

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**Plastic Road Pipes**

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**Competitive Prices - Quantity Discounts**

Monday - Friday 7 am to 6 pm

Saturday 7 am to 4 pm • Sunday Closed

Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

27898 Point Lookout Road • Loveville, Md • 20656





# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Nov 28

### Calvert County Veteran Services Program

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

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

## Sat, Nov 29

### ACLT Wreath Making Weekend

American Chestnut Land Trust  
676 Double Oak Rd., Prince Frederick  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Volunteers and their guests make wreaths from locally harvested greens for American Chestnut Land Trust's sale Dec. 6.

## Sun, Nov 30

### Light Up the Town

Chesapeake Beach Town Hall  
4-6 p.m.

Stop by "Light Up the Town" hosted each year by the Town of Chesapeake Beach. Join the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Chesapeake Beach as they hold a "Light Up The Town" event at Town Hall. This event marks the beginning of the Lighting of the Town where the Mayor, Santa, residents and their guests count down and switch ON the lights to the Town.

### Museum Store Sunday

Calvert Marine Museum  
10:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Mark your calendars and shop with a purpose! The Museum Store is thrilled to participate in Museum Store Sunday, a global shopping event where you can find uniquely

curated gifts while supporting our mission and fundraising efforts. On this special day, CMM members will draw for a chance to enjoy 25%-40% off their entire purchase. One lucky member may even get their entire purchase for FREE! Non-members will receive a 20 percent discount all day. Some exclusions apply, see store for details.

## Mon, Dec 1

### Book Discussion

Calvert Pines Senior Center  
1-2 p.m.

Let's kick off the holiday season and talk about "The Christmas Train" by David Baldacci, a cozy cross-country train trip with second chances, romance and mysteries around every turn.

## Tue, Dec 2

### Trailblazer in Space: A Chat with Astronaut Col. Gregory

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

Meet astronaut Col. Frederick D. Gregory—pilot, space pioneer and the first African American to command a Space Shuttle. Hear his story of courage, leadership and breaking barriers. More than a talk, hear from someone who's pushed the boundaries of possibility. Whether you're passionate about space, aviation, science or leadership, his story will leave you thinking bigger about your own future. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wed, Dec 3

### Children's Aid, Inc. Online Holiday Auction

Ends Dec. 3, 11:45 p.m.

Has helped Calvert County families since 2009. The Mini Holiday Auction ends Dec. 3. The fundraiser features over 40 auction items, including ballet, symphony, and the-

atre tickets, singing and dance lessons, wine and beer tastings, hotel getaways, restaurant and retail gift certificates, Great Wolf Lodge tickets, and more. Interested shoppers can bid now at <https://www.32auctions.com/CAIHolidayAuction>

### Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
4100 5th St., North Beach  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. This event focuses on Veteran's Services! 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Morning Book Discussion

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
4100 5th St., North Beach  
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us to discuss this "celebration of the world of books" (Kirkus), "The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians: True Stories of the Magic of Reading" by James Patterson and others. Booksellers and librarians are superheroes, saving lives every single day. Here are their amazing, inspiring true stories as told to the greatest storyteller of our time, James Patterson. 410-535-0291. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Tea and True Tales

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Rd., Solomons  
2-3 p.m.

Nina de Gramont's "The Christie Affair" is a beguiling novel of star-crossed lovers, heartbreak, revenge, and murder—and a brilliant re-imagining of one of the most talked-about unsolved mysteries of the twentieth century. Every story has its secrets. Every mystery has its motives. Adults and seniors, each month we will enjoy tea, have treats and discuss non-fiction titles, memoirs, biographies, or fiction that is based on real people. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Chess Club

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings  
2-3:30 p.m.

Enjoy playing chess? Looking to sharpen your chess skills? Come drop in and challenge new opponents! All skill levels and ages are welcome. Please bring a chess board along if you own one. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Susan Brayford and Sandra Raviv. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Dungeons & Dragons – ADULT

Calvert Library, (Zoom/Roll20)  
6-9 p.m.

Come have fun with D&D, a role playing game for adults of all experience levels. Please register for this event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Bilingual Conversation Hour

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

Come join us for a fun hour of bilingual conversation! 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! Did you take Spanish in HS or College and are a little rusty? 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### On Pins and 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>

**Publisher** Thomas McKay  
**Associate Publisher** Eric McKay  
**General Manager**  
Al Dailey [aldailey@countytimes.net](mailto:aldailey@countytimes.net)  
**Advertising**  
Jen Stotler [jen@countytimes.net](mailto:jen@countytimes.net)  
**Staff Writers**  
Dick Myers [dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)  
**Contributing Writers**  
Tim Flaherty, Ron Guy, Ken Lamb,  
Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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

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



## County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



# CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of November 3, 2025 – November 9, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,293 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 61
- Disorderly: 14
- Domestic: 32
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 45
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 1204
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 32
- Traffic Complaints: 71
- Traffic Stops: 576
- 911 Hang Ups: 41
- ARRESTS: 33



Tabitha Renee Proctor

**CDS Violation: 25-92574** On November 4, 2025, DFC Newton initiated a traffic stop near Cedar Run Lane and Rt. 260 in Owings for a traffic violation. Contact

was made with the driver, **Tabitha Renee Proctor**, 39, of Capitol Heights. Investigation revealed that Proctor's driver's license was suspended and that she had an active warrant through Prince George's County. DFC Idol and his K9 partner conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle, which resulted in a positive alert for narcot-

ics. A subsequent search of Proctor revealed a white, crystal-like substance in her pocket. Proctor stated the substance was "Molly/Ecstasy." She was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, along with other traffic-related offenses.



Stefphon Mario Brown



Emory Richard Thomas

and his passenger, **Emory Richard Thomas**, 61 of Prince Frederick, exited the vehicle, and Thomas was observed holding an improvised smoking device containing suspected crack/cocaine residue. A subsequent vehicle search revealed additional

**CDS Violation: 25-94197** On November 8, 2025, Deputy Campbell initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Rt. 231 and Prince Frederick Blvd. in Prince Frederick. Investigation revealed the driver, **Stefphon Mario Brown**, 65 of Prince Frederick, did not possess a valid driver's license. Brown and his passenger, **Emory Richard Thomas**, 61 of Prince Frederick, exited the vehicle, and Thomas was observed holding

controlled dangerous substances. Both Brown and Thomas were taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Brown was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and Driving Without a License. Thomas was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Kimberly Kay Finamore

low line and drift across the roadway. Upon making contact with the driver, **Kimberly Kay Finamore**, 35 of Chesapeake Beach, deputies detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from her person. Finamore submitted to a series of Standardized Field Sobriety Tests and was determined to be unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. She was placed under arrest for Driving Under the Influence and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. A search incident to arrest revealed a cut straw and a dollar bill containing a white powdery residue. Finamore was charged with DUI, CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis, Possession of CDS While Confined, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, and multiple other traffic-related offenses.

**Damaged Property: 25-93853** On November 7, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 1100 block of Cold Pond Court in Prince Frederick for a reported burglary. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect(s) attempted to force entry into the victim's shed. Dents were observed on the shed door, and the victim's security camera had been tampered with. Nothing appears to have been taken, and the estimated value of the damaged property is unknown at this time.



Brittany Etura McMillian

**Theft: 25-92265** On November 3, 2025, Deputy Contic responded to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of St. Leonard Road and S. Solomons Island Road in St. Leonard. One of the vehicles involved, a Chrysler 300, had heavy front-end damage. Contact was made with the driver, **Brittany Etura McMillian**, 35 of Lexington Park, who was unable to provide vehicle registration or proof of insurance. Further investigation revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen in 2023 from Atlanta, GA. McMillian was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where she was charged with Theft: \$1,500 to Under \$25,000, Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, and

Rogue and Vagabond.

**Theft: 25-92598** On Nov. 4, 2025, at approximately 12:49 p.m., Lt. Basham responded to Ward Park, located at 10455 Ward Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft from a motor vehicle. The complainant reported the rear passenger-side window had been shattered, deep scratches were found on the door, and her purse and its contents had been stolen from the vehicle. The estimated value of the damaged property is \$1,000, and the estimated value of the stolen property is \$200.

**Theft: 25-93015** On November 5, 2025, DFC Claggett responded to the Giant located at 10790 Town Center Blvd. in Dunkirk for a reported theft. The complainant advised that an unknown suspect stole her wallet from her grocery cart. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$220.

**Theft: 25-93401** On November 6, 2025, Deputy H. Jones responded to a residence on Valley Drive in Huntingtown for a reported theft. The complainant advised her handicap placard had been stolen from her vehicle while it was parked at 100 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick. The estimated value of the stolen property is unknown at this time.



John Power Waters Cammack

**Weapons Violation: 25-94024** On November 8, 2025, Deputy Hill initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 65 mph in a posted 45 mph zone in the area of S. Solomons Island Road and Church Street in Prince Frederick. Upon contacting the driver, identified as **John Power Waters Cammack**, 25 of St. Leonard, deputies detected the odor of alcohol coming from his person. Cammack admitted to consuming alcohol prior to the stop and informed deputies that a loaded handgun was inside the vehicle. Further investigation determined Cammack was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle, and he was taken into custody for DUI. A search of his person incident to arrest revealed brass knuckles concealed in his pocket. Cammack was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Loaded Handgun in a Vehicle, Handgun in a Vehicle, Concealing a Dangerous Weapon, DWI, and additional traffic-related offenses.

*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](mailto:ccsotips@calvertcountymd).

**Chesapeake MARKET PLACE**

5015 St. Leonard Rd. | St. Leonard, MD  
410-586-3725 | [ChesapeakeMarketPlace.com](http://ChesapeakeMarketPlace.com)

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# Town Lauds Community Response for Fire Victims

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

"This was Chesapeake Beach at its best." Mayor Bruce Wahl was talking about the outpouring of community support to aid the 25 people displaced by the Nov. 17 fire at the Courtyard at Fishing Creek apartment complex.

Wahl and the town council recognized that community support at the Nov. 20 town council meeting.

That included the young man, Zachary Hanson, who spotted the fire and wet door to door to warn residents to evacuate.

It included Mary Lanham and Wesley Donovan, owners of Rod 'N Reel Resort and Spa, who opened up rooms free of charge for the fire victims.

It included the owners and staff of Trader's Restaurant, who provided a free breakfast for those who were rousted by the early morning blaze.

And of course included the 40 volunteers from the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, who raced to the scene along with their brothers and sisters from every other fire department in the county and from neighboring counties.

It also included Paster Glenn Swanson from Bayside Baptist Church, which assisted the victims and the community in many ways in the aftermath.

Pastor Swanson gave his thanks to the community in the form of a prayer:

"Lord Jesus, we come before you today and this evening, and we're grateful for you and your mercy and your grace and your provision.

"Thank you for you being the creator of all things. Thank you, Lord, for this town of Chesapeake Beach. Thank you for this wonderful mayor, town council, and staff.

"Lord, we're thankful and grateful for our first responders. Lord, we especially see this week as they just jumped right into action and did a fantastic job with, as they always do, serving those who need help.

"So, thank you for our fire department. Thank you for our police departments, our paramedics and everybody in between. Lord, we're so grateful for them.

"Thank you for the families, Lord, that they have as well, and just bless them.

"But Lord, our hearts are heavy, because of this tragedy this week. Our hearts think about these families at Fishing Creek; 25 folks, 17 adults and eight children.

"Lord, we know Monday morning was a tough day. Last time we stood in this room, we were having folks come in and they were in pajamas and some with no shoes and no coats.

"But Lord, in the matter of hours, this town came through and provided so much. We had people bringing food and water and coffee and clothing and providing shelter.



Photo courtesy of North Beach Volunteer Fire Department

"And Lord, it was just so great that we could see a town come together such as this or such a time as this. Lord, I've had many people say, if we can only do this every day, and we know this world and this culture is tough and there's division all around us, and it's a shame that tragedy has to bring us together.

"But Lord, we just pray our hearts will be changed and transformed by what happened this week, that this town would come closer together, the citizens would come closer together and not just be when tragedy happens, but every single day.

"So, Lord, bless these families, be with those that have faithfully served and been behind the scenes, so many people to name.

"Lord, I know the top priority is getting them housing. So, Lord, I pray that that will be available to them soon."

Several people who spoke that night criticized the apartment complex's management company.

Wahl said, "I have had a chance to talk, brainstorm a little bit after this, and have some ideas of how in the future, when things are built that you wouldn't have the problems that you see here. And I guess the biggest problem, Jay (Berry, town public works administrator), is that the entire attic structure is enclosed and there's no way to get to it. Is that correct?"

Berry responded, "It's one of the things. There's a lot of details. It's an older structure and codes are different today. But, I don't want to get into too many details, but (it's) the second fire in there. I firsthand watched everything transpire. Do I think there's some things when they move forward? I have some ideas. I'm not the code; we're not the fire marshals. But seeing two things happen twice, I've got some things I want to share with them."

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

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# CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential growth and economic development; and support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and subject to change. Watch here: [YouTube](#) | [Meetings on Demand](#) | Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD

### Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Chesapeake Hearing Room, 150 Main St., Prince Frederick

### Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Teams unless otherwise noted. Most meeting IDs and passwords are available at [calvertcountymd.gov](http://calvertcountymd.gov).

### Police Accountability Board (PAB) Meeting

Dec. 3, 2025, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Harriet E. Brown Community Center

### Board of Appeals Hearing

Dec. 4, 2025, 9 a.m.  
County Administration Building  
1st Floor, 150 Main Street, Prince Frederick



## Register by Dec. 1 for the **CALVERT COUNTY HOLIDAY PARADE**

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation is now accepting entries for the 2025 Calvert County Christmas Parade held on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon in downtown Prince Frederick. Find more details at [calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes](http://calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes).



## Thanks for Giving Me a Home! Celebrate National Adopt a Senior Pet Month from Nov. 1-30 Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter

In honor of National Adopt a Senior Pet Month and Thanksgiving, all adoption fees will be waived from Nov. 1-30. Animals of all ages and personalities are available for adoption, but fees are waived for those 8 years and older.



## Survey Open for Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP)

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation invites citizens to provide input on the Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan, a five-year strategic plan that guides land conservation, park improvements, recreation opportunities and open space priorities throughout the county.

Citizens can provide input by taking a survey addressing the conservation and development of outdoor recreation opportunities in Calvert County over the next five years. See [calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes](http://calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes) for the survey.



## Calvert County Government Relocates Payment and Document Drop Boxes

The Calvert County Department of Public Works, General Services Division, announces that document drop boxes for several county departments have been relocated from 205 Main St. (Courthouse Square) to the new Calvert County Administration Building (CAB), located at 150 Main St. in Prince Frederick. For more information see [calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes](http://calvertcountymd.gov/CountyTimes).



## Stay in the know with the Calvert County mobile app!

Get instant notifications about holiday closures and schedule changes at county facilities. Download the app today and never miss an update.



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**Calvert County Government wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend. May it be filled with meaningful time shared with family and friends. As you celebrate, please remember those who serve and those in need.**

Want to learn more about what you see here? For details on everything featured this week, visit

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# Safety Council's Goal: Zero Fatalities

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Calvert County has a newly reconstituted Traffic Safety Council. Fifty members strong, the council has as its mission the reduction of traffic fatalities in the county to zero.

Some council members gathered at the new county commissioners' hearing room on Nov. 18 for a proclamation in honor of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, held this year on Nov. 16.

Observed globally, this solemn day honors those who have lost their lives or were seriously injured in road traffic incidents. It also recognizes the enduring impact on families, communities and the first responders who serve them.

In 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted the Calvert County Strategic Roadway Safety Plan (SRSP), reaffirming the county's commitment to preventing roadway fatalities and injuries through targeted, coordinated actions.

Council member Jessica Gaetano, transportation planner in the county's planning department, said since the adoption of the plan, "the Calvert County Traffic Safety Council was re-instituted and included collaboration on a regular basis with our partners at the local, state, and nonprofit level. This time last year when we recognized this event, the county had 14 fatalities on our roadways. Currently in 2025, we only have two confirmed fatalities. While we acknowledge that even one life lost on our roadways is too many, we're optimistic that we're working towards our shared goal of zero deaths on Calvert County roadways."

To aid in the battle the county has initiated a new software system called "Crash." Gaetano said, "It's local data that we are getting biweekly. So, we have the most up-to-date crash information so that we can move to improve all of our initiatives for zero deaths."

Kara Buckmaster, representing the Department of Public Safety on the council, said, "We support the council with hazard information and countywide assessments. Other members of the department include emergency communications. They help with the mapping and GIS aspects of it."

Sergeant Roscoe Kreps, head of the sheriff's office support services unit, said, "My team and I manage the traffic safety grants that we get through the Maryland Highway Safety Office, and we do enhanced, high visibility traffic enforcement to try and get distracted driving, impaired driving, speed enforcement and pedestrian and bicycle violations to get lower."

Of the new software, he said, "We can use that to identify hotspots of any of those four categories or combinations of them and direct our enforcements to those areas to better identify and address those issues."

Director of Public Safety Dave

McDowell, said, "It's an honor to be a part of the Traffic Safety Council and the hard work that they put in every day to try to make our roads safer."

McDowell said, "Myself over the years and several other people in this room have responded to crashes in this county. Sometimes it's not a good ending. So, anything we can do to educate ourselves and educate the public to reduce those incidents is more than worthwhile."

Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack Commander Lt. Jimmie Meurrens said, "We have so many people from so many different organizations represented and coming together to try to have a positive effect on traffic collisions, fatalities in this county. I think that it's a testament to the data that's been collected and disseminated. That really shows why maybe we're seeing a decrease in collisions in this county. It's still in no small part to all of that work done behind the scenes as well as the work that's done on the street every day by the men and women of the County Sheriff's Office."

He said, "We must recognize that fatalities and serious injuries are often a result of a choice. We all make choices every day. Everything's about a life choice. Sometimes people choose to press a little bit harder on that gas pedal than they should. Sometimes people choose to pick up that phone to take that call, to send that text, to watch that video while they're driving. That's a choice. And I just ask that everybody choose wisely and remind everybody that we remain unwavering in our commitment as a state police to ensure that Calvert County is a safe place to live, work, and visit."

State's Attorney Bob Harvey said, "The criminal penalties that attach to persons convicted of automobile manslaughter in the state of Maryland are frankly ridiculously low. Last year, Senator (Jack) Bailey introduced legislation to double the punishment available for persons. Automobile manslaughter legislation unanimously passed the Senate. Unfortunately, it died in the House of Delegates without even coming up for a vote." He said Bailey intends to introduce the bill again next year and urged residents to write letters of support to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee Delegate Luke Clippinger.

Prosecutor Christopher Monte, a council member, said, "I think the software that we've gotten has been great because it's shown hotspots we have to monitor. It's also been able to aggregate reasons for the crashes. So, we're able to do the mock crashes, talk to the schools, talk to the young population about ways to make sure these crashes don't happen."

"I think having the council come back together has been great," he added.

[dickmyers@countytimes.net](mailto:dickmyers@countytimes.net)

## Thanksgiving

Continued from page 4



**Chesapeake Beach Town Councilman Anthony Greene**

I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. I am thankful for this year's

incredible opportunities to learn and grow both personally and professionally. I have been honored to serve my community, and the support from friends and family during this journey fills me with thanks and humility. Happy Thanksgiving.



**North Beach Mayor Mike Benton (and Tina)**

Hello everyone, and Happy Thanksgiving. I am deeply grateful

to live in such an amazing community. Every day North Beach shows kindness, strength, and spirit for others. I feel blessed every day to be a part of it.

I'm also blessed and thankful to be surrounded by amazing friends and family members. I am so proud of my kids, not just for their successes, but more importantly, their BIG hearts for the needs of others. Happy Thanksgiving!

### North Beach Councilwoman Mary Healey

My wish is for everyone to have a wonderful Thanksgiving. As a town councilwoman,



I am especially thankful that I get to live in a very special community and live among people who are proud about where they live and who care about their neighbors and surrounding friends to our town.

Recently we witnessed and were able to support our local food pantries feed and meet the demands of families affected during the recent government shutdown. Our local food pantries will continue to support up to 300 families this Thanksgiving by providing a full meal.

North Beach residents all share a great appreciation for our town and we are proud to get to be able to live here, educate people who come here, and do our part to protect our most special resource, The Chesapeake Bay.

Personally, I would like to thank my family for supporting me and understanding some of the extra hours I have to spend outside our family time to do my duty for the town and the residents. They understand the importance of what I do, and how much it means to me to serve our community and the town of North Beach.

And to the residents, I am truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to be able to do what I am truly passionate about!

I would also like to personally thank the North Beach town staff. Each one of our staff members is a valuable piece to our town's success.

All the best!

# Southern Maryland

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# A Calvert Thanksgiving

The County Times asked local officials what they had to give thanks for this year, both personally and professionally. Here are the responses we received:



**Commissioner President Earl F. "Buddy" Hance**

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners are so proud of our Calvert County Government staff and the services they provide every day to our residents, businesses and visitors.

We hope everybody has a very happy Thanksgiving and get together with their families to celebrate all the great things we have before us today.

Calvert County is blessed to be a wonderful place to live and we all have much to be thankful for.

Let us also pause, give thanks and appreciate those who cannot be with their loved ones during the holiday, serving in the military, our emergency first responders or otherwise working during the holidays.



**County Administrator Linda Turner**

I can say that I am both personally and professionally very thankful for our accomplished and talented Calvert

County Government employees for their dedication and hard work. This season reminds us to pause and reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful, and at the top of that list is the incredible team of public servants who make Calvert County a wonderful place to live and work.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I hope Calvert County employees, residents and visitors find plenty of time to relax, enjoy good meals and make lasting memories with family and friends.



**State's Attorney Bob Harvey**

I am blessed with a loving and talented wife who always keeps me pointed in the right direction, 4 successful and happy children, and

5 beautiful grandchildren. My plate is very full this Thanksgiving. I wish my coworkers and all the citizens of Calvert County a safe and bountiful holiday season.



**Sheriff Ricky Cox**

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the residents of Calvert County.

This season reminds us of the importance

of community, connection, and caring for one another, and I am truly thankful to serve such an engaged and supportive county.

Professionally, I am grateful for the dedicated men and women of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office. Their unwavering commitment to public safety, their professionalism, and their compassion for the community continue to inspire me every day.

I am also thankful for the strong partnerships we share with our local agencies, community leaders, and citizens, each playing an important role in keeping Calvert County a safe place to live, work, and raise a family.

Personally, I am blessed beyond measure by my family. I am deeply thankful for my wife, Susie, and for our three wonderful children. Their love, support, and understanding fuel my purpose and strengthen my resolve to serve our community with integrity and dedication.

From my family to yours, I wish everyone a safe and blessed Thanksgiving. May your homes be filled with peace, gratitude, and the company of those you hold dear.

**Assistant Sheriff Lieutenant Colonel David Payne**

Professionally: I am thankful for all the First Responders in Calvert County and especially for the Men and Women of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office who regularly put service above self.

Personally: I am thankful to be able to spend another blessed year with my wife Christina and our family, including our grandsons Brooks, Brantley, and Tatum.



**Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marcus Newsome**

As we reflect on the origin of Thanksgiving first observed as a time for harvest, prayer, and community, I am reminded of the timeless power of gratitude. Like the early settlers who paused to give thanks for God's provision, I am personally grateful for the blessings of faith and family that sustain me daily. Professionally, I am thankful for the privilege of serving Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS), where our students are offered extraordinary opportunities to learn and grow. The spirit of Thanksgiving continues in CCPS through hope, generosity, and the strength of our community.



**Board of Education President Jana Post**

As a board of education member, I am thankful for family, friends, good health, our dedicated staff, and the continued opportunities for meaningful conversations.

**Board of Education Vice President Lisa Grenis**

This year has been an important year for Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS), with



meaningful progress in many areas. I am grateful for the teachers and staff who continue to work so hard to give our students the highest-quality learning experience. I would

also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our SRO officers for their diligent work and unwavering commitment to fostering a safe learning environment in our schools.

I am thankful we have refocused our mission on academic excellence, but we still have work to do to achieve our high standard to be the best in the state. I am committed to making academic excellence our top priority while supporting our teachers, staff, students, and families in every way we can.

Wishing everyone a joyful and safe Thanksgiving.



**Board of Education member Melissa Goshorn**

This Thanksgiving I pray everyone is able to reflect on your blessings while spending time with people that fill your

cup! I'm especially grateful for Dr. Newsome joining our team, our students and families, our dedicated staff, and a community that always puts children first. Thank you for your trust and support - it's an honor to serve you all! Happy Thanksgiving! Stay healthy!

**Chesapeake Beach Town Councilman Daniel Duvall**

This year, I am especially thankful that I get to work alongside a Mayor, Town Council, and town staff who show up when it matters most. When our community faced the recent fire, Chesapeake Beach stood shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors. It's in those hard moments that challenge and test us that we see who we truly are as a town. Our citizens, neighboring communities, businesses, first responders, town staff, and elected leaders all showed through their actions how strong and caring Chesapeake Beach really is. I am grateful to be part of this team and to stand alongside everyone who steps up for our town.



**Chesapeake Beach Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder**

Happy Thanksgiving, family friends, neighbors, and fellow Chesapeake Beach and Calvert County

citizens! We are all so fortunate to have a such beautiful place to call home! I wish you and yours safe travels, health, good food, and plenty of time to do what makes you feel happy with the ones you love.

This Thanksgiving, I am thankful to be spending the holiday right here in Chesapeake Beach with all four of my children, and I am especially grateful that it is my sister's turn to host our large family gathering!

Professionally, I am honored and fortunate to be part of a supportive, capable, collaborative, and resilient Federal team at the U.S. Census Bureau, and I am happy that we are all finally receiving paychecks again!

As my first year serving as a Councilwoman for the Town of Chesapeake Beach wraps up, I am thrilled to be playing tennis and pickleball again at the recently refurbished Beach Elementary School courts, and grateful for the efforts of Town Staff and all who helped make that happen.

Additionally, I am fortunate to work with a group of outstanding volunteers on the Walkable Community Advisory Group, who make working towards a safe bicycle and pedestrian friendly town a pleasure.

Chesapeake Beach has some of the most dedicated volunteers that I have ever encountered, and we all benefit from the work that our many volunteer committees and community organizations have been doing recently and in years past. My Council colleagues and I are the lucky ones to be living in and serving in this great community!

Finally, as the last leaves of 2025 drift down, I reflect that nature provided yet another spectacular show in Chesapeake Beach this fall. What a blessing! I look forward to seeing everyone out and about this winter holiday season!



**Chesapeake Beach Town Councilman Jonathan Evans**

Dear Calvert County Residents,

I hope this message finds you in high spirits as we enter this season of

gratitude. I want to share what I am thankful for both personally and professionally and I hope that you can reflect on what you are thankful for as well.

On a personal note, I'm incredibly grateful that God has led my wife and I to raise our children here in Calvert County. Our Chesapeake Beach Community and Chesapeake Church Community have enriched our lives, and our proximity to the Chesapeake Bay is an added blessing. The support and closeness in our community make Calvert County welcoming place that I am proud to call home.

Professionally, I am thankful for my role at Calvert Cliffs Clean Energy Center and my opportunity to serve as a Councilman for Chesapeake Beach. I'm particularly excited about leading the Waterpark Committee, which is set to bring an exciting new amenity to our Town and County in 2027. Working with dedicated individuals who are committed to improving our community has been incredibly rewarding.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let's take a moment to reflect on our blessings and the positive impact we can have on each other's lives. I'm honored to be part of this amazing community and look forward to creating more wonderful memories together.

Wishing you all a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving!

See **Thanksgiving**, page 6





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## “THIS WAS CHESAPEAKE BEACH AT ITS BEST.”

MAYOR BRUCE WAHL ON THE AFTERMATH OF THE NOV. 17 FIRE



**LOCAL 6**  
County reinstates Traffic Safety Council



**LOCAL 8**  
Town lauds community response for fire victims



**ON THE COVER 4**  
Local officials share what they're thankful for

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 27	FRI, NOV 28	SAT, NOV 29	SUN, NOV 30
Partly Cloudy Hi: 47° Lo: 31°	Sunny Hi: 43° Lo: 27°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 43° Lo: 34°	PM Showers Hi: 48° Lo: 41°
MON, DEC 1	TUE, DEC 2	WED, DEC 3	THU, DEC 4
Showers Hi: 54° Lo: 44°	Showers Hi: 51° Lo: 33°	Showers Hi: 49° Lo: 35°	AM Showers Hi: 45° Lo: 33°



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# Calvert County Times

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025

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# CALVERT COUNTY GIVES THANKS