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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

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**North Beach Volunteers
Make Water Rescues**

**Fire Destroys Solomons
Trailer Home**

**Speed Camera Moved to
St. Leonard Elementary**

**CALVERT CELEBRATES
THE 4TH**

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LOCAL 5
 North Beach volunteers make water rescue



LOCAL 6
 Fire destroys Solomons home



ON THE COVER 4
 Fireworks planned throughout next week

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 27 AM Clouds/PM Sun Hi: 87° Lo: 69°	FRI, JUN 28 Mostly Sunny Hi: 84° Lo: 71°	SAT, JUN 29 Mostly Cloudy Hi: 87° Lo: 76°	SUN, JUN 30 Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 67°
MON, JUL 1 Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 64°	TUE, JUL 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 66°	WED, JUL 3 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 73°	THU, JUL 4 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 73°



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Independence Day in Chesapeake Beach, Solomons



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County's celebration of America's 248th birthday will be centered this year, as in years past, in Chesapeake Beach and Solomons, with annual fireworks displays.

Chesapeake Beach will be celebrating on July 3 with viewing beginning at dusk, or around 9 p.m. Rain date will be July 6.

The Town of Chesapeake Beach sponsors the event in the center of town.

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

Solomons Business Association (SBA) has released the event schedule for this year's 4th of July activities on Solomons Island. Primary funding for the annual 4th of July Fireworks is provided by Calvert County government through a grant from the Department of Economic Development. Additional funds have been donated by a group of generous local businesses.

Also, funds are being raised by individual citizens through a GiveSendGo account: <https://www.givesendgo.com/SolomonsFireworks>

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

The schedule of events in Solomons is as follows:

- Flag Raising Ceremony: 10 a.m., Watermen's Memorial at entrance to Solomons Island
- Children's Bike Parade: Registration at 10:45 a.m., parade starts at 11 a.m., Our Lady Star of the Sea Parking Lot, Alexander Lane, Solomons
- 1st Maryland Regiment Colonial Reenactors Encampment: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Corbin Nature Pavilion at Calvert Marine Museum
- FREE Historical Adventure Quest (for Children): 11 a.m.–2 p.m., begins at Calvert Marine Museum (Corbin Nature Pavilion)
- FREE Live Concert with Calvert Brass Consortium: Time TBD, Corbin Nature Pavilion & Boardwalk Pavilion
- Boat Parade: 12 noon, begins in Back Creek and proceeds to Patuxent River past the Riverside Boardwalk
- FREE Live Concert with UNCLOUDED DAY: 5 p.m., front lawn of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
- FREE Live Concert with SOCIAL: 7 p.m., Boardwalk Pavilion
- Fireworks: 9:15 p.m., Patuxent River in front of the Riverside Boardwalk

There is limited street parking on and around the island with overflow parking at Glascock Field for \$5 starting at 3 p.m.

One-hundred-percent of the proceeds from parking at Glascock Field will be donated to the Calvert High ROTC.

Trolley buses are planned to help transport visitors from Glascock Field and around the island.

For more information, email: Kyle Webber at SaveSolomonsFireworks@gmail.com or SBA president, Vandy Young at vandyoung@gmail.com



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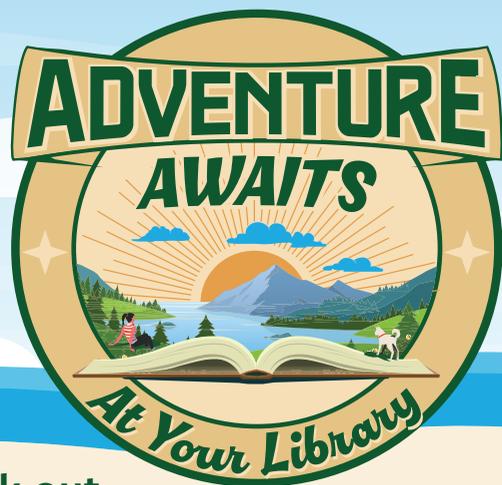
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North Beach Volunteers Make Water Rescues

The North Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad was kept busy the July 21-23 weekend with rescues on the water. On Saturday, June 22, Fireboat 1 responded mutual aid to Herring Bay, near the Sanctuary, with units from Anne Arundel County for a watercraft taking on water. The boat was on station in about five minutes after getting under way.

A Good Samaritan was on scene monitoring the situation and assisted guiding the fireboat to the scene. When Fireboat 1 arrived, it encountered a sport fishing vessel with a failed bilge pump. The crew used Fireboat 1's portable pump to assist with pumping out the distressed vessel's bilge and provided guidance on getting the distressed vessel's bilge operating again.

While assisting the initial vessel taking on water, Fireboat 1's crew encountered another vessel disabled, and against the rocks at the entrance to Herrington Harbor. The crew assisted the boat off the rocks and into the harbor.

On Sunday, June 23, Fireboat 1, Squad 1, and units from Talbot and Anne Arundel Counties were dispatched for a person in the water in Fishing Creek, just off the Rail Trail. Fireboat 1 responded, along with Zodiac 1.

The crew of Zodiac 1 encountered a person in the creek, unable to extract themselves. The zodiac's crew was able to get the person out of the water unharmed and



returned to shore.

The NBVFD reminds you to ensure your vessel's are seaworthy before heading out onto the bay, you have USCG approved personal floatation devices for everyone onboard, reliable means to call for help in an emergency, and you let someone know your departure and return time.

For inland waters, use caution when exiting a boat and entering the water. Diving should be avoided due to the shallow depths. Creek and marsh bottoms are extremely soft. It is easy to get stuck and unable to extract yourself.

Release from NBVFD.



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Speed Camera Relocated

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is announcing the relocation of an automated speed enforcement camera on behalf of the 'Safety for Students Speed Enforcement Program'. The speed enforcement camera will be located in the school zone of St. Leonard Elementary located on St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard, MD.

Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras are activated Mondays through Fridays from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in designated school zones. Violators must be traveling 12 mph over the posted speed limit for the camera to activate and a citation to be issued. A school zone speed camera violation is a \$40 fine with no points. Citations are issued to the registered owner of the vehicle. For a complete list of speed camera locations, go to the Calvert County Sheriff's website at <https://www.calvertcountymd.gov/2066/Speed-Cameras>.



Press release from CCSO

Sheriff's Office Hosts Crisis Training



The Calvert County Sheriff's Office on June 21 hosted an eight-hour Managing the Crisis Training Course for Law Enforcement Supervisors. The training, presented by the Trigon Training Group provided participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage crisis situations in their departments.

Supervisors enhanced their leadership and decision-making abilities to handle high-pressure situations with professionalism and confidence through a comprehensive curriculum covering Patrol Response to Crisis, Basic Negotiations, Media Basics,

Mental States of Officers and Suspects, and Roll Call Debriefings. The training is designed to help supervisors ensure the safety of their officers and communities while effectively managing mental health and well-being.

The sheriff's office would like to thank the regional Crisis Intervention Team and State general funds available through the Maryland Dept of Health which provided funding for this training.

Press Release from CCSO

Fire Destroys Solomons Trailer Home

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A trailer in Solomons was destroyed by fire on Sunday, June 23. According to the Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office, the 14 foot by 70 foot manufactured home at 25 Sammys Place was rendered uninhabitable as the result of the fire.

Solomons Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched at 5:52 a.m. and it took 50 firefighters 20 minutes to bring the blaze under control. The Prince Frederick, St. Leonard, Bay District, Hollywood, and Leonardtown volunteer fire departments also responded.

The fire originated on the front porch and was discovered by occupant Shane Garner. The fire marshal's office said a smoke alarm was present and activated, alerting the occupants to the fire. There was no sprinkler system.

The report from the fire marshal said, "There were no injuries as a result of the fire and the home was uninhabitable as a result of the fire. Anyone with any additional information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal." The fire is under investigation.

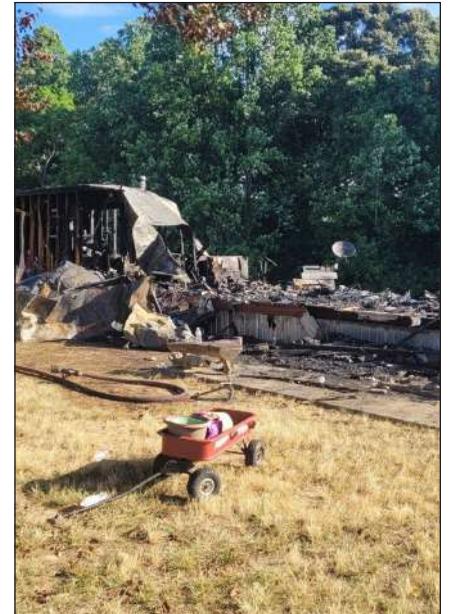


Photo courtesy of Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office

The fire marshal's office reported the loss at \$40,000 to the structure and \$5,000 to the contents.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of June 10, 2024 – June 16, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,851 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 94
- Disorderly: 22
- Domestic: 29
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 49
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 820
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 33
- Traffic Complaints: 84
- 911 Hang Ups: 77
- ARRESTS: 32



Lionel Mackall

CDS Violation: 24-45909 On June 11, 2024, Deputy Chase responded to the area of Hillside Court and N. Solomons Island Road in Huntingtown, to assist DFC Hendrickson with serving court papers. Contact was made with **Lionel Mackall**, 42 of Prince Frederick, who was observed throwing a silver object on the ground. Further investigation revealed Mackall was possessing a metal pipe covered in a white powdery residue (suspected crack cocaine) with wadded-up copper inside. Mackall was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and Resisting/Interfering with Arrest.



Bryan Steve Velasquez

CDS Violation: 24-4610 On June 12, 2024, DFC Lewis responded to the area of S. Solomons Island Road and Oakland Hall Road in Prince Frederick, to assist a disabled motorist with two flat tires. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Bryan Steve Velasquez**, 30 of Alexandria. Further investigation revealed Velasquez was displaying signs of impairment and was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. A search of Velasquez's person incident to arrest revealed a plastic tube with suspected heroin residue and a firearm holster. A vehicle search revealed a loaded Glock 43X 9mm handgun. Velasquez was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Driving Vehicle While Impaired by a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Handgun in Vehicle, and Loaded Handgun in Vehicle.

CDS Violation: 24-46979 On June 15, 2024, DFC Hendrickson initiated a traffic stop on



Matthew Kelland Novotny

a vehicle driving all over the roadway nearly striking other motorists in the area of the Walmart located at 150 Solomons Island Road N. in Prince Frederick. Contact was made with the driver, **Matthew Kelland Novotny**, 46 of Solomons, who refused to comply with deputies commands. Multiple open bottles of liquor were observed inside the vehicle in plain view. A vehicle search revealed numerous open containers of alcohol, two metal containers containing a white powdery substance (suspected cocaine), two plates, two straws, and two bank cards all covered with a white powdery residue. Novotny was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and Resisting/Interfere with Arrest.

Damaged Property: 24-45753 On June 11, 2024, Deputy H. Jones responded to the 440 block of Lake Drive in Lusby, for a report of damaged property. The complainant advised the back glass window of his truck was shattered, sometime between 8 p.m. on June 10 and 7:30 a.m. on June 11. The estimated value of damaged property is \$200.00.

Damaged Property: 24-46440 On June 13, 2024, Cpl. Kelly responded to the 3700 block of Williams Wharf Road in St. Leonard, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised sometime between 4 p.m. on June 12 and 5:30 p.m. on June 13, unknown suspect(s) uprooted and stole the victim's mailbox. The mailbox is described as a black metal mailbox with a black metal post. The estimated value of damaged and stolen property is \$200.00.

Theft: 24-45912 On June 11, 2024, Deputy R. Contic responded to the 6000 block of Gordon Drive in Sunderland, for the report of theft and trespassing. The complainant advised a Spy Point - Link Micro LTE trail camera was stolen from the victim's property sometime between 8:30 p.m. on June 10 and midday on June 11. The estimated value of stolen property is \$150.00.

Theft: 24-46696 On June 14, 2024, DFC Grierson responded to the 8300 block of Autumn Crest Lane in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a firearm was stolen out of the victim's truck while parked at the Walmart located at 10600 Town Center Blvd in Dunkirk. The firearm is described as a black Sig-Sauer 365X with a 3-inch barrel, inside a black leather holster. The estimated value of stolen property is \$620.00.

Theft: 24-46895 On June 15, 2024, DFC Rzepkowski responded to the 3800 block of Forrest Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised her aluminum paddle boat was stolen from the community common area sometime after 6 p.m. on June 12. The paddle boat is a three-seater and approximately 8-10 ft long. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,000.00.

Theft: 24-46888 On June 15, 2024, DFC Rzepkowski responded to the 3700 block of Bayview Drive in Chesapeake Beach, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised a BIC paddle board and black collapsible paddle were stolen from the community common area sometime after 5 p.m. on June 14. The paddle board is red and white and approximately 12 feet long. The estimated value of stolen property is \$1,550.00.

Theft: 24-47100 On June 16, 2024, Deputy Morrison responded to a theft report in the 11900 block of Lexington Drive in Dunkirk. Two individuals reported that their wallets and the contents inside were stolen from two separate unlocked vehicles parked at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center, located at 2950 Chaneyville Road in Owings. The estimated value of the stolen property is \$513.00.

Theft: 24-47201 On June 16, 2024, Deputy Chase responded to the Big Lots located at 765 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised two individuals walked into the store and grabbed numerous items, passed all points of sale without making payment and fled the area. The estimated value of stolen property is unknown at this time.

Stolen Property: 24-47147 On June 16, 2024, DFC Rzepkowski initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle at Southern Maryland Blvd. and Skinners Turn Road in Owings, displaying stolen tags. Contact was made with the driver, **Anastasia Brittany Bullock**, 31 of District Heights, who was advised the rear registration plate was stolen. Bullock was issued a criminal citation for the stolen tag (Theft less than \$100 from a Motor Vehicle) and issued other traffic related citations.

Vehicle Tampering: 24-46863 On June 15, 2024, deputies responded to the 3700 block of E. Larkview Court and the 3400 block of Lancer Court in Dunkirk, for the report of vehicle tampering. Investigation revealed an unknown suspect described as a black male, approximately 5'10"-6 ft. tall, wearing dark clothing, a hood, and a backpack was observed on video surveillance walking up to vehicles, pulling on door handles, attempting to gain entry. There were no reports of stolen or damaged property.



Oscar James Chew, III

Weapons Violation: 24-46039 On June 12, 2024, Cpl. Kelly initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle at Stoakley Road and N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, after observing equipment and traffic violations. Contact was made with the driver, **Oscar James Chew, III**, 34 of Lexington Park, who failed to provide vehicle registration. Further investigation revealed K9 Kodak conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle resulting in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed a butterfly-style knife and a syringe containing a clear liquid (suspected heroin). Chew was arrested and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and Concealing a Dangerous Weapon.



Joseph Leroy Bush, Jr.

Weapons Violation: 24-46807 On June 15, 2024, DFC Hendrickson initiated a traffic stop on a motorcycle for excessive speed along Rt. 4 and Patuxent Point Parkway in Solomons. Upon making contact with the operator, **Joseph Leroy Bush, Jr.**, 45 of Lexington Park, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was detected, and a Smith and Wesson Bodyguard, 380 caliber fully loaded semi-automatic handgun was located on Bush's person. Further investigation revealed Bush admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages and failed a series of standardized field sobriety tests. It was determined Bush was unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. Bush was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center where he was charged with Handgun on Person While Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and DWI.

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

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

What's Coming to Calvert

The following list of pending Category 1 site plans was presented to the Calvert County Planning Commission at their June 26 meeting. That means that the proposals are on the list for consideration by the planning commission at a future meeting. The meeting was in a hybrid form, both virtually and in person at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center (HEBCC), 901 Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick.

1) CSPR-142881, **Prince Frederick Town Center South, Shopping Plaza**, located on South Solomons Island Road, Prince Frederick, on 115-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Forest District. This project will have private water but will utilize public sewer. Proposed ~75,000 sf of commercial retail & office space with parking and site improvements. The concept submittal was accepted September 28, 2022. Agent: COA Barrett.

2) CSPR-142988, **St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department**, located on Calvert Beach Road, St. Leonard, on a 5.076-acre parcel, zoned Town Center/Village District Subarea B. This project will have public water but will utilize a private septic system. Proposed 4.1 acres of disturbance for demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a two-story, 40,280 sf Fire & Rescue service building with eight double-loaded apparatus bays. The concept submittal was accepted June 28, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

3) CSPR-143116, **145 Adelina Business Office**, located at 145 Adelina Road, Prince Frederick, combining Parcel 120 and Parcel 250, Lot 2 for a total of 2.44 acres, zoned Rural Commercial. Proposed remodeling of existing structure for use as an office and construction of a new 7,400-sf, two-story building for business-related storage with associated parking area required for the two buildings. This project will utilize private well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

4) CSPR-143112, **CCIP Lot 3R**, located at 171 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, Lot 3R in the Calvert County Industrial Park, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed redevelopment of a portion of the 4.5-acre lot by demolishing the existing office and constructing a new two-story office building in its place. It is further proposed to repave the southern portion of the site and to construct a storage warehouse and wall to segregate parking between the storage building yard & adjacent flex space tenants. A total of 6,524 sf of new construction with a total disturbance of 1.2-acres is proposed and the amenities will utilize public water and sewer. The concept submittal was accepted December 20, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

5) CSPR-143134, **Kelly Generator Storage Facility**, located at 7645 and 7655 Meadow Run Lane in Owings, MD. A redevelopment of Lots 6RR (1.43 acres) and 7RR (2.26 acres) in the Meadow Run



Park Subdivision, zoned Light Industrial. Proposed construction of a 16,800-sf, two-story industrial storage facility with parking and site improvements. This project will utilize well and septic. The concept submittal was accepted January 24, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

6) CSPR-143148, **SMILE Driveway Expansion**, located off of H.G. Trueman Road in Lusby, MD and is zoned Farm and Forest District. This project proposes an expansion of the access drive leading to the SMILE Warehouse & Thrift Shop facility. Work is proposed on the SMILE property as well as the adjoining St. Peter's Parish property, both being owned by St. Peter's Parish. Due to the necessary operation of the donation center, parking stalls that were originally created for SMILE along the east side of the building are proposed for removal from the site plan. The reduction in parking will be mitigated through a shared parking agreement. The concept submittal was accepted February 28, 2024. Agent: COA Barrett.

The following Major Subdivision Proposed Project List for Upcoming Review was also submitted at the same meeting.

1) SD-143071, **Magnolia Ridge West**, located at Armory Road and Dares Beach Road, Prince Frederick, with frontage and access from Dares Beach Road & Armory Road. The project is proposed on multiple parcels totaling 26.3 acres, zoned Prince Frederick Town Center, New Town District. The subdivision proposes 79 townhome lots and associated improvements with a density of ~3 units per acre. This project will be served by public water and sewer. A total of 19.47 acres of total open space is provided, including 3.81 acres of proposed recreation area. The preliminary plan submittal was accepted September 27, 2023. Agent: COA Barrett.

Concept submittals have been removed from this list. There is no assurance that those projects will reach Preliminary Plan status. If/when they do, they will be placed on this list under their Preliminary Plan project number.



Letters to the Editor

Thanks to the community

On behalf of the Chesapeake Garden Club, we would like to thank our wonderful community for supporting our Annual Plant Sale held in May at the Fairview Branch Library. We are so grateful to everyone who came out and bought plants, floral arrangements, goodies from the Garden Shop and more. We are very grateful to announce that the sale was an overwhelming success – in fact, our best year ever!!

Thank you to our dedicated members, our family members, the staff at Fairview Library, especially Branch Manager Lisa Tassa, and all those who let us place bicycles, yard signs, fliers, and more all around the area. We so appreciate your cooperation. Our fund-raising efforts provide valuable support to local organizations.

We give a scholarship to the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory for a student at the

College of Southern MD, provide seasonal bouquets to the Calvert County Nursing Center, and for floral design classes at both North Beach and Calvert Pines Senior Centers.

We maintain and care for the gardens at Fairview Branch Library, etc. We contribute to many worthwhile organizations including Safe Harbor, Jefferson Patterson Park, the Tawes Garden in Annapolis, and more.

For more information, visit our website: www.thechesapeakegardenclub.org or our Facebook page: Chesapeake Garden Club Without your help with our fund-raising efforts, these would not be possible. Our success depends on you, and we thank you!

*Happy Gardening,
Sharon Sherbert, President CGC and members*

Breaking the cycle of poverty

I am thrilled to share some exciting updates from C4, the Calvert Concept Charitable Corporation, in our ongoing mission to reverse the continuing effects of enslavement and similar injustices by breaking generational poverty through financial empowerment and support for home and business ownership. All C4 services are free, and the C4 program includes dollar-to-dollar savings matching.

At C4, we are deeply committed to serving our diverse community, which includes descendants of individuals enslaved in Calvert County, Native Americans facing similar circumstances, Public Servants struggling to afford residence within the County, and Seniors who have sacrificed retirement funds in service to others.

In line with our commitment to accessibility and empowerment, we launched our Rolling Application process on June 1st, allowing individuals to apply for our services at any time and receive a decision shortly after, thus streamlining access to much-needed support. Additionally, we are introducing RISE 360, a comprehensive suite of tools designed to enhance client experiences and organizational efficiency.

I am particularly excited to announce the launch of the C4 ProsperityBuilder Initiative, which aims to empower individuals with the knowledge and resources necessary to make informed financial decisions and build a brighter future. Through this initiative, participants can earn rewards for saving, engaging in financial education, and actively participating in our programs.

As Executive Director of C4, I am passionate about our mission and the impact we can make in our community here in Calvert. By supporting initiatives like the C4 ProsperityBuilder and advocating for greater investment in financial education, we can create lasting change and improve the lives of individuals and families in our community.

To learn more about how you can get involved, or to submit an application, visit www.c4housing.org or contact us at info@calvertconcept.onmicrosoft.com or call 443-900-2961.

*Michelle Crosby
Executive Director
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Sara Bevard



Madison Montgomery

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) has awarded four scholarships for 2024 to high school seniors who live in the cooperative's service area. Two are from Calvert. Recipients receive awards based on scholastic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement. Since beginning the scholarship program in 1993, SMECO has presented awards to 128 students. Each of the following students will receive a \$2,500 college scholarship: Sara Bevard, Noah Cusack, Daniel Howard, and Madison Montgomery.

Sara Bevard graduates this year from Calvert High School. She plans to attend Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, to study biomedical sciences in her pursuit of a medical career. While in high school, Bevard received Most Outstanding Academic Achievement in advanced-placement U.S. history, human body systems, and foundations of technology. She was inducted into the National Honor Society. Bevard is a longtime soccer player through the Calvert Soccer Association, where she has been a teen coach for young players and an assistant coach for older players. As a member of the Junior Optimist Club, she was vice president and treasurer, receiving the Optimist Club's Outstanding Youth of Calvert County award. She is active in her

church, participating in its youth group and youth choir, and she was a student leader of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Bevard is the child of Bruce and Amy Bevard of St. Leonard.

Madison Montgomery graduates this year from Northern High School in Calvert County, where she studied business administration and accounting. She plans to pursue a degree in finance from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Awards she received in high school include the AP Scholar Award, Academic Awards for Principles of Accounting and Principles of Business, the President's Award for Educational Excellence, and the high honor roll. An accomplished equestrian, she has won awards at United States Pony Club competitions and she hunts with the Marlborough Hunt Club. As a member of the National Honor Society, Montgomery coordinated the Northern chapter's tutoring project and served as project lead for the Reading Buddies program. She also belonged to the Future Business Leaders of America and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Montgomery is the child of Scott and Heather Montgomery of Owings.

Press Release from SMECO

5K Raises Money for Habitat for Humanity



Patuxent Habitat for Humanity's Warrior 5K Fun Run/Walk was held June 8TH at Solomon's Island Pavilion. We had a beautiful day, and an amazing turnout of over 120 racers, and Patuxent Habitat would like to thank everyone who participated, volunteered, and sponsored the Warrior 5K this year! We would like to gratefully ask that you support and thank our local sponsors without who we could not keep making our local community a better place to live. NSI, Target, Ron Bailey Photo Productions, Tammy Gladstone/State Farm Insurance, Duncan DeeJays, Toyota of Southern MD, Quality Built Homes, Hilltop Signs & Graphics, Southern MD News, Sabre Systems, WAWA, Mission BBQ, Printing Press, Walmart, Weis, Giant, ROWHOUSE, Wesbanco, Shore United, Cedarpoint, Chesapeake Custom Embroidery, Starbucks of Prince Frederick and of course the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and the Commissioners for allowing us to hold our 10th Anniversary Warrior 5K.

Patuxent Habitat would also like to thank Northern High School Navy Cadets for participating in the opening ceremony for this year's race. It gives us great pleasure to have the Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club of MD lead our race again this year. The Vietnam Vets Legacy Vets Motorcycle Club is the largest all-military motorcycle club in the world. Their members are both active military and those who have served but are now separated from their branch of service.

Proceeds from this event support Patuxent Habitat for Humanity's programs to provide decent, affordable housing for local families in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, and our Veteran Critical Repair Program. Please join all of us for this wonderful event next year and step-up to help build the local community because everyone deserves an affordable, decent, safe place to live. If you would like to volunteer please be sure to check out our website www.patuxenthabitat.org or email laurie@patuxenthabitat.org

Calvert Schools Receive Recognition for Theatre Education

Calvert County Public Schools has been honored with the distinction of being named a Premier Community for Theatre Education for its outstanding commitment in the field. The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) recognizes individual schools and districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide theatre access and education to all students.

"We are honored to be recognized as a Premier Community for Theatre Education," said Dr. Andraé Townsel, Calvert County Public Schools Superintendent. "This designation speaks to our dedication to fostering creativity, collaboration, and expression through the arts. We are proud to provide our students with exceptional theatre education opportunities that enrich their lives and empower their voices."

To qualify for the distinction, each high school answered detailed questions about funding, teacher development and evaluation, theatre class curriculum and participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the theatre program. Responses were verified with official documentation and reviewed by the Educational Theatre Association. As a result of the individual

applications from Calvert High School, Huntingtown High School, Northern High School, and Patuxent High School, Calvert County Public Schools has been named a Premier Community for Theatre Education.

Research affirms the educational and social-emotional benefits of participating in school theatre. In one study, it was found that students who received drama-based instruction made better connections to the curricular content. 95% of school administrators believe that theatre experiences improve students' overall academic skills.

"EdTA celebrates the community effort it takes to build and sustain a quality theatre program," said Dr. Jennifer Katona, EdTA's executive director. "The Premier Communities for Theatre Education distinction recognizes the work done by the entire school or district—from administration to teachers to students and parents—to ensure a safe and robust education in theatre is available to all students. We are thrilled to celebrate this cohort of schools and look forward to continuing to recognize high quality programs in future years."

Press release from CCPS



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County Times
St. Mary's County - Calvert County

ON NEWSSTANDS EVERY
THURSDAY & ONLINE AT
COUNTYTIMES.NET

Violation Type	Violation Begin	Violation End	Violation Explanation
Monitoring, Routine, Major (Nitrate, measured as Nitrogen)	01/01/2023	12/31/2023	The laboratory in charge of collecting and analyzing our drinkingwater samples neglected to collect the annual nitrate sample; therefore we failed to test one of our drinking water treatment plants for nitrates during the 2023 calendar year. Historical data for the past five years indicate this treatment plant had no detectable nitrates; analytical data for the current year also indicates no detectable nitrates.

Units of Measurement & Conversions:

- NA: Not applicable
- pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
- ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

- **MCLG:** Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risks for safety. MCGL allows for margin of safety.
- **MCL:** Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **AL:** Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **ALG:** Action Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MRDL:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbe contaminants.
- **MRDLG:** Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below

which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbe contaminants.

Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Chesapeake Beach is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Kiley Gorgard at 410-257-2230. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Copper

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a rela-

tively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson’s Disease should consult their personal doctor.

Arsenic

Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Barium

Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

Fluoride

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children’s teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

PFAS

PFAS – short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of more than 4,000 human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a range of products, including stain- and water-re-

sistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, cookware, food packaging and fire-fighting foams. These uses of PFAS have led to PFAS entering our environment, where they have been measured by several states in soil, surface water, groundwater, and seafood. Some PFAS can last a long time in the environment and in the human body and can accumulate in the food chain.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted a PFAS monitoring program for Community Water Systems from 2020 to 2022. The results are available on MDE’s website: <https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Pages/PFAS-Landing-Page.aspx>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations for 6 PFAS compounds in drinking water in March 2023. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are proposed to be 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt). The proposal for HFPO-DA (GenX), PFBS, PFNA and PFHxS is to use a Hazard Index of 1.0 (unitless) to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a risk and require action.

The 5th Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) began testing for 29 PFAS compounds and lithium in 2023, and testing will run through 2025. The UCMR5 should test all community water systems with populations of at least 3300 people. Three randomly selected systems in Maryland with populations less than 3300 people will also be tested under the UCMR5. Detections greater than the minimum reporting levels for each constituent should be reported in the CCR.

**If you have questions, please contact Town Hall at:
The Town of Chesapeake Beach
P.O. Box 400
Chesapeake Beach, MD
(410)-257-2230**

Prepared by: Water Testing Labs of Maryland, Inc.
For more information on contaminants in drinking water and its effects go to www.wtlmd.com

**TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR JANUARY 2023 TO DECEMBER 2023
Monitoring and Reporting Violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act**

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During **January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023**, we did not complete testing for **NITRATE** and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

Reason(s) for failure to collect, test, and report January 2023 to December 2023 results for nitrate:

The laboratory in charge of collecting and analyzing our drinking water samples neglected to collect the annual nitrate sample. Historical data for the past five years indicate this treatment plant had no detectable nitrates; analytical data for the current year also indicates no detectable nitrates.

Additional testing will be conducted during 2024. For additional information contact Jay Berry, Public Works Administrator, at 410-535-1600, ext. 2554

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who do not receive this notice directly (for example: people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place, distributing copies by hand, or mail.

Chesapeake Beach 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Is my water safe?

In the 2023 calendar year, as in years past, the Town of Chesapeake Beach is pleased to provide this annual water quality report. Public Works staff work around the clock to provide you with a safe, dependable supply of drinking water, to provide transparency of the water treatment process, and to protect our water resources. There are no reported unsafe levels within the Town's drinking water. Last year, our system received a monitoring violation; when one of our drinking water treatment plants was not tested for nitrates during the 2023 calendar year. The laboratory in charge of collecting and analyzing our drinking water samples neglected to collect the annual nitrate sample. However, historical data for the past five years and current analytical data indicate this treatment plant had no detectable nitrates.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some

elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

Where does my water come from and what are the potential sources of contamination?

Your drinking water is supplied by three wells. The source of Chesapeake Beach's water supply is the Aquia aquifer, which is located 500 feet below ground. The susceptibility analysis for The Town of Chesapeake Beach's water supply is based on a review of the water quality data, potential sources of contamination, aquifer characteristics, and well integrity. For more information on the source of your water, the significant potential sources of contamination, and susceptibility analysis, contact the Maryland Source Water Assessment Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment at (410) 537-3714 or https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx

[Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/water_supply/Source_Water_Assessment_Program/Pages/by_county.aspx)

Why may there be contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

1. Microbial contaminants such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

2. Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
3. Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
4. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
5. Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected in your water. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though representative, may be up to five years old.

Contaminant	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Typical Source
Copper	06/26/2020	1.3	1.3	0.43	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Contaminant (Units)	Collection Date	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Detected	Range		Violation	Typical Source
					Low	High		
Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products:								
Chlorine (ppm)	2023	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	1.1	1	1.1	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	2023	No goal for the total	80	2	2.4	2.4	No	Byproduct of chlorination
Inorganic Contaminants:								
Arsenic (ppb)	2023	0	10	1.3	1.3	1.3	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2023	2	2	0.0769	0.0769	0.0769	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppm)	2023	100	100	3.9	3.9	3.9	No	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	2023	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Radioactive Contaminants:								
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	04/23/2020	0	50	8.1	8.1	8.1	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon & uranium (pCi/L)	04/23/2020	0	15	4.6	4.6	4.6	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jun 27

Didgeridoo Down Under: Summer Fun

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10-10:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m.
410-257-2411

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-3 p.m.
410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862

The Didgeridoo Down Under Show is an energetic fusion of Australian music, culture, art, science, comedy, character building and audience participation. The didgeridoo has been played by Aboriginal Australians for at least 1,500 years, and is known for its otherworldly sound. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Reading Buddies: Young Readers

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
6:30-7:30 p.m.

At this event, elementary aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. I 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Jun 28

Boyz II Men perform LIVE

Calvert Marine Museum
7 p.m.

The iconic trio that has captivated audiences for over three decades, will perform LIVE at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. Gates open at 5 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$59 - \$99 (additional fees apply).

Children's Theater Summer Camp Show

St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
1450 Plum Point Rd, Huntingtown,
Friday, June 28 at 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The Children's Theatre of Southern Maryland is doing things a little different this summer. Rather than one summer camp for kids ages 8-18, we have two camps, which means two shows. After winning the summer camp category for the 2023 "Best of the Best" community choice awards, we knew the demand was high and are excited for the upcoming season. This camp features kids ages 13-18.

Our second summer camp show is Seussical Jr. with shows on Friday, July 19 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 20 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. This camp features kids ages 8-12.

Sat, Jun 29

June Mini Movie Festival

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Join us as we watch "Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist," "Taste of Cherry" and "The Watermelon Woman." Come to Calvert Library Prince Frederick this June to enjoy 3 in-library screenings on 1 incredible day!

First up is "Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist," a 1979 documentary short that explores the life of Paul Robeson, and how his public image changed as he became increasingly involved in the Civil Rights Movement, perfect for African American Music Appreciation Month.

Then for Men's Mental Health Month, the second screening will be the feature "Taste of Cherry," a 1997 film by legendary Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami. Taking place within the span of one day, we follow a man consumed by depression and alienation, confronted with the inexplicable beauty of the everyday when talking to three different

people living in Tehran.

Finally to finish off the day, we'll be watching "The Watermelon Woman" from 1996. A piece that finds itself pushing the boundaries of the American New Queer Cinema movement of the 90's, "The Watermelon Woman" confronts the many injustices marginalized people face, and the hierarchies of power that exist within those margins. While this sounds intimidating at first, really the film is a great comedy that invites the viewer to laugh with the many ridiculous moments a woman has to deal with as she struggles to make a documentary; and it's our pick for celebrating PRIDE Month!

Join us for 1, 2 or all 3 films, with an optional discussion following each! Screening times:

- 10:30am - 11am Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist
- 11am - 11:30am Discussion #1
- 12:30pm - 2pm Taste of Cherry
- 2pm - 2:30pm Discussion #2
- 2:45pm - 4:15 pm The Watermelon Woman
- 4:15pm - 4:45pm Discussion #3
- <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Jun 30

Sunday Afternoons with Poppie

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

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

Mon, Jul 1

12 Hikes in '24 Hiking Challenge

All trails at American Chestnut Land Trust 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Participants must register, and then sign-in using the QR code at any American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) trailhead at least one time each month to qualify for a prize at the end of the year. Participants are encouraged to upload photos from each hike to ACLT's Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #ACLT12Hikesin24, and to join the Facebook Group "ACLT's Hiking Challenges Group." For information on ACLT trails, visit www.acltweb.org/

Thu, Jul 4

Sea Squirts: Animal Sounds

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

Children 18 months to 3 years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive.

Upcoming

First Fossil Friday!

Calvert Marine Museum
Friday, July 5
1 - 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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



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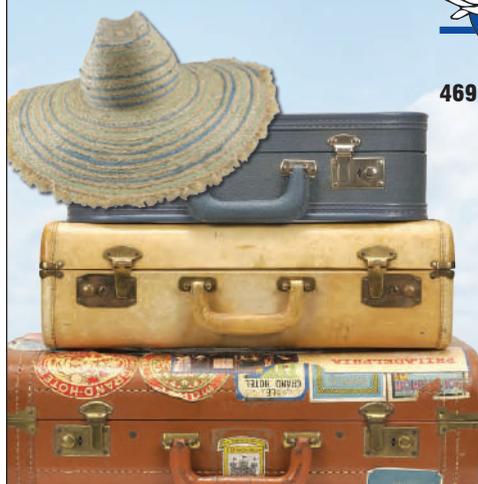
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Volunteer school groups
5. Cash machine
8. Title of various Muslim rulers
12. Indian hand clash cymbals
14. Scarf
15. Easily manageable
16. Cry
18. Financial term
19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
20. Clean out a riverbed
21. Seaport (abbr.)
22. English seascape painter
23. Bring back again
26. Subtracted from
30. Related to the mother's side
31. Moches
32. Commotion
33. Boer War general
34. Silklike nylon fabric
39. CNN's founder
42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
44. Minute reproductive unit
46. Nourishment
47. Large predatory tropical fish
49. Small, rich sponge cake
50. Drink a small amount
51. Golfer Rodriguez
56. Norse personification of old age
57. Large flightless bird
58. Capsized
59. Convicted American spy
60. Music genre
61. Makes tractors
62. Undergo cell disintegration
63. Patti Hearst's captors
64. Selves

CLUES DOWN

1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
2. Goat-like mammal
3. Swiss river
4. Slithered
5. Humiliate
6. Tumbled
7. Popular alcoholic drink
8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
9. Fertilizer
10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
11. Count on
13. One who discriminates against
17. New Hampshire city
24. One who cares for teeth
25. Sent off
26. Mutual savings bank
27. Initial public offering
28. Denial
29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
35. A doctrine
36. Consumed
37. Trent Reznor's band
38. Perform in a movie
40. Schoolhouse implements
41. Mathematical term
42. Man who behaves dishonorably
43. Expression of regret
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Pleasantly warm
48. The Eurasian hoopoe
49. NBAer Bradley
52. Engineering organization
53. Horsefly
54. Type of sandwich
55. A day in the middle of the month

9		8			3			
						3	7	
5	3			1				
6					8	4		
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JUNE 20 SOLUTIONS

A	C	E	D			F	T	C			M	O	B		
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2	5	6	3	7	4	8	1	9
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9	8	3	7	4	2	6	5	1
4	1	5	6	3	9	2	8	7
5	2	4	8	9	7	1	6	3
7	3	1	4	2	6	5	9	8
8	6	9	5	1	3	4	7	2

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Jun 28

HomeSpun CoffeeHouse—Open Mic

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

Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are warmly welcomed to perform their favorite tunes. Doors open at 7 pm with performances beginning promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$8; performers are admitted free of charge. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Info: smtmd2@gmail.com, www.smtmd.org/#/open-mic-night/

Sat, Jun 29

2nd Annual St. Vincent DePaul Yard Sale

Immaculate Conception Church Hall
28297 Old Village Rd., Mechanicsville

7 a.m. to noon

This is a charity yard sale with all of the proceeds benefiting the St. Vincent DePaul Society. For more information, please phone 301-481-4193.

Blindness Demonstration

St. Mary's Square
21600 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The 5 St. Mary's County Lions Clubs will be conducting a "Blindness Demonstration" during the Culture and Cuisine event sponsored by the Lexington Park Business Association in St. Mary's Square from 10:00 until 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 29.

Recyclable eyeglasses will also be collected that day. Please come and join us.

St. Mary's Freedom Fest

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown
3:00 PM to 10:00 PM

St. Mary's Freedom Fest is an Independence Day celebration. Music, entertainment, food, activities and a grand fireworks display at dark. This is a free admission event.

Sun, Jun 30

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Hollywood VFD
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department.

\$15.00 Age 13 & over

\$8.00 Age 4-12

3 & under FREE

Menu: bacon, sausage patties, sausage links, scrapple, scrambled eggs, waffles, creamed chipped beef, biscuits, omelettes

made to order, coffee, tea, milk, assorted juices

Upcoming

Blood Drive

Mt. Zion UMC
27108 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Mechanicsville
Mon, July 15
12 p.m. to 6 pm

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "Mt Zion UMC Mechanicsville" to schedule an appointment. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



Tie Dye Block Party

It's hip. It's happening at all three Library locations on Friday, June 28 at 10 a.m. It's a tie-dye block party. Join us and make your very own groovy garment. Ages 8 to 18. The Library will supply 1 cotton bandana per person to tie-dye, but you are welcome to bring 1 additional item (tee, bag, hat, etc.) if you'd like. You will have 20 minutes to complete your tie-dye project. Register on www.stmalib.org for an appointment. Each appointment is for one participant only. Wear something you won't mind getting messy.

Bridgerton Whodunit Party

Did you binge all of Season 3 of Bridgerton already and now you can't wait for more? Come participate in a mystery party themed around the fan-favorite regency romance at Leonardtown Library on Saturday, June 29 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Participants will be contacted the day before the program and assigned a unique character inspired by the Bridgerton book series by Julia Quinn and Netflix television adaptation. Feel free to come in period-inspired attire or costumes if you

would like (some of the characters may even allow you to use your best fake accent if you chose). You will then mill about the parlor, chat with other guests, enjoy tea and snacks, and, of course, attempt to uncover who Lady Whistledown could be and why they are spreading gossip and rumors throughout the Ton. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Community Chess Day

An all-ages chess social hang-out! Drop in and out to play as needed, no experience required. Staff will be available to assist those who haven't played before. Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, June 29 from 2 - 4 p.m. Small chess guides will be available for each player for reference. Chess boards will be provided by the library, but feel free to bring your favorite set. No registration.

Library Holiday Closures

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

Camp Read S'more

Go on an adventure at the library with an indoor campout at Charlotte Hall Library on Monday, July 1 from 6 - 7 p.m. We will have s'mores, build reading forts, and sing songs and read stories around a "campfire." Siblings welcome. Please register each child attending on www.stmalib.org.

Tabletop Hangout

Saturday Afternoon Tabletop Gaming Hangout! Open tables to play card games, TTRPGs, tabletop games and more at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, July 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. The library will provide a small amount of games, but you can bring your own and play with folks new and old! If you're interested in running a game for the community, fill out the form here and we'll make sure it's noted in the description below! Register on www.stmalib.org.

Adult Crafternoon: Paper Plate Printmaking

Do you love making art and trying out new projects? Come hang out and make crafts without the pressure to be perfect at Leonardtown Library on Monday, July

8 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. This month we'll try out printmaking with plates and paint! Come with a design in mind or use one of ours. All participants will leave with their plate/matrix and all of the prints that they made during the program. Materials will be provided. This program is meant for adults, but no prior skills in printmaking are needed. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Around the World Escape Room

Do you have what it takes to travel the globe? Picture this: you want to go on an amazing summer adventure. You'll visit lots of different countries, meet new people, see beautiful scenery, and eat delicious food. The only problem is, you need to take an airplane, a hot air balloon, a boat, a train, and a bus to make it to all of your destinations. Can you collect all five transportation tickets and make it back home in time? Join us at Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, July 13 from 2 - 4 p.m. You and up to four friends will have 20 minutes to complete your journey. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET



8-Oz., Selected
Cool Whip
Topping

SALE PRICE ~~2/\$4~~
DIGITAL COUPON
2.00 OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE
2/\$2



16 To 24-Oz., Selected
Foster Farms Chicken
Wings Or Strips

7.98



19 To 32-Oz., Selected
Ore-Ida
Frozen Potatoes

SALE PRICE ~~2/\$7~~
DIGITAL COUPON
1.00 OFF TWO
FINAL PRICE
2/\$6



7.5-Oz., Combination Or Pepperoni
Totino's
Pizzarolls

2/\$5



Oven Roasted Or Buffalo
Kretschmar
Chicken Breast

7.98 Lb.



50-Oz.
Cookies N'
Creme Cake

11.98

Bakery & Deli Fresh

Kretschmar

White Or Yellow
Kretschmar
American Cheese

5.98 Lb.



Banana, Coconut Or Chocolate

6-Inch
Cream Pie

5.98



16-Oz. Wilmot Farms
Four Cheese
Party Tray

7.98



1-Oz., Chocolate Or White
In-Store Made
Cake Pops

1.98



8-In., Apple Or
Bakery Fresh All-American
Apple Pie

4.98

Liquor and Beer



10-Oz. Cans
24-Pack
Bud Light

19.89



12-Oz. Bottles
18-Pack
Miller Lite

14.99



18 Pack Cans, 12-Oz.
Michelob
Ultra

15.99



12-Oz. Cans, Select Variety
24-Pack
Twisted Tea

26.99



1.75L
Jim
Beam

28.99



1.75L
Jack Daniel's
Whiskey

40.99



1.75L
Maker's Mark
Whiskey

44.99



1.75L
Tito's
Vodka

30.49



750 ML
Casillero
Del Diablo

10.99



750 ML
Chateau D' Esclands
Whispering Angel Rose

16.99



750 ml
Altosur
Malbec Rose

6.99



750mL
Les Allie's
Sparkling Wines

10.99

Wines of the Month



Franciscan Wines

11.99

In Remembrance

To schedule an obituary in the County Times, submit text and picture to aldailey@countytimes.net by noon on Tuesdays for publication on Thursdays. Any submissions received after this deadline may run in the following week's edition.

Margaret Tippett, 86



Margaret Elizabeth Tippett, 86, of Compton, MD, departed for her heavenly life on June 17, 2024, at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, Leonardtown, MD, surrounded by her loving family.

Margaret was born on April 8, 1938, in Oakley, MD, and was the second daughter of the late James Louis and the late Mary Pauline (Quade) Howe. She married the love of her life, Tommy Tippett, on May 12, 1962, in St. Francis Xavier Church, Newtowne, MD. They celebrated 62 beautiful years of marriage. Together, they raised three children who survive her, Patty O'Day (Steve) of Hollywood, MD, Tom Tippett III (Wendy) of Compton, MD, and Mandy Tippett (Bobby) of Leonardtown, MD. Margaret was blessed with four granddaughters who affectionately called her "Meemaw", Beth O'Day, Sara O'Day, Katie Jensen (Brandon), and Hannah Johnson (Tyler). She is also survived by her step grandchildren, Kimberly

O'Reilly (Robert), Kevin Gray (Elizabeth). In addition, Margaret is survived by her loving brothers, Jimmy Howe (Pam), Jay Howe (Linda), and Tommy Howe. She was predeceased by her parents, older sister, Ann Wescott (Dick), niece Mary Teresa Burnham, nephew Mike Wescott, and her step grandchild, Kris Gray.

Margaret and Tommy owned and operated Tippett's Seafood since the early seventies. She loved living and working on the water. Her favorite part of the business was greeting and chatting with her customers. She was known to many as the "crab lady". However, her granddaughters thought she made the best grilled cheese in the world.

Margaret graduated from Holy Angels Catholic School in 1952 and Margaret Brent High School in 1956. In her early years, she was a waitress at Duke's Restaurant in Leonardtown, MD.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 28, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in St. Francis Xavier Church, Compton, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow immediately at 11:00 AM with Father Ted Hagnauer officiating. Interment to follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be JJ Howe, J.R. Brown, Dalton Brown, Henry Short, Michael Biscoe, and Michael

Clarke. Honorary pallbearers will be Jimmy Howe, Jay Howe, and Tommy Howe.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc., P.O. Box 299, Leonardtown, MD, 20650.

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

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

Carolyn Connelly, 84



Carolyn Anita Connelly, 84, of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on June 20, 2024, in Callaway, MD, with her loving family by her side.

She was born on October 29, 1939, to the late Helen Mae Wood and the late Archie Pilkerton, Sr., in Mechanicsville, MD.

Carolyn was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She graduated from Margaret Brent High School in 1957. She was employed by the St. Mary's County Circuit Court office and worked her way up through the ranks and becoming Chief Deputy Clerk. She served the clerk's office with pride for 36 years, retiring in 2001.

Carolyn met the love of her life, Thomas Fillmore Connelly, in 1956, and they married on December 27, 1958, in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mechanicsville, MD. They were married for 56 years. Thomas passed away in December 2015.

Carolyn and Thomas were blessed with two daughters; Cheri Parsons (Joe) of Fredericksburg, VA, and Marcy Williams (Ernie) of Clements, MD. She was further blessed with six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. She had a special relationship with all of them.

Carolyn grew up with eight siblings. Surviving her is her brother, Archie Pilkerton, Jr., of Mechanicsville, MD. She was preceded in death by Arthur Pilkerton, Mary Burroughs, Bernadine Knott, Virginia Knott, Lenwood Pilkerton, Roberta Guy and Muriel Bowling.

The family will receive family and friends on Monday, July 1, 2024, from 5-8pm at Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. Prayers will be recited at 7pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 10am, at Saint Aloysius Catholic Church in Leonardtown, MD, with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, Leonardtown, MD.

Serving as pallbearers are Trey Williams, Jay Taormina, Casey Schooler, Jarred Norris, Gilbert Murphy and Mark Bowling. Honorary pallbearers are Rick Taormina, George Tatlow, and Archie Pilkerton, Jr.

The family would like to thank Hospice of St. Mary's sincerely for the wonderful and compassionate care that Carolyn received. They provided a level of comfort and care to both Carolyn and her family that was everything it should be and much, much more.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P. O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD.

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

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

Leonard Drury, 71



Leonard Francis Drury, 71, of Mechanicsville, MD passed away June 19, 2024 at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, with his loving family at his side.

He was born November 11, 1952 in Charles County, MD to the late Bernard Joseph Drury, Sr. and Betty Ann Harding Drury.

Leonard is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a 1970 graduate of Chopticon High School. He was an avid fan of the Washington Commanders and Washington Nationals. He also enjoyed watching WWE. He enjoyed a close bond with his late mother, and loved the family Sunday fried chicken dinners. His other hobbies included playing 5 Crowns and Rummy and watching SciFi movies and shows, along with some comedies. He was always up for a good laugh. He was a member of Companions and Buddies for Singles (CABS).

Leonard is survived by his brother-in-law, John Fields of Mechanicsville, MD; his nieces and nephews: Jennifer Queen, Duane Drury, Brian Drury, and Adam Fields; his great nephew, Brayden Fields; great niece, Emma Soulsby; and extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his brother, Bernard "BJ" Drury, Jr., his sister, Cynthia Fields; and his nephew, Jason Drury.

Family will receive friends on Friday, June 28, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with a Service celebrated by Deacon Joseph Lloyd at 12:00 p.m. at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace cemetery in Mechanicsville, MD.

Memorial contributions in Leonard's name may be made to Meals on Wheels, c/o St. Mary's County Department of Aging, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

Condolences may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.



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This *July 4th*

73% Lean, Fresh Family Pack Ground Beef
3.48 lb.

Certified Angus Beef Boneless New York Strip Steaks
13.98 lb.

1-Pc Baby Back Pork Ribs
2.98 lb.

Certified Angus Beef Whole Or Half Boneless Beef New York Strip
12.98 lb.

Johnsonville Brats Original
5% OFF

SALE PRICE 4.98
DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF ONE
3.98

1.19-Lb., Selected Italian Sausage Or Johnsonville Brahwurst

CURLY'S Pulled Pork
4.98

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

Store Packed Catfish Fillets
4.99 lb.

6-Oz., Selected Moji Sushi Roll
3.98

Certified Angus Beef Boneless Beef Chuck Steaks
6.98 lb.

Certified Angus Beef Boneless Beef Chuck Roast
5.98 lb.

Ball Park Franks
1.98

15-Oz., Turkey Or Selected Ball Park Meat Franks

16-Oz. Hot Or Mild Swaggerty's Sausage Roll
3.48

73% Lean Ground Beef Patties
3.98 lb.

16-Oz., Frozen Nature's Best Tilapia Fillets
5.99

16 To 20 Ct. Texas Gulf Shrimp
9.99 lb.

<p>5.75 To 12.4-Oz., Selected Cheez-It Crackers 3.48</p>	<p>30-Oz., Selected Miracle Whip SALE PRICE 5.48 DIGITAL COUPON 2.00 OFF ONE 3.48</p>	<p>22 To 28 Oz., Selected Bush's Baked Beans SALE PRICE 2.75 DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO 2/\$4</p>	<p>12 To 16-Oz., Selected Hidden Valley Dressing 2/\$6</p>	<p>14 To 18-Oz., Selected Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ Sauce SALE PRICE 2.54 DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO 2/\$3</p>	<p>32-Oz., Selected Kraft Real Mayo 4.48</p> <p>32-Oz. Heinz Ketchup SALE PRICE 2.57 DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO 2/\$6</p>	<p>30-Oz., Selected Hellmann's Real Mayonnaise SALE PRICE 5.98 DIGITAL COUPON 2.00 OFF ONE 3.98</p>	<p>5.5 To 7.25-Oz., Selected Kraft Macaroni & Cheese SALE PRICE 4.75 DIGITAL COUPON .50 OFF ONE \$0.75 ONE</p>
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<p>8.13 To 15.25-Oz., Selected Lays Party Size Chips \$5</p>	<p>9.75 To 13-Oz., Selected Tostitos Chips 2/\$7</p>	<p>Selected Varieties 2-Liter Coke Products 2/\$4</p>	<p>7-Oz. Jet-Puffed Marshmallow Cream 2/\$3</p>	<p>10-Oz., Selected A1 Steak Sauce SALE PRICE 5.48 DIGITAL COUPON 2.00 OFF ONE 3.48</p>	<p>18-Oz., Original Bull's-Eye BBQ Sauce 1.98</p>	<p>6-Pack Deer Park Water 2/\$5</p>	<p>8-Oz. Maxwell House k-Cup Coffee 4.98</p>
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<p>FREE ITEM Friday COUPON REFERRABLE 8/26/24 - 9/30/24 1 FREE .5-Oz. Topps Ring Pop</p>	<p>24.5 To 36.8-Oz., Selected Maxwell House Coffee SALE PRICE 10.98 DIGITAL COUPON 2.00 OFF ONE 8.98</p>	<p>4.9 To 5.57-Oz., Selected Pringles Potato Crisps SALE PRICE 2.28 DIGITAL COUPON 1.00 OFF TWO 1.28</p>	<p>11-Oz., Reg. Or Mini Nilla Wafers SALE PRICE 2.59 DIGITAL COUPON 2.00 OFF TWO \$2.7</p>	<p>16.5 To 19.25-Oz. Buffalo Ranch Or Heinz Mayochup Sauce 2/\$8</p>	<p>13.9 To 16.8-Oz., Selected General Mills Cereal 2/\$7</p>	<p>15.5-Oz., Selected Hanover Beans 5/\$5</p>	<p>12-Oz., Selected SPAM Luncheon Meat 3.68</p>
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OUR SELECT BRANDS: food club, crown, THAT'S SMART!, North Star, Paws Happy Life, tippy toes, simply done, PURE HARMONY, TopCare.

WED 26	THURS 27	FRI 28	SAT 29	SUN 30	MON 1	TUES 2
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PRICES GOOD FROM
June 26 THRU July 2, 2024

WE ACCEPT:

STORE HOURS:
Monday - Saturday 7am to 9 pm
SUNDAY 8 am to 7 pm

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Spot are in the Patuxent, bigtime. Bottom fishermen are filling their coolers with medium to large spot in the mouth of the Patuxent all the way to St. Leonard's Creek. By the fourth of July they should be all the way to Benedict. The spot love bloodworms, which are expensive and scarce this week as digging conditions in Maine were very bad with heat wave and tide timing. Excellent bloodworm substitutes are Lug worms, Fish Bites, peeler crab, night crawlers, razor clams, and squid.

Spot are also caught in numbers in the Potomac around Ragged Point and St. George Island. The Point Lookout area is loaded with tiny spot and croaker. The bigger spot are further up the Potomac to escape the porpoise schools that eat them like candy. There are hungry porpoise in the Patuxent too.

White perch, puppy drum, slot reds are in the shallows for lure casters, but the heat has made a small window of really good activity at dawn and dusk. A high tide with moving water is always good.

Breton Bay in the Potomac seems to have an excellent run of red drum and white perch happening now.

Cobia are now active in the bay south of the Target Ship. Several good catches have been made by experienced captains either sight casting or drifting live spot. Live eels are good but come into their own a little later in the season when they are essential. Trollers using big surgical eels are getting cobia.

There are schools of big bluefish (4 to 6 pounds) marauding the lower bay, but they play hide and seek. The guides that fish everyday are doing well trolling spoons and surgical eels; blue and purple eels worked well this week.

Rockfish are up the rivers and in the northern bay from the Choptank to Baltimore Harbor. Live liners in the vicinity of the Bay Bridge find hot action and in addition to stripers there are hefty, tasty catfish in the mix. The mid-bay was tough going for rockfish hunters this past week in the heat and wind.

Crabs love this hot weather and are eager to eat the bait in the crab pots off the piers of waterfront property owners. They love alewives, razor clams and spot. Hand trap users and chicken-neckers are doing well.

The crappie run in St. Mary's Lake continues with great fishing. Plenty of bass, bluegill, and pickerel too.

There are some rain and cooler temperatures forecast for this week, so let's go fishing!!

A View From The BLEACHERS



SAY HEY

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Mornings land a little harder now. The night's sleep isn't as restful as it once was. Feet still hit the floor, thankfully, but the morning stretch is labored and always includes the pops of aging joints readjusting to walking upright. The image in the mirror is surreal – lines keeping history, three days of facial hair that reveals more gray than brown and a head of hair that offers a similar split. An older, wiser man once said, "That's not gray hair, it's earned silver." I'll roll with that description, for sure.

Such are the struggles of middle-age, a time when the mind is still young and the body is decidedly...not. I respect those who have embraced age-related realities. I am in denial, fighting daily to keep the spirit young. Acceptance is out there somewhere, a moment when even my most absurd psychological gymnastics make the reality of my date of birth simply undeniable.

But every now and then, I appreciate those gray hairs, my vintage, and the things and people I've been fortunate to see. June 18 was one of those days.

I never saw Willie Mays play baseball. He retired in 1973, not long after my birth. But I met the man, ever so briefly, a long time ago. As a child of the 1980s and 90s, I was enthralled with the sports memorabilia craze (autographs, trading cards, artifacts) and wore out a copy of Ken Burns's "Baseball" documentary. Baseball nostalgia was hot and Willie Mays was as relevant as any current player.

My amateur research focused on many familiar names across baseball's rich history – Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Walter Johnson, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Mantle, Hank Aaron, Roberto Clemente, Frank Robinson and Mays, just to name a few. Ruth was baseball's most famous star. DiMaggio was perhaps its most regal. Jackie Robinson its bravest. Mantle its best overall prospect. Gehrig and Clemente its tragic heroes. Ted Williams was arguably the game's greatest hitter. Aaron was (still is?) its home run king. But it was Mays who seemed, in my mind, the game's greatest all-around player. He didn't hit as many home runs as Aaron or Ruth, his average was below Williams's and he didn't have Clemente's arm. But he was the ultimate five-tool star – elite hitting power and average, speed, fielding and throwing – before it was cool.

Willie Mays, the "Say Hey Kid", passed away last Tuesday at the age of 93, two days before MLB's return to Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama, an ancient ballpark where Mays started his professional career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues. It was a reminder of Mays's humble professional beginnings, not dissimilar from just about every MLB star, and that America's history is many things - amazing, inspiring, imperfect, troubling and shameful.

For ethically grounded lovers of the game, the steroid era and its damage to player legacies and cherished baseball records sows deep regret. Is Roger Maris the single-season home run record holder? Or Barry Bonds? Or Aaron Judge? Is Aaron still the all-time home run champion, or is it Bonds. There's no clear answer. And that's a damn shame.

That baseball was segregated for over half a century, not different from society, casts an even darker moral shadow. Would the white stars of the segregated era have been as dominant with a full complement of baseball's best players? How would have the Negro Leagues' stars fared in MLB? And how much greater would Mays, Aaron and other early African American MLB stars have been had they not been burdened by the sport's reluctant integration and the injustices of a segregated America? These are just some of the sad consequences of racism.

If anything lasting came of Mays's passing, and the celebration of his life and the Negro Leagues at Rickwood Field, let it be that his journey sears into our minds that prejudice and inequality minimizes us all, and that our potential, as ballplayers, Americans and humans, can only be fully realized together. That endeavor that remains, 73 years after Mays's MLB debut, very much a work in progress.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

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Celebrate Maryland Agriculture with the Buy Local Challenge



The Southern Maryland Agricultural Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, invites all Marylanders to support, celebrate and shop everything Maryland grown, harvested, produced, hand-crafted and homemade at the 2024 Buy Local Challenge Celebration of Maryland's farms, producers, artisans and farm-hosted fun.

Wrap up the statewide Buy Local Week (July 19 – 28, 2024) and enjoy a fun summer evening with family and friends while supporting Maryland's farmers and producers at the Buy Local Challenge Celebration hosted by Serenity Farm in Benedict, Charles County Maryland on Monday, July 29 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The family-friendly Buy Local 'Celebration' will be set up farmers market style with an anticipated line of up to 50 vendors, offering a true taste of Maryland's summer bounty. Meet and shop with the makers and producers of Maryland's farm-raised meats and dairy products, fruits and veggies, flowers, local oysters, baked goods, jams and pickles, honey, farm made soaps and scents; discover creative local arts and crafts, and sip and savor artisanal beverages from Maryland's wineries, distilleries, and breweries.

Admission is \$5 (kids 6 years and under

free). Tickets available to purchase online until 4 p.m. Monday, July 29, or at the door via PayPal. Admission includes a complimentary insulated shopping tote (with ice to keep your purchases fresh), delicious oyster tasting—experience the flavor of local oysters with Hollywood Oyster Company, a free raffle with generously donated vendor prizes, carriage rides with the magnificent Suttler Post Farm Clydesdales and for the kids, rides with 'Mary's Go Round' adorable ponies, and Serenity Farm petting pen, and face painting.

Take a night off from cooking and choose from local area food trucks onsite through the evening with a variety of mouthwatering menus, featuring locally sourced ingredients to suit all tastes. While you shop, sip and savor, relax in the shade of the hospitality tent as you enjoy the view and be entertained with musical tales and legends of Southern Maryland's heritage by the talented trio 'Chapitico Songworks'.

Visit BuyLocalChallenge.com to purchase Celebration tickets and see daily updates of participating vendors, entertainment and activities. Be sure to check out the 'Buy Local Week' resources and opportunities for Marylanders to shop and celebrate Maryland's farms and food.

Experience the Magic of Cinderella with Summerstock

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is thrilled to present *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* this summer for the 42nd production of Summerstock. Performances will be held at Great Mills High School on July 19–21 and July 26–28, 2024, with a total of 8 shows.

Online ticket sales begin July 1, 2024, and will also be available for purchase the day of the show, if available. Don't hesitate as some shows may sell out in advance. Purchase your tickets online, starting July 1 at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/summerstock.

Show times:

- Friday, July 19 & July 26 at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, July 20 & July 27 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, July 21 & July 28 at 3 p.m.

Varied ticket prices are available for adults, seniors, and youth. All ticket sales are final and are non-refundable and non-trans-



ferable. For assistance with ticket sales, please contact R&P at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1800 or webtrac@stmaryscountymd.gov.

"Summerstock has become a cherished community tradition," said Commissioner President James

Randy Guy. "It is always an outstanding show, and something the entire family can enjoy and do together. Let's fill the seats and show our young performers how much we appreciate their hard work and creativity."

Residents can preview the 2024 Summerstock cast performing at the annual Flag Day ceremony.

For general show inquiries or to learn how you can become a sponsor and show supporter, please contact our Summerstock Producer via email to Chris.Lengle@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Follow St. Mary's County Recreation & Parks on social media at x.com/StMarysRecParks and [Facebook.com/StMarysMDRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysMDRecreation) for regular updates.

Pet of the Week

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

United States Naval Test Pilot School Graduates Class 164

The U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) held a graduation ceremony for Class 164 on June 14. Thirty-four students successfully completed the intense 11-month course of instruction and earned their designations as Engineering Test Pilots, Engineering Test Flight Officers, or Test Project Engineer.

Naval aviator and NASA astronaut Capt. Victor Glover Jr. delivered the keynote address. Glover was the Navy's exchange pilot selected to attend the Air Force Test Pilot School where he graduated in 2007. He is an Artemis II pilot and spent 168 days in space in 2018. Glover will be one of four astronauts on the first mission to the moon in more than 50 years.

"I would trade places with any of you today," Glover told the graduating class. "Being a test pilot was the best job I ever had."

Glover charged the class to protect their passions while developing healthy ones.

"I love that [you] show up and still want to be public servants," he said. "You are not like anybody else—use that power to help us create the next generation of responsible people."

The graduation ceremony happened at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department in



Hollywood, Maryland. Graduates included members of the German Air Force, Italian Air Force, Republic of Singapore Air Force, United Kingdom Royal Air Force, Swiss Confederation, as well as U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force.

Naval Test Wing Atlantic Commodore Capt. Elizabeth Somerville, USNTPS Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Aaron Kia and USNTPS Chief of Academics Dr. John Tritschler presented diplomas and offered congratulations to the new testers.

Army Capt. Christopher Smith earned the Capt. Willie McCool Outstanding Student Award for the top performing student in the categories of academics, flight performance, and technical report writing. He was also recognized with the Developmental Testing Thesis Award for the best final capstone report.

Maj. Philip Wheat earned the Capt. Syd Sherby Leadership Award named after the founder of the test pilot training division, now USNTPS. The Capt. Sydney Sherby Award recognizes the student who displays exemplary leadership in the class.

Twenty-two students completed the requirements for the engineering test pilot course, six students completed the engineering test flight officer course, and six students fulfilled the requirements for the test project engineer course.

USNTPS trains pilots and engineers for development test and evaluation of aircraft and aircraft systems. USNTPS is a component of Naval Test Wing Atlantic under Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) in Patuxent River, Maryland. NAWCAD advances capability and operational readiness for naval aviation.



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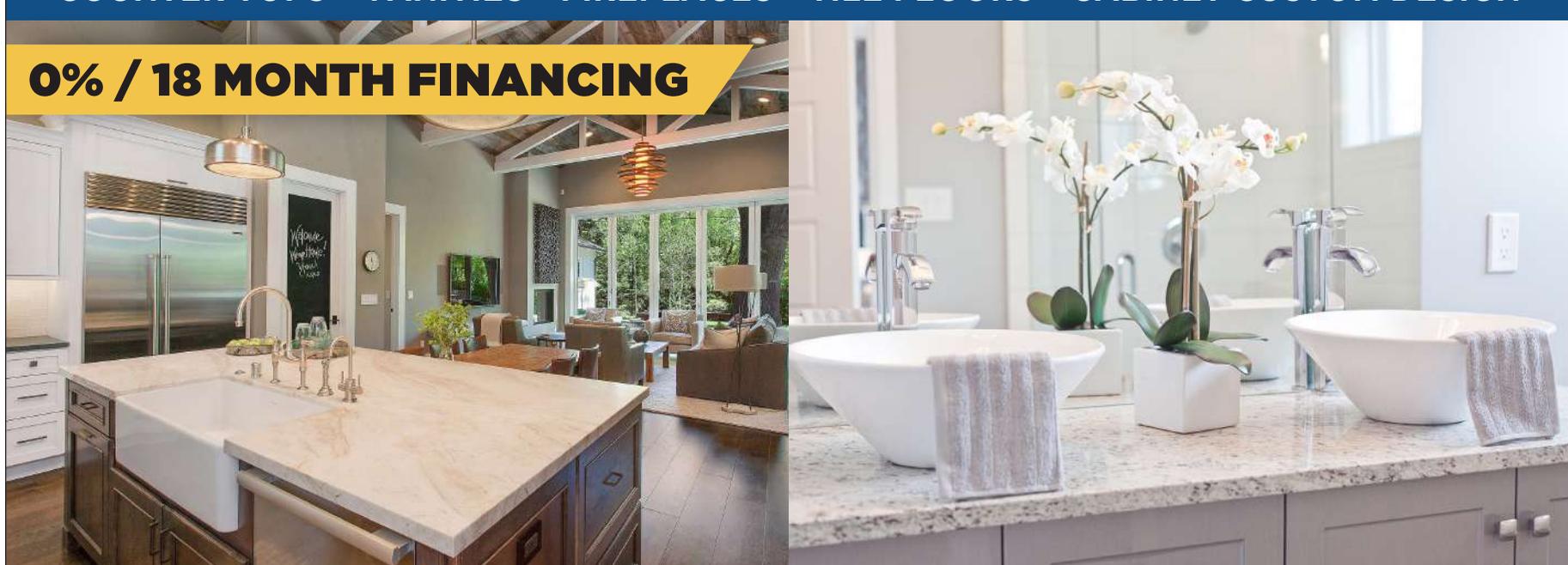
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Mechanicsville Man Charged with Attempted Murder

During the evening of June 22, 2024, The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division responded to a reported assault at the 45000 block of Nicholas Court in Lexington Park, MD. Deputies spoke with the victim, who advised she was supposed to meet her ex-husband, John William Alvarado, 47, of Mechanicsville, MD. When the victim approached the suspect, Alvarado exited his vehicle, pointed a loaded handgun at the victim, and proceeded to strike her with the handgun several times. Alvarado then discharged the handgun twice and fled the scene.

The victim was flown to an area hospital for treatment of her injuries.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division responded to continue the investigation, and the subsequent investigation revealed that Alvarado had a previously disqualifying criminal conviction that prohibited him from possessing firearms.

On June 23, 2024, Detectives received an arrest warrant for Alvarado. Detectives received information Alvarado was in the Leonardtown area, and with the assistance of deputies from the Patrol Division, a traffic stop was conducted where the suspect was taken into custody and served the arrest warrant charging him with:

- Attempted First Degree Murder
- Attempted Second Degree Murder
- Assault First Degree
- Assault Second Degree
- Firearm Use During the Commission



John William Alvarado (photo from 2018)

- of a Violent Crime
- Regulated Firearm Illegal Possession
- Loaded Handgun on Person
- Loaded Handgun in Vehicle
- Reckless Endangerment and related charges

Alvarado is currently being held at the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown, MD.

Sheriff's Office Recovers Loaded Handgun from Juvenile

On Friday, June 21, pursuant to an ongoing criminal investigation, detectives with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Criminal Intelligence Unit served a Search and Seizure Warrant for a juvenile suspect. With the assistance of other detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division, the juvenile was stopped as the driver of a vehicle in the Walmart parking lot in California, MD.

During the traffic stop, the juvenile was detained for the service of the search and seizure warrant. SMCSO K9 Maja performed a free-air sniff of the vehicle, which resulted in a positive alert. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a loaded Smith and Wesson M&P 2.0 9mm handgun located under the driver's seat.

The suspect, charged as an adult, faces multiple charges, including possession of a firearm by a minor, carrying a handgun on their person, carrying a loaded handgun on their person, transporting a handgun in



a vehicle on public roadways, and transporting a loaded handgun in a vehicle on public roadways.

The suspect was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.



Letters to the Editor

'A slap in the face'

In the County Times June 20th issue, former Board of Education candidate, Ms. Angela Wathen, urges winning candidates, Mrs. Cathy Allen and Mrs. Mary Washington, to withdraw from their races. She says the other candidates have better qualifications and visions and they should just step aside. Really?

If that were true, the voters would have voted accordingly. Instead, the voters believed that the incumbents, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Washington, have the better qualifications and vision; and overwhelmingly so, 57.21% and 60.14% respectively.

Voters know the school system and community benefits with experienced and knowledgeable Board of Education members. Voters know these times call for seasoned leadership and serious governance at local and state levels. They know our current

members have the know-how for carrying out the education legislation and its requirements because they are doing it now and in a way that best serves St. Mary's County.

Ms. Wathen's seemingly polite plea is truly a slap in the face to the incumbents, and especially to us, the voters. It unquestionably disrespects our democratic process and voters' choices. Ms. Wathen fails to explain what qualifications her preferred candidates possess vice the incumbents. Ms. Wathen's absence from several candidate forums prevented voters from even learning her platform. Voters cannot afford to take Ms. Wathen's suggestions on blind faith, especially with two highly qualified, knowledgeable candidates on the ballot.

*AnnMarie Abell
Leonardtown*

If you would like to submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your name & town of residence.

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Fire Marshal Suggests Attending Public Fireworks Displays



With the arrival of summer and the Fourth of July holiday quickly approaching, Acting State Fire Marshal Jason M. Mowbray suggests that Marylanders attend public fireworks displays. "I would highly suggest the safest way enjoy fireworks is to attend one of the many public fireworks displays throughout the state," stated Mowbray. To help Marylanders enjoy a safer summer season, the State Fire Marshal offers several ways to enjoy fireworks while avoiding injury:

- Consider attending one of the numerous public fireworks displays in Maryland every year. Leave fireworks to the professionals.
- Visit <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal/Documents/2024%20Firework%20Permits%20List.pdf> for the most updated list of all legal and permitted displays throughout the state.

Examples of prohibited fireworks include:

- Firecrackers, Cherry Bombs, Black Cats, M-80's, Crackling Balls and Smoke Bombs
- Roman Candles and Bottle Rockets (whistling and/or with report)
- Sky Rockets, Helicopter-type Rockets, Spinning Wheels, moving tanks or other vehicles
- Any firework that is shot from a mortar tube

For those individuals who insist on the use of consumer fireworks:

- Purchase the fireworks in the location where you intend to discharge them. Check with the local municipality to determine what fireworks are legal for use in that area.
- Fireworks are PROHIBITED in Baltimore City, Montgomery, Prince George's, Harford, and Howard counties, as well as Ocean City.
- Read and follow label warnings and instructions.
- Do not allow small children to use fireworks.
- Do not consume alcoholic beverages while using fireworks.
- Have a bucket of water or hose available.
- Fully extinguish remains of fireworks in water before disposal.

Any law enforcement officer may issue a criminal citation and confiscate fireworks for violations. Confiscated fireworks must be turned over to the State Fire Marshal's Office for disposal. The penalty, according to state code, for intending to ignite or igniting prohibited fireworks is \$250.

"Fireworks have been a long tradition of the 4th of July holiday celebrations. Please make safety your number one priority so everyone can enjoy the holiday season," stated Acting State Fire Marshal Mowbray. "By acting responsibly, we can help eliminate fireworks injuries in Maryland."

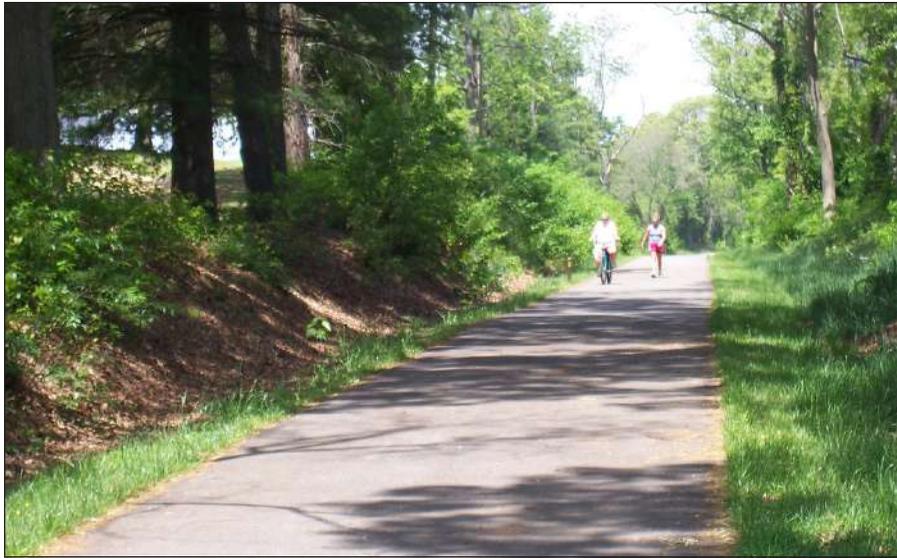
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Plan Outlines Future of County Parks



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The latest strategic plan for guiding the work of the county's Department of Recreation and Parks comes in part from a survey of the community on what they said were the strengths and weaknesses of the county system and how it could be improved.

Parks and recreation chief Arthur Shepherd and the department's deputy director Jessica Hale briefed the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on the plan this week at their June 25 meeting.

While community respondents to the survey gave the department high marks for the number and quality of playgrounds for children, preservation of historic sites — such as the U.S. Colored Troops memorial in Lexington Park — and the overall number of parks (there are 23 parks and 118 athletic and multi-use fields), residents also believed the department could improve in other areas.

The weaknesses outlined in the survey were not having enough indoor facilities and concurrent amenities.

The strategic plan calls for the depart-

ment to develop a list of future projects to include opportunities for more indoor facilities in the central and northern reaches of the county as well as create a list of what amenities in current facilities could be improved.

A significant part of the department's activities over the next several years according to the strategic plan, will be to acquire land for new facilities, including regional parks and indoor facilities and public water access.

One of the key improvements to help customers interface better with the department is finding a new on-line registration system software package.

Commissioner Eric Colvin commented that the current on-line system was impressive with the amount of data collected on what programs customers had used in the past, but he called the use of the system "cumbersome."

"We'll come up with some recommendations for some integrated software systems," Shepherd said.

"It is a little bit antiquated with what we have now," added Hale.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

NAS Patuxent River Sets Noise Advisory Through July 9

Communities surrounding NAS Patuxent River are advised that noise-generating testing events are scheduled to take place through July 9, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

Pilots at NAS PAX will be conducting Field Carrier Landing Practices (FCLPs). FCLPs are simulated carrier landings conducted to prepare the pilot to land safely on an aircraft carrier. The practices consist of series of touch-and-go maneuvers, "bounces." Airspeed, altitude and power are all precisely choreographed in order for a pilot to approach the ship within an acceptable window to land on the deck safely.

FCLP training is essential for the precision and safety of our military aviators and the success of their mission. Landing on an aircraft carrier is perhaps the most difficult task in military aviation. It is a highly complex and perishable skill, and requires intense period of training before pilots deploy. Residents may notice increased noise levels due to these operations.

As with all operations, NAS Patuxent River takes precautions to lessen the impact of testing activities on the community. For more information, call 1-866-819-9028. To view all current NAS PAX noise advisories please click the following link: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/PaxRiverNoise>.

COMMUNITY Culture & Cuisine

SAT. JUNE 29 10a-5p
St. Mary's Square, Lexington Park



ENTERTAINMENT

- Piscataway Nation Singers & Dancers
- Traditional Filipino Dance
- St. Patrick's Pub Sing
- Fire Dance & Belly Dance
- Selections from Big Fish the Musical
- Indian Classical Fusion Dance
- Hand Pan by Joel Tuminaro
- AND MORE!



ACTIVITIES

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- Board Game Play Demos
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- Lionhearted Public Mosaic
- Dunk Tank to support YMCA
- Children's Story Time
- AND MORE!



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County Dedicates Ball Field to Employee's Memory



Photo by Ceandra Scott

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county named an entire ball field at Chancellors Run Regional Park in honor of long-time county Department of Recreation and Parks employee Marcus Tyrone Harris, who died last December in motor vehicle crash in Lexington Park.

The dedication took place June 25 with the installation of a memorial plaque memorializing Harris and his dedicated service.

According to the county, Harris' leadership and dedication were instrumental in the development and upkeep of the park, ensuring it was a well-maintained, vibrant,

and safe community space for all.

"The dedication of baseball field No. 1 in [Harris'] name serves as a fitting tribute to his legacy, ensuring that future generations will remember and be inspired by his contributions, and that his spirit will continue to live on in the park he so dearly loved and worked tirelessly to enhance," a statement from the county government reads.

Harris, 69, had been a county recreation and parks employee for more than 30 years and had made connections with many in youth sports leagues and the larger recreation community.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Sheriff's Office Investigating Piney Point Drowning

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Investigators say there appears to be no foul play involved in a drowning that occurred June 25 in Piney Point.

The victim, according to sheriff's office spokesperson ALisa Casas, was 82-year-old Ba Thi Hang, whose family was staying at a vacation home in the 4600 block of River Run Lane.

The victim, Casas said, was walking with her daughter on a pier when she fell into the

water; she was pulled from the water by her daughter and husband.

Family and neighbors began cardiopulmonary resuscitation and law enforcement officers and emergency responders continued life-saving actions, Casas said, before the victim was taken to MedStar St. Mary's Hospital and placed on a ventilator.

She was later removed from the ventilator and pronounced dead, Casas said.

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Maryland Opposes Virginia's Winter Crabbing Decision

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

This week the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, on a split vote, decided to repeal the prohibition against dredging for hard crabs during the winter at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, a move that the State of Maryland vehemently opposes.

"In Maryland we are committed to making management decisions based on data," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz of the 5-to-4 June 25 vote. "The data show that female crabs are below target levels and lower than last year's abundance.

We also see persistent below-average numbers of young crabs."

Kurtz said that the success of the species' recovery after a steep decline in the 2000s is due to Maryland and Virginia cooperatively managing blue crabs, especially females.

"Today's action by Virginia breaks with this successful approach," Kurtz said.

According to Maryland DNR the presentation given to the commission by its own staff, the winter dredge fishery was estimated to harvest 32% of the female crabs that are in the bay at the start of the dredge season and up to 96% of the dredge fishery harvest is female.

John "Willy" Dean, president of the St. Mary's County Watermen's Association,



said "a lot of watermen are scratching their heads on this one."

"I don't like that they're doing it," Dean told The County Times. "It's going to have a huge effect on the spring run of crabs, our big crabs."

Dean said many of the estuary's crabs migrate and hibernate into the waters of the mouth of the bay around Virginia where they gain in size and weight before coming back north into the bay's Maryland waters where they are harvested in the summer.

"The crabs just never get a break," Dean said.

The Virginia blue crab dredge fishery has

been closed for nearly 15 years as part of the overall cooperative management efforts with Maryland to ensure a sustainable blue crab fishery.

Maryland DNR contended that scientists engaged in studying the bay and changing conditions such as warmer waters and expanding predators of hard crab such as the invasive blue catfish, were against the Virginia commission's vote.

Scientists cited an adult female population of blue crabs that has not hit desired target levels, in addition to concerns that it could negatively affect future spawns and the blue crab population as a whole,

Maryland DNR said.

Dean said a few Maryland watermen, including some from St. Mary's County had the license to go to the Virginia waters to harvest crabs in the winter but should avoid doing so for the good of all.

He feared that the lifting of the prohibition would take too many egg-bearing female crabs — also known colloquially as sponge crabs — out of the fishery, thereby removing forever valuable, critical species breeding stock for future harvests.

It once again highlights a stark difference between Virginia watermen and their Maryland counterparts, he said.

"In Virginia, they can keep them [sponge crabs] in Maryland, we can't," Dean said. "We have battled over this with Virginians forever and we can't get anywhere.

"It takes millions and millions of crabs out of the fishery, in my opinion."

Dean said he and other watermen had been operating under the assumption that Virginia would stay with its status quo with regards to crab catch limits, as Maryland had; the latest action by Virginia upset that balance.

Essentially, he said, it gave a significant advantage to Virginia watermen at the expense of the entire fishery in the near future.

"Someone's not playing nice in the sandbox," Dean said. "That's not fair."

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Would-Be School Board Candidate's Campaign A Non-Starter

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Tyra Janet Bennett, a Lexington Park resident who only in the last two weeks filed a notice of intent to run on a petition drive as a candidate for the at-large Board of Education seat was disqualified according to a notice from the state's Board of Elections.

The reason, explained attorney Cynthia Panos, legal counsel for the county's Board of Elections, was that election law in Maryland forbids an office seeker from running on a petition in a non-partisan race.

The school board elections are just such a race.

"She can't do that," Panos told The County Times. "Because it's not permitted by statute, she's precluded from running." Panos explained that state law does allow for petition drive candidates in partisan races, however.

"It's [the school board race] the only one that's precluded," Panos said.

For more than a week, Bennett's name was listed on the state Board of Elections website as a legitimate candidate until June 25, when it was listed as disqualified, though it remained on the site.

"Her name there doesn't mean anything other than she submitted paperwork," Panos said of the candidate's declaration of intent.



Tyra Janet Bennett

"She's not a candidate."

During the primary election, there were four candidates for the at-large seat, Brandie Edelen, Josh Guy, DeForest Rathbone and Angela Wathen.

Guy and Edelen had the top two vote tallies in that race and will face each other in the general election in November.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

New Sign for California Shopping Center Approved

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The county planning commission approved an amendment to the more-than-30-year-old planned unit development in California known as Oak Crest, which is the home of Lexington Exchange, that would allow for a sign to be placed in the median of Oak Crest Lane.

The plan, which was first promulgated in 1990, did not allow for the placement of any such signs as the developer of the shopping center, St. John Properties, had in mind, said attorney for the applicant Christopher Longmore.

The approval for the new sign, which will be similar in size to the one immediately across from the shopping center at the entrance to the Wildewood community, Longmore said, came with the condition that it be set back 30 feet from the travel lane

of the intersection of Oak Crest Lane and Route 235.

Longmore told commission members that the continued construction and land grading at previously undeveloped acreage of the site would soon bring more commerce to the center.

"Pad site 'B' will be a Chipotle [Mexican restaurant] and it is undergoing site work right now," Longmore said at the June 24 business meeting in Leonardtown. "And there will also be a Royal Farms [fueling station and convenience store] there."

Both will be visible from Route 235.

Longmore said the Royal Farms development is currently pursuing its building permits and construction is expected to begin this fall.

The store should open, he said, by the first quarter of 2025.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Heat Wave Hit St. Mary's Hard



Photo courtesy of 7th District Volunteer Fire Department

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

A blistering weekend of high temperatures had the county opening cooling centers for those without air conditioning, while firefighters put out an open brush fire along a set of power lines in Mechanicsville that sparked in dry grass putting a focus on the dangerous levels of heat locally.

The heat plus relatively low amounts of rainfall recently have also left the county abnormally dry, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, an on-line survey of moisture levels across the country observed by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency and the National Weather Service.

The distinction is one step away from moderate drought, according to the monitoring service.

The brush fire in Mechanicsville took about 50 firefighters to extinguish June 22, according to volunteer fire company Deputy Chief Tyler Burroughs.

"Due to the heat, we added other personnel... to lessen the work load," Burroughs said. "People need to take a break."

Burroughs said the heat index that day of the fire reached 102 degrees

The fire ground was about half-an-acre in size, Burroughs said, with a portion of it occurring in a wooded area; no property was destroyed.

Firefighters do not know what caused the blaze, Burroughs said.

The deputy chief warned that continued heat coupled with dry grass and brush was a volatile mix for outdoor fires.

He warned that people should be cautious when using fire, particularly grills or even fireworks, in the outdoors

"Any embers can cause vegetation to ignite," Burroughs said. "People should use caution."

"If you're going to use grills or fireworks it needs to be in a controlled environment."

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Future of Elms Center Uncertain

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Since the early spring the Elms Environmental Education Center in the southern portion of the county has been closed down after an apparent cease and desist order from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) resulting in halting of its use for programs that have gone on teaching students about nature for decades.

Sources speaking privately with the public school system have said the order from DNR came in March because of the aging and dilapidated condition of the structure.

Sources also said that educational programs would continue there in the coming school year for students without the use of the building itself but summer programs this year were cancelled.

“The Department of Natural Resources holds a memorandum of understanding with St. Mary’s County in which the building can be used by St. Mary’s Public Schools for environmental educational programming, and the county is responsible for maintenance of the property. The department strongly supports environmental education and is proud of its long association with the Elms program,” said DNR spokesman Greg Boortz “During a routine inspection of the property in March, our engineers found health and safety concerns with the building, and advised school district and county officials via email that the building should not be used for classroom or office space until repairs are made.

“DNR remains in communication with the county in hopes the issues can be resolved. The safety of all who use our facilities is paramount.”

While school board members have not spoken about the issue publicly, it was brought to their attention at the June 12 meeting of the Board of Education in Leonardtown.

Kelly Rossi, who said she was an instructor at the Elms facility for the past three years, told board members she and other teachers there were “stunned” to be told by DNR officials that they had to vacate one of the buildings on the site without any explanation.

She said neither she, nor anyone else at the site, had yet to be given any explanation as of that meeting nearly two weeks ago.

She said the “lack of information... has led to speculation in the community that the Elms program is in jeopardy.”

Worries over funding constraints this budget year, Rossi said, also led to fears that the programming there would be shut down permanently as well as the building.

Tina Reilly, another Elms instructor, said this year was the 44th the site had been in



operation.

She said the proclamation from DNR April 16 came with “no warning.”

“We didn’t let this effect the kids’ experience,” Reilly said. “We continued to see kids, sometimes as many as 100 a day.”

The instructors said the education opportunities at Elms were important because it got students outdoors and disconnected from their personal electronics long enough to have direct learning experiences with the environment by observing wildlife, learning about the ecosystem and even being taken on canoeing trips that helped some of them conquer their fears.

As is customary during school board hearings, the board members did not address or acknowledge the concerns of the speakers at the meeting during public comment time.

County Commissioner Eric Colvin offered some explanation about the future of the Elms educational center.

“What I have been told is that the state DNR did close the Elms Environmental Center building permanently,” Colvin told The County Times. “DNR, [county schools] and our Recreation and Parks [Department] are working together to determine the path forward.

“My understanding is that our school system is committed to continuing outdoor environmental education, but not sure exactly how that will look in the next school year.”

Cathy Allen, school board member, said the school system was obligated by law to provide some kind of environmental education experience to students and had partner-

ships with other sites and facilities — such as Historic Sotterley Plantation — to fulfill that requirement.

“The meeting where people spoke; that’s the first I heard of it [the facility being closed permanently],” Allen said.

The county leases the Elms Beach property, upon which the educational center sits, from DNR, confirmed County Administrator

David Weiskopf.

Allen could not say what form the environmental education piece would take for the coming group of students but that it would take place.

“I know students will have an environmental experience next year,” Allen said.

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“IT IS A LITTLE BIT ANTIQUATED WITH WHAT WE HAVE NOW.”

JESSICA HALE, DEPUTY PARKS AND REC DIRECTOR, ON THE ON-LINE REGISTRATION SYSTEM.



LOCAL 3
Elms Center closure raises questions



LOCAL 5
High temperatures bring brush fire danger



ON THE COVER 7
Maryland fears for the future of the crab population

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MON, JUL 1 Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 62°	TUE, JUL 2 Mostly Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 66°	WED, JUL 3 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 72°	THU, JUL 4 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 72°

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St. Mary's County Times

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