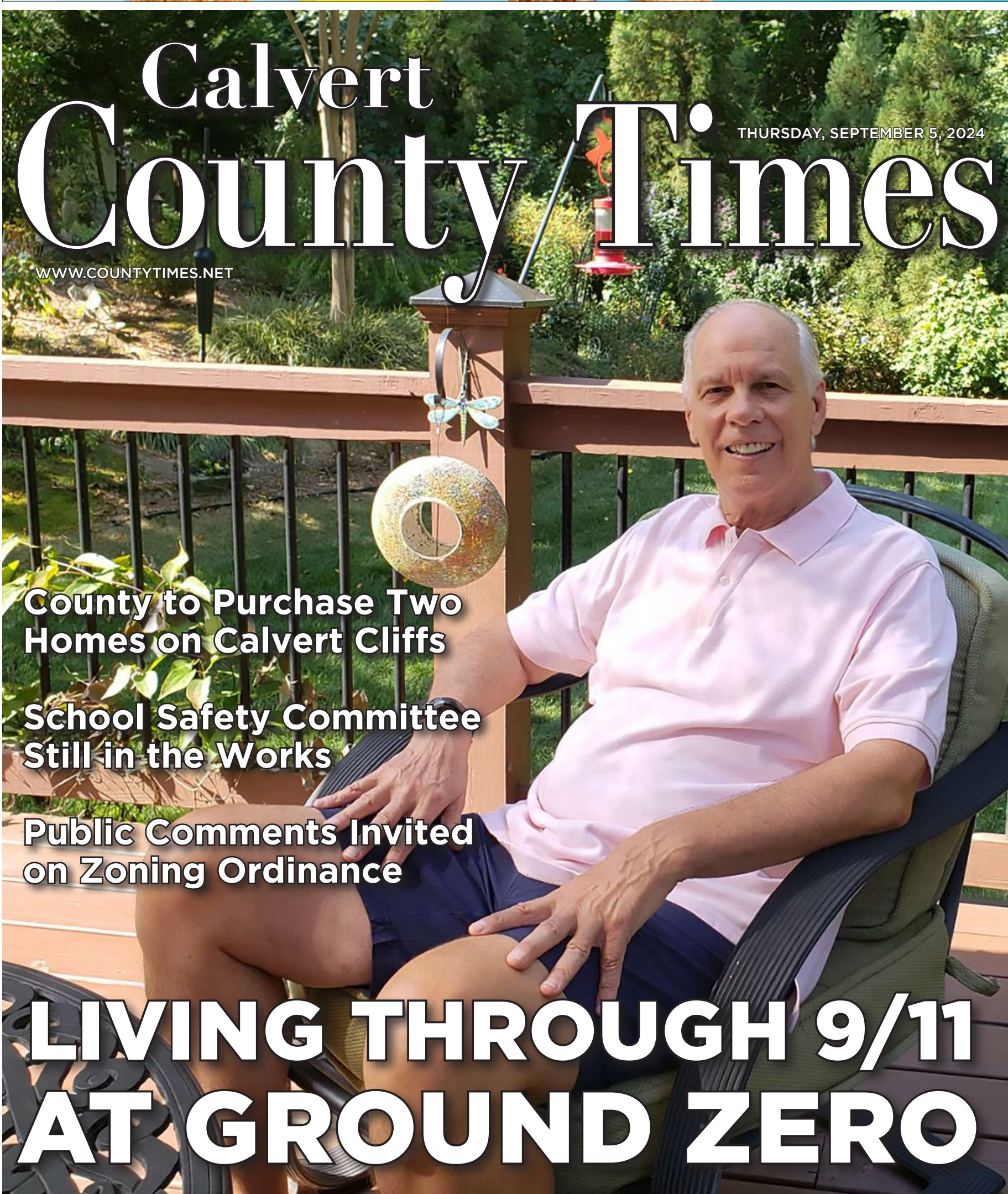




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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

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**County to Purchase Two  
Homes on Calvert Cliffs**

**School Safety Committee  
Still in the Works**

**Public Comments Invited  
on Zoning Ordinance**

## LIVING THROUGH 9/11 AT GROUND ZERO



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LOCAL NEWS	3	CALENDAR	7
COPS & COURTS	6		

“RIGHT NOW, THIS IS THE BEST ONE WE HAVE.”

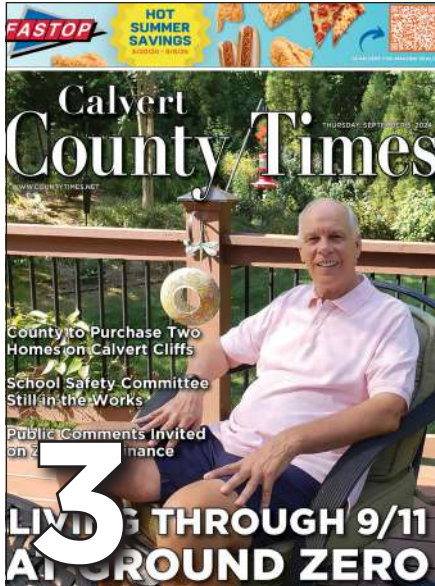
HAZARD MITIGATION SPECIALIST STACY O'DONNELL ON PURCHASE AND DEMOLITION OF CLIFFS HOMES.



**LOCAL** 4  
School safety committee close at hand



**LOCAL** 6  
Comments on zoning ordinance sought



**ON THE COVER**  
Calvert man was in Twin Towers on 9/11

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 5	FRI, SEP 6	SAT, SEP 7	SUN, SEP 8
Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 63°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 67°	Showers Hi: 76° Lo: 53°	Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 53°
MON, SEP 9	TUE, SEP 10	WED, SEP 11	THU, SEP 12
Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 56°	Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 59°	Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 61°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 61°



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# Calvert Man Shares Story of 9/11 in the World Trade Center

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

It was a bright, clear day in New York City. Joe DeFelice was in his office in the South Tower of the World Trade Center. It was September 11, 2001.

DeFelice was in charge of the observation deck at the World Trade Center for the Aramark Corporation. He had 300 employees. They had two million visitors a year.

DeFelice lived in Calvert County in the 1970's and managed the Capital Center in Washington, DC. He maintained the home there while he traveled around for his jobs and is now semi-retired in Calvert.

His office was on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor. "I was sitting at my office desk, and I heard the roar of the plane, which you kind of never forget. And that was the first plane that hit the top of the North Tower. And once I heard the roar of the plane, I looked out my window and I was between the two buildings at a window, and I saw paper and stuff floating down. It was a beautiful day, and I thought to myself, you know what, we always worried about maybe a helicopter or a small plane, you always think about that might hit the towers or something like that. And I decided to leave my office. I was worried about the power going off, and I jumped on an elevator, which you're not supposed to do, and I was with one person from the Port

Authority, and I could tell something was wrong. His face, he just nodded to me, and there was fright on his face."

At that point it never crossed his mind that the south tower might also be hit. "Never, never thought that. I was worried about one. I shouldn't have taken the elevator because we'd had fire drills and emergency drills. You're supposed to take the stairwell."

DeFelice explained, "When I got down to the main floor of the building and there's crash doors that let you out," and he went between the two buildings. He was going to the command center, which was in the middle of the complex.

"Once I went through the crash doors, that's when the second plane hit the South Tower. I looked up and I saw the plane hit the tower. I saw people jumping, which I'll never forget. Very vividly in my mind, two people were holding hands, a gentleman and a woman, holding hands as they jumped out of the tower."

"My life changed." Like many war veterans, DeFelice doesn't talk about his experience a lot, but it all comes back to him at times, especially on the anniversary, such as the 23rd next week.

He had to deal with dreams, especially in the early years. "I'm not ashamed about it. I had help dealing with dreams, with the roar of the plane. I never get out of my mind the two people holding hands, jumping from

the building. It took me two years to get my arms around it. To this day, once in a while when things come up about 9/11, I'll start crying. I will break down."

Recalling that day, he said, "I was running. And when I was running, I maybe went a block or two, and I landed in the lobby of a building. Nobody knew what was happening. Are we going to get attacked? What was going on? I knew that two planes hit the buildings, and it wasn't good. And a hundred of us were in the lobby lying on the floor, sitting on the floor, basically. People were screaming, crying, and it was chaos."

"All of a sudden, I can't remember how much time lapsed, we saw coming into the lobby, there were revolving doors, the smoke and mostly dust. So, at that point, we didn't know the two buildings were coming down."

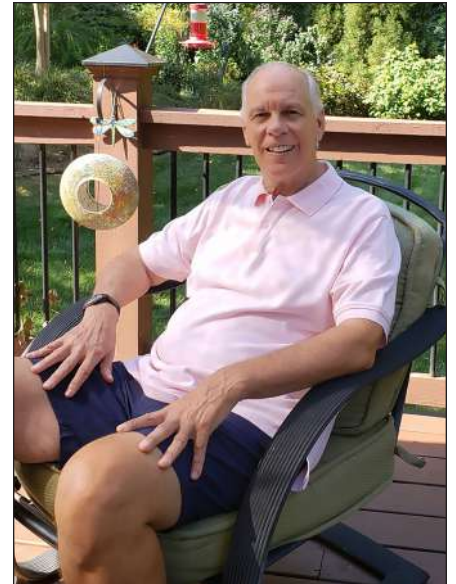
He recalled, "Then it got real crazy. I started having a hard time breathing. People were screaming, yelling, and a few of us tried to calm everybody down. We got really low to the floor. And as time passed, the dust started falling, laying down on the ground."

DeFelice said, "A bunch of us saw a trickle of light coming through the windows, and a few of us decided to go outside. And we went outside. It was complete silence everywhere. People were upset. I was upset. My heart was pounding. We didn't know what to do. So, a bunch of us started walking towards Battery Park, which overlooks the Statue of Liberty. And when we got there, there was a dock there, and we saw a police or fire boat. And they asked where's the people? And we didn't know what to say. I didn't know what was going on. I didn't even know the towers were down personally. And we got on this police or a fireboat, and they took us to a triage over at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty on the Jersey side. And there was only a handful of us there. And they were all asking, where are the people?"

He soon learned the towers had come down. "It started to unfold that the towers came down and there were mass casualties."

"I was worried about my 300 employees. I ended up in a hospital, worried about my breathing."

"As a corporation, we lost seven employees. Five of the employees were direct reports to me. And after that, I spent four months of looking for these employees with staff members. We were dealing with over 300 employees who lost their job. It was a very, very difficult time. And after a couple of months, we realized that we could not find our seven employees. And then I started to work on what we are going to do for the families, and what are we going to do? And we formalized a plan. There was no play-



Joe DeFelice

book at this time for dealing with such an act of terrorism. And we formulated plans to help the families and to pay respects to the ones we lost," he said.

The next chapter in DeFelice's life defies believability, considering what he went through on 9/11. He explained, "After that, ironically, I was transferred to New Orleans. I was put in charge of the convention center in New Orleans, and I was there for a good year. And, when Katrina hit, I was lucky enough, two or three days before Katrina hit, I had to come back to the DC area for a meeting. I just missed it. But I lost everything I owned, my apartment, everything was gone. And there I felt guilty because I wasn't there to help the people. So, in a short period of time, I dealt with 9/11 and Katrina."

"I didn't get back. It took six to eight weeks to get back to New Orleans. And that's when I realized that I walked into a place where I lived and everything was just demolished," he said.

Now in semi-retirement and living in Calvert, DeFelice is putting all his experiences with disasters to good use by consulting with the American Red Cross. "It's something I started over four years ago, and I will go on disasters, once called upon, if I can do it. I've been on five, what they call disaster relief operations, and one was in New Orleans, in the Lake Charles area. And I get great satisfaction in helping people. I know what they've been through because I've been through it."

"I don't talk about it too much. Sometimes if somebody's really hurting, I'll just say, I've been through it, I've lost everything."

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# Commissioners Close to Forming School Safety Committee

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The committee the Calvert County Board of County (BOCC) vowed to form at the end of this past school year in the wake of concerns about disruptive behavior at Calvert High School still has not happened as school opened for the new year, although the choosing of members appears to be imminent.

Deputy County Administrator Linda Turner, in a memo presented at the Aug. 27 BOCC meeting, wrote, "On May 29, 2024, the BOCC adopted Resolution 09-24, which established the Calvert County Student Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee (SSWAC) to address increasing incidents in schools and concerns from parents, students, teachers, support staff and school administrators."

She continued, "Staff have received recommendations from the Calvert Education Association, Calvert Association of Educational Support Staff, Sheriff's Office, Maryland State Police, Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Calvert County Health Department to appoint members to the SSWAC. Additionally, the Office of the County Administrator, in collaboration with the Department of Community Resources, the Sheriff's Office, and Calvert County Public Schools, are currently reviewing applications for Districts 1, 2 and 3 residents and will be conducting interviews for top-scoring applicants in the next couple of weeks."

Temporary Constituent Services Specialist Emily Shreves, said at the meeting, "The resolution that was adopted has very specific membership requirements in terms of the seats on the committee," adding, "There are multiple organizations that



Deputy County Administrator Linda Turner

we are partnered with to have seats on the Student Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee."

She said, "That is something that we have completed and will be ready for you. The other part of the membership requirements is that we have two seats per district, as well as an appointment from the Board of County Commissioners to serve as the chair of the committee. So that will be 15 total voting committee members on the Student Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Committee. There will also be some ex-officio members, so the Deputy County Administrator, Linda Turner, the superintendent, Dr. Townsel, as well as the Directors of Community Resources and Communications and Media Relations."

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

# Appellate Court Affirms Murder Sentence

On September 4, 2024, the Appellate Court of Maryland affirmed the sentence of Ancil Tony Hamrick. Hamrick was convicted in Calvert County in 2001 of burglary and first degree premeditated murder. The victim was Darlene Turney.

Hamrick was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder and 20 years consecutive for the burglary. In 2022, he filed a motion in the Circuit Court for Calvert County claiming that his burglary sentence should have merged into his sentence for murder.

Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee rejected that claim. Hamrick appealed and now the Appellate Court has also ruled that the original sentence was legal.

Hamrick is serving his sentence of life imprisonment plus 20 years at the Jessup Correctional Institution.



Ancil Tony Hamrick

# Two Calvert Cliffs Homes to be Purchased, Demolished

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has approved the purchase of two properties in Lusby on Calvert Cliffs that are in danger of falling into the Chesapeake Bay. The cost of the two purchases is slightly less than a million dollars, with the federal government picking up 90 percent of the tab and the homeowner the rest.

Hazard Mitigation Specialist Stacy O'Donnell told the commissioners during two public hearings on Aug. 27, "The Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Division, is working with Calvert County residents and has received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation (HMA) grant to acquire and demolish three homes in imminent danger due to cliff erosion. FEMA bears the costs of the projects at 90 percent of the approved budget and 10 percent by the homeowners. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) is the award recipient, and Calvert County is the sub-recipient. As part of the agreement, the county acts as a pass-through for the FEMA funds to acquire and demolish the properties. Calvert County must forward-fund the federal share of the project and then submit requests for reimbursement as expenses are incurred."

One property had previously been acquired. The two that were subject to the Aug. 27 public hearings and approvals are 12186 Laramie Lane for \$347,327.25 and

1161 Stagecoach Circle for \$638,229.70.

O'Donnell said, "An additional amendment is needed to record the private contributions the county will receive at settlement to be placed in escrow for the homeowners. These funds will be used to pay for the demolition, debris removal, and reforestation of the property. Any funds remaining after completing these tasks will be refunded to the homeowner."

O'Donnell explained, "After it's purchased, it (the property) will be returned to its natural state," adding, "There is a deed addendum that requires it to remain in its natural state in perpetuity. There are some very limited uses that it can be used for. However, because of the location of these properties, with the proximity of the cliffs and the very obvious public safety hazard that exists, those aren't likely to happen."

She was asked if the program would be a long one. She said, "Most likely, yes. Unless there is another solution that presents itself. Right now, this is the best one we have. It's the most cost effective and the safest."

Also, at the same meeting the commissioners authorized the \$550,000 purchase of 13220 Dowell Road in Solomons. The vacant land is next to Hilton Garden Inn. Public Works Director J.R. Cosgrove said it "affords an opportunity to expand and improve the existing recreational park with nature trails located to the left of the 5.4-acre parcel."

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## Public Comment on Second Zoning Ordinance Draft

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning invites county residents to participate in the next phase of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance update process. Comments from the initial review were considered and used to develop the second draft, which reflects the community's input.

Planning & Zoning is seeking public comment on the second draft of updates to the Calvert Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. The record of public comment for the first draft is closed with the publication of the second draft. Citizens who previously submitted comments are encouraged to review the new draft and provide additional feedback if they feel their initial comments have not been fully addressed.

The draft ordinance and map and a schedule of the process are available online at [www.calvertcountymd.gov/ZoningOrdinanceUpdate](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/ZoningOrdinanceUpdate).

Public comments for the second draft must be received no later than Friday, Sept. 27, 2024. Public comment may be submitted by email to [ZOUpdate@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:ZOUpdate@calvertcountymd.gov) or by mail Attn: ZO Update, 205 Main St., Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

The second draft and all comments received by the Sept. 27 deadline will be reviewed by the County Attorney, Board of County Commissioners and Planning Com-

mission prior to public hearings. Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

- Nov. 20, 2024: Planning Commission public hearing
- Dec. 10, 2024: Board of County Commissioners public hearing  
(These dates may be subject to change.)

The Calvert County Zoning Ordinance regulates land usage, as many aspects of land use can impact adjoining neighborhoods, public facilities and overall county development as part of the effort to promote health, safety and welfare of Calvert County residents, as mandated in the Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2019 and amended in 2022).

For more information contact Will Hager at 410-535-1600, ext. 8553, or [Will.Hager@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Will.Hager@calvertcountymd.gov) or Rachel O'Shea at 410-535-1600, ext. 2339, or [Rachel.OShea@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Rachel.OShea@calvertcountymd.gov).

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*Press Release from Calvert County government*

## End Hunger Receives Grant Funding for Job Training Program

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Jake Day today announced \$43,000 in Technical Assistance Grants to two projects in Maryland's Southern region as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Assistance Grant Program. The program assists nonprofit organizations, local governments and local development corporations involved in community and economic revitalization activities. Funding supports the costs of strategic consultants or services, general operating expenses and other costs directly associated with critical community development projects.

"From affordable home construction to arts and culture, projects supported by Technical Assistance Grant funding will make a measurable impact on the lives of Marylanders across every region of our state," said Secretary Jake Day. "The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development is proud to make this investment in these two revitalization activities that will create more loveable places and stronger economies in Maryland's Southern region."

The awards in St. Mary's and Calvert counties are part of \$1,250,000 in Technical

Assistance Grants (TAG) awarded for 45 projects in 17 jurisdictions. Awardees in the Southern region include:

- **Town of Leonardtown** in St. Mary's County will use \$18,000 to support the development of a Leonardtown Public Art Master Plan.
- **End Hunger in Calvert County, Inc.** in Calvert County will use \$25,000 to support The End Hunger Culinary Training Program that focuses solely on individuals with intellectual and cognitive disabilities providing critical job skills and training necessary to gain and maintain employment.

"We are grateful for the continued support of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as End Hunger In Calvert County strives to expand its capacity to meet the increasing need for access to nutritious food in Southern Maryland," said End Hunger in Calvert County's Development Director Nicole Mulholland.

*Press Release from Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development*



# CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of August 19, 2024 – August 25, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,856 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 80
- Disorderly: 14
- Domestic: 24
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 33
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 879
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 25
- Traffic Complaints: 70
- 911 Hang Ups: 83
- ARRESTS: 33



Candida Ann Marie Bowen

**CDS Violation: 24-63671** On August 19, 2024, Deputy Sylver initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 4000 block of St. Leonard Road in St. Leonard. Contact was made with the driver, **Candida Ann Marie Bowen**, 36 of St. Leonard. Further investigation revealed a K9 sniff of the vehicle resulted in a positive alert. A vehicle search revealed multiple water bottles containing urine, several paper folds containing suspected heroin, and a small baggie of marijuana. Bowen was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Christopher Alan Hall

**Disorderly Conduct: 24-64372** On August 22, 2024, Deputy Chase responded to the 1200 block of Gowan Court in Prince Frederick, for the report of a disorderly suspect. Multiple complain-

ants advised an unknown heavily intoxicated male was knocking on people's doors. Upon arrival, contact was made with **Christopher Alan Hall**, 62 of no fixed address. Hall was observed laying on the sidewalk yelling at nearby citizens. Hall was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. A secondary search of Hall's person revealed a small baggie of marijuana. Hall was charged with Intoxicated

Public Disturbance and Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement.



Ronald Anthony Davis

**Theft: 24-63689** On August 20, 2024, DFC Plant was alerted to stolen tags while in the parking lot of CalvertHealth Medical Center located at 100 Hospital Road in Prince Frederick. Contact was made with the operator of the vehicle, **Ronald Anthony Davis**, 38 of Aquasco. Investigation revealed the tags were stolen through Fairfax County. Davis was transported to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and charged with Theft: Less than \$100.

**Theft: 24-64165** On August 21, 2024, Deputy Chase responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for a report of a theft. The complainant advised on August 17 sometime before 2 p.m., an unknown suspect(s) stole a purse from the victim's vehicle. The purse contained a wallet with multiple forms of identification, a bottle of lotion and medications. The estimated value of stolen property is \$280.00.

**Theft: 24-64359** On August 22, 2024, Master Deputy Cress responded to the BP Gas Station, located at 2975 W. Chesapeake Beach Road in Dunkirk, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised an unknown female entered the store and stole a bottle of tequila. The estimated value of stolen merchandise is \$33.

*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](mailto:ccsotips@calvertcountymd.gov)*

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# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Sep 6

### JobSource Mobile Career Center

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

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. This 38' mobile center features 11 computer workstations, smart board instructional technology, satellite internet access, exterior audio visual and broadcasting capabilities; state-of-the-art workforce applications and connectivity for wireless mobile device access. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### First Fossil Friday!

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

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

## Sat, Sep 7

### Recovery Fest

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center  
13470 Dowell Road, Solomons  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Come celebrate those in recovery! There will be food, kid-friendly games, giveaways, music and art. In addition, there will be a chance to win free food tickets. All ages are welcome!

### UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory's Open House

UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory  
146 Williams Street, Solomons  
12-4 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly event at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory! Lots of hands-on activities, science demos and free giveaways.

### Sip & Save

American Chestnut Land Trust  
North Side Trailhead  
676 Double Oak Rd, Prince Frederick  
1-5 p.m.

Enjoy beer tasting from local and regional breweries.

### Open House and Tack Sale

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue  
7940 Flint Hill Rd., Owings  
3-7 p.m.

Join Freedom Hill Horse Rescue for an Open House of the facility. The Open House will include, tours, a demonstration, horse interaction and more. There will also be a tack sale in our loft. Come out and support the rescue and learn about horses and what programs FHHR offers to the community.

### Garden Smarter: Body Mechanics for the Gardener

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10-11 a.m.

Review of practices to protect you while gardening: Principles of body mechanics, Protecting your hands, and Energy conservation. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Sun, Sep 8

### Pet Day 5K Run/Walk

North Beach Pier Pavilion  
8:30 a.m.

Come on out and run in support of the Humane Society of Calvert County, MD at

the Pet Day 5K Run/Walk. Packet Pickup will begin at 7:30 a.m.

## Mon, Sep 9

### JobSource Mobile Career Center

Calvert Library Fairview Branch  
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings  
1-4 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Book Discussion

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

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Tue, Sep 10

### Social Security: Disability Benefits

Calvert Library (Zoom)  
1-2 p.m.

Hosted by Charles County Public Library. We invite you to this virtual presentation to learn more about disability benefits, eligibility requirements, and the application process. If you'd like to use the wifi and a library computer to participate in this Zoom event please call 410-535-0291. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wed, Sep 11

### Job Seeker Resources – Skillbuilders

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

Maryland Department of Labor, Veterans Program, Senior Community Service Employment and Job Service representatives will be in person to meet with those seeking employment or career change. Walk-ins welcome on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Resumes and Cover Letters - Skillbuilders Workshop

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and cover letter writing help. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Alzheimer's Caregivers Support

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

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

## Upcoming

### Experience Calvert Festival

North Beach  
Saturday, Sept. 14  
12-5 p.m.

Enjoy family fun activities and all the things that make Calvert County the place to visit! Start with family fun activities and continue throughout beautiful North Beach "The Jewel of the Chesapeake Bay". Taste the flavors of Calvert-great seafood, locally brewed beer, vintage wine, children's activities and more! Shop local businesses and enjoy the history and views that makes Calvert County so unique. Come early, stay late! Rain Date Sept. 15.

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

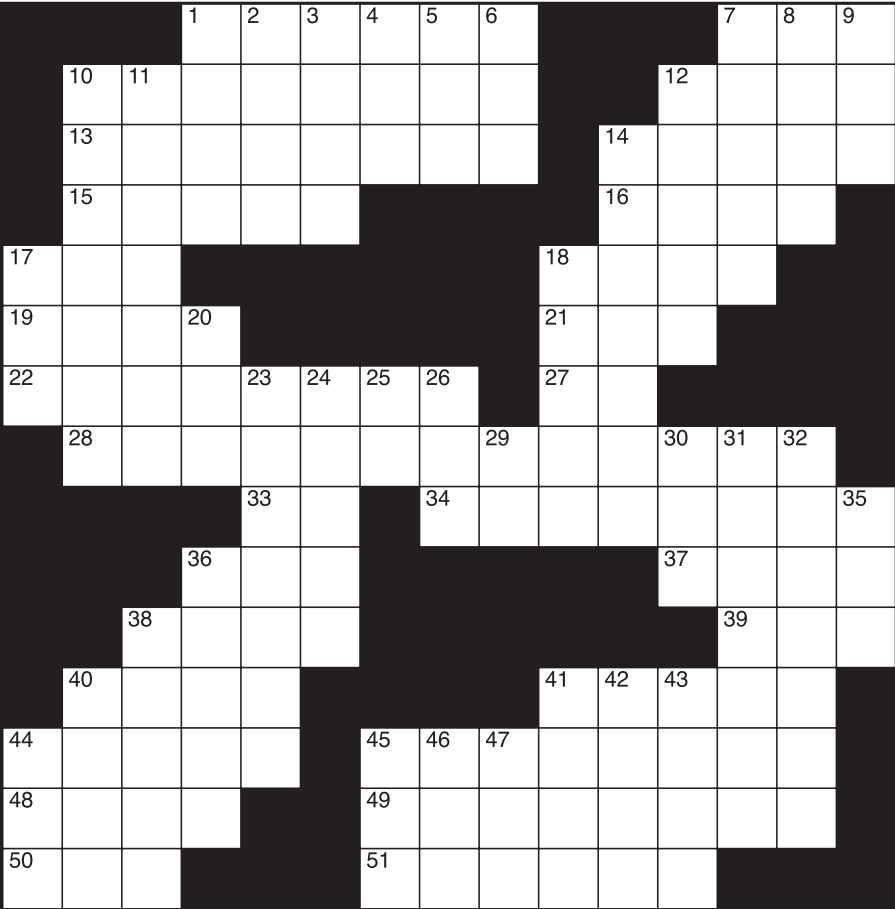
To be considered for publication, articles and letters to the editor submitted must include the writer's full name, address and daytime phone number. Submissions must be delivered by 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to our Thursday publication to ensure placement for that week. After that deadline, the County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



# County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636





- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Current unit

7. Reciprocal of an ohm

10. God of the sea

12. A way to disfigure

13. Positioned

14. Tall tropical American tree

15. Large deciduous trees

16. \_\_\_ and ends

17. Part of a machine

18. Brews

19. One who leads prayers in a mosque

21. Indian state

22. Partisans

27. Top lawyer in the land

28. Former Dodgers MVP

33. Title for women

34. Heated and allowed to slowly cool

36. Copycat

37. Sounds

38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba

39. Part of (abbr.)

40. Hateful

41. Collide

44. European football heavyweight

45. One who works for you

48. Song

49. Ancient marvels

50. Bridge building degree

51. Delivery boys
1. Continent

2. Submissive

3. There's a lot in a bowling alley

4. Sun up in New York

5. Court decision \_\_\_ v. Wade

6. Finish line

7. Young women

8. Hives of activity

9. Hyman Roth's right-hand man Johnny

10. Eastern U.S. river

11. Popular cooking ingredient

12. Greek mythological princess

14. Scent for men

17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)

18. Once more

20. Irate

23. Triangular spaces above a door

24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik

25. Atomic #58

26. Patti Hearst's captors

29. Natural logarithm

30. Talk incessantly

31. Went by

32. Strives

35. Fall back

36. Manila hemp

38. Not easily explained

40. Former "Double Dare" host Summers

41. Mollusk

42. Capital of Togo

43. Letter of Semitic scripts

44. Founder of Babism

45. Indicates near

46. Family of regulator genes

47. Indicates before

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Through August 31

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This Week



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- Sundecks
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- Kitchens
- Roofing
- Carpentry
- Basements
- Siding

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**AND SO MUCH MORE!**  
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References Available



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**2/\$5**



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French Onion Dip

**2/\$4**



64-Oz., Selected Tea Or  
Turkey Hill  
Lemonade

**2/\$4**

## Bakery & Deli Fresh



Oven Roasted Or Honey  
Kretschmar  
Turkey Off The Bone

**7.98** Lb.



Deli Sliced  
Kretschmar  
Provolone Cheese

**5.99** Lb.



4-Ct., Selected  
French Creme  
Twirls

**2/\$6**



13-Oz., Selected  
Bakery Fresh  
Brownies

**4.98**



49-Oz.  
German  
Chocolate Cake

**11.98**



10-In.  
Baked  
Apple Pie

**8.98**

## Liquor and Beer



10-Oz. Cans  
24 Pack  
Bud Light

**20.99**



10-Oz. Cans  
24 Pack  
Budweiser

**20.99**



30-Pack, 12-Oz.  
Slim Cans  
Michelob  
Ultra

**29.99**



12-Pack,  
12-Oz., Bottles  
Modelo  
Especial

**19.99**



12-Oz. Cans  
18-Pack  
Coors Light

**14.99**



12-Oz. Cans  
12-Pack  
White Claw

**19.99**



12-Oz. Cans  
24-Pack  
Yuengling

**20.99**



1.75L  
Crown  
Royal

**42.99**



1.75L  
Smirnoff  
Vodka

**19.99**



1.75L  
Absolute  
Vodka

**27.99**



1.75L  
Tanqueray London  
Dry Gin

**37.99**



1.75L  
Jack Daniel's  
Whiskey

**42.99**



1.75L  
Bombay Sapphire  
Dry Gin

**42.99**



1.75L  
Grey Goose  
Vodka

**47.99**



1.75L, Original  
Malibu Rum

**22.99**



1.75L  
Fireball Cinnamon  
Whiskey

**21.99**



1.75L  
Kahlua Rum &  
Coffee Liqueur

**43.99**



750mL.  
Mr. Black Cold  
Brew Coffee Liqueur

**26.99**



750-Ml.  
Alamos  
Malbec

**16.98**



750mL.  
Cloudy Bay  
Sauvignon Blanc

**39.99**



750mL., John & Michelle  
Butter  
Chardonnay

**17.99**



750mL.  
Noble Vines 181  
Merlot

**10.99**



Select, 750 ML.  
Robert Mondavi  
Pinto Grigio

**12.99**



750ML.  
Josh Reserve  
Zinfandel

**15.99**



750 ML. White Sangria,  
Jazz Berry, Viva Sangria,  
Spiced Wassail,  
Or Tango Peach  
Sweetland  
Cellars Wines

**9.99**



750mL., Selected  
Bonterra  
Wines

**14.49**



750mL.  
Freixenet Asti  
Docg

**13.99**



750mL.  
Chateau Souverain  
Pinot Noir

**9.99**



750mL.  
Bartenura Malvasia  
Di Casorzo

**12.99**



750mL.  
Reichsgraf  
von Kesselstatt

**13.49**



750mL.  
Force & Grace  
Cabernet Sauvignon

**24.99**



750mL.  
Cupcake Sauvignon  
Blanc

**9.98**

### Wine of the Month

750mL., Sauvignon Blanc, Rosado, Cabernet Sauvignon, Product of Spain

**Boyal Wines**

**6.99**



# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Sep 5

### American Legion Post 221 Meeting

American Legion Post 221  
21690 Colton Point Road, Avenue  
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. E-mail us at [alpost221@aol.com](mailto:alpost221@aol.com) or call 301\*481\*6625 for more information.

## Fri, Sep 6

### Youth Group Kick-Off!

Patuxent Presbyterian Church  
23421 Kingston Creek Rd., California  
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

All middle school and high school students are invited to join us as we start another awesome year! (NEW! Youth Group will meet on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. beginning on September 15th. Mark

your calendars!) More info about us: [www.paxpres.com](http://www.paxpres.com).

## Sat, Sep 7

### Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School  
20410 Point Lookout Rd., Great Mills  
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

This annual event is held on the Saturday preceding Patriot Day, September 11th, to honor our local "Patriots," including military members, firefighters, police officers and emergency medical technicians. Participants can run or walk the 5K; children 10 & under are invited to participate in our 1-mile Kids Run on the school grounds.

A "Patriot of the Year" community hero is also selected and recognized at the opening ceremony.

Join us for music, exhibits, fun and more! Visit [littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k](http://littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k) to register and for more information.

### Farmers Feeding St. Mary's

U-Haul Moving & Storage parking lot  
46041 Signature Ln., Lexington Park  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

From local farmers to your plate! The third annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community.

There will be two food distribution dates/locations for this program:

A variety of fresh produce, such as corn, tomatoes, squash, and more will be available at each event! In addition to produce, frozen meat will be available at the event on September 7.

Family units will be limited to one box of produce per event. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time or until produce runs out.

For more information, call 301-475-4200, ext. 1073, or visit [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/FFSM](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/FFSM).

### Country Lakes Fall Craft and Vendor Fair

Country Lakes Park  
26845 Cox Drive, Mechanicsville

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Open to the public. Country Lakes Community located in Mechanicsville is hosting their annual Fall Vendor and Craft fair fundraiser. All proceeds goes towards improvement to our community park. Many different vendors and crafters and a food truck(s). Sept 7th from 9am-2pm. Rain date Sept 28th 9am-2pm.

## Sun, Sep 8

### East Coast Drifters Fall Classic Car Show

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge  
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All years cars, trucks & motorcycles are welcome. Top 70 and several other awards. First 100 receive dash plaques. Pre-registration \$15 by August 26. \$20 at gate. Spectators \$5 (under 12 free) Registration cut-off Noon. For more info call: Chuck 301-751-5602 or Rich 240-538-4266 [eastcoastdrifters.com](http://eastcoastdrifters.com) (rain date Sept. 22)

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



### Student Success: Educational Resources at your Library

Looking to help your student thrive in school? Starting homeschool? Parents can benefit from learning about all the resources the Library has to offer! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, September 7 from 10 - 11 a.m. We'll go over navigating the physical Lexington Park Library, searching the catalog, all of our online resources and how to access them, using your library account and smartphone apps, and more! You'll leave with a whole collection of bookmarks and printouts to walk you through everything and also inform you about anything we may not have time to fully touch on. This program is aimed specifically towards homeschoolers & parents, so we will be paying specific attention to our library services that are geared towards children and families. This includes resources to help with finding materials for different subjects, using our online Homework Helper, our Apps, Events that we offer, and so much more! Kids

are welcome to come along! We will have crafts set up to keep them occupied while you learn! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Future Focus: Connecting Interests with Careers

When envisioning the perfect career, do you think about how it aligns with your interests and passions? Join us for an interactive workshop designed for teens and their caregivers at Charlotte Hall Library on Wednesday, September 11 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. This session will guide families in identifying key career interest themes and foster deeper conversations to help your teen explore and pursue careers that resonate with their goals. Learn how to leverage these insights to make informed choices about classes, colleges, and training programs that align with your interests. This program is presented in partnership with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Cover Art Redux

Have you ever wanted to put your own spin on your favorite book's cover art?

Join us in the Makerspace at Leonardtown Library on Wednesday, September 11 from 6 - 7 p.m. Teens are welcomed into the Makerspace for this three part program! We'll be meeting every second Wednesday evening of September, October, and November to create brand new faces for our favorite books! We will plan, paint, and put text on your brand new cover art! There will be messes, music, and good vibes. Materials will be provided, including paint. Please wear clothes you are willing to sacrifice to your creative cause! Registration is required on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Adult Crafternoon: Good Luck Charm Keychains

Do you love making art and trying out new projects? Come hang out and make crafts without the pressure to be perfect. Friday the 13th doesn't need to be all bad luck! Come string together charms (and even make some of your own) to ward off any negativity and keep the good luck coming. Leonardtown Library, Friday, September 13 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Materials will be provided. This program is meant for adults,

but no prior skills in crafting are needed. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Monarchs in Maryland: Citizen Science

Marylanders! Help us fill the void of data on monarchs in our state. Also if weather and butterflies cooperate, we will tag and release monarchs outside at Lexington Park Library on Saturday, September 14 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Paula Becker of Maryland DNR - Wildlife and Heritage Service will discuss the Featured Project on Maryland Department of Natural Resources Community Science page: The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP). The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program is a national program to collect milkweed, nectar plant, and monarch use data from various land-use types and regions. This information is vital to shaping our understanding of how monarchs interact with their environment, documenting conservation efforts, and tracking the population and its habitat as they change over time. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).



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Jumbo Pack, Fresh  
Boneless Skinless  
Chicken Breast

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USDA Inspected  
Whole Boneless  
Pork Loin

**1.99** Lb.



Certified Angus Beef  
Boneless Bottom  
Round Roast

**5.98** Lb.



Smithfield  
Smoked  
Ham Portions

**1.59** Lb.



Certified Angus Beef  
Boneless Beef  
Bottom Round Steak

**6.98** Lb.



Certified Angus Beef  
T-Bone  
Steak

**12.98** Lb.



Springer Mountain Farms  
Jumbo Pack Fresh  
Chicken Wings

**3.48** Lb.



Fresh Atlantic  
Salmon  
Fillets

**8.98** Lb.



Delicious!  
Maryland  
Crab Cakes

**9.99** ea.



6-Oz., Selected  
Moji  
Sushi Roll

**3.98**



16-Oz.  
Nature's Best  
Tilapia Fillets

**4.98**



2 To 14-Oz. Polish Kielbasa Or  
Selected  
Eckrich  
Smoked Sausage

**3.48**



12-Oz., Selected  
Gwaltney  
Meat Hot Dogs

**1.68**



Frozen Or Previously Frozen  
Cattfish  
Fillets

**4.99** Lb.



16 To 20 Ct.  
Texas Gulf  
Shrimp

**9.99** Lb.



Eastern Grown  
Gala Tote  
Bag Apples

**.98** Lb.



Imported  
Navels  
Oranges

**5/\$5**



Farm Fresh  
Green  
Bell Peppers

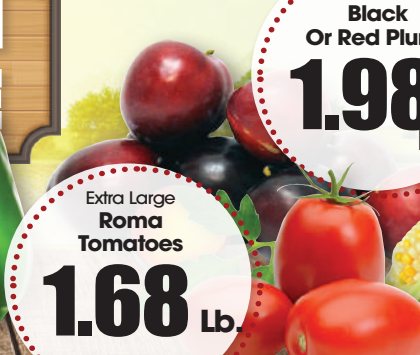
**.88**



**FARM  
to  
TABLE**

Extra Large  
Roma  
Tomatoes

**1.68** Lb.



California Grown  
Black  
Or Red Plums

**1.98** Lb.



Tender Sweet  
Bi-Color  
Corn

**5/\$3**



## FAMILY FAVORITES



15-Oz., Selected  
Wish Bone  
Salad Dressing

**2.28**



20-Oz.  
French's  
Mustard  
Buy One, Get One  
**FREE**



40-Oz., Selected  
Crisco  
Cooking Oil

SALE PRICE **3.98**  
DIGITAL COUPON **1.00** OFF TWO  
FINAL PRICE **3.48**



12-Pk., Selected  
LaCroix  
Sparkling Water  
**4.98**



12-Pk., Selected  
Faygo  
Soft Drinks

**3.98**



14.5-Oz., Selected  
Hunt's  
Tomatoes  
**2/\$3**



13.29 To 14.03-Oz., Selected  
Oreo  
Cookies

SALE PRICE **2/\$8**  
DIGITAL COUPON **2.00** OFF TWO  
FINAL PRICE **2/\$6**



5.5 To 7.25-Oz., Selected  
Kraft  
Macaroni & Cheese  
SALE PRICE **4/\$5**  
DIGITAL COUPON **1.00** OFF TWO  
FINAL PRICE **4/\$4**



4-Lb.  
Food Club  
Sugar

**3.28**



3.31 To 3.49-Oz., Selected  
Maruchan  
Ramen Noodles  
**5/\$5**



16.1-Oz., Selected  
Kellogg's Raisin  
Bran Cereal

SALE PRICE **2/\$7**  
DIGITAL COUPON **3.00** OFF TWO  
FINAL PRICE **2/\$4**



8-Oz., Sweet Salad Cubes, Dill Or Sweet  
Mt. Olive  
Relish  
**2/\$4**



12 To 14.2-Oz., Selected  
Cheerios  
Cereal

Buy One, Get One  
**FREE**



42-Oz., Old Fashion Or  
Quaker  
Quick Oats  
**5.48**



24-Oz., Selected  
Classico  
Pasta Sauce

Buy One, Get One  
**FREE**



17.5-Oz., Selected  
Food Club  
Tortillas  
**2/\$3**

WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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## In Remembrance

### Richard Tippett, 82



Richard Dennis Tippett, Jr., 82, of Hollywood, MD, passed away on September 1, 2024 in Leonardtown, MD. Born on January 19, 1942 in Leonardtown, MD,

he was the son of the late Eleanor Beatrice Tippett and the late Richard Dennis Tippett, Sr. Richard was the loving husband of Mary Louise Tippett, whom he married on November 30, 1963 in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Richard Dennis "Buddy" Tippett III (Susie) of Loveville, MD and Joseph Michael "Joey" Tippett (Linda) of California, MD, his siblings, James Samuel Tippett (Peggy) of Leonardtown, MD and Gay Dawn Fowler (Jamie) of Avenue, MD, his daughter-in-law, Melissa Tippett, of Hollywood, MD, his grandchildren, Nicole Tippett, Richard Dennis "Ricky" Tippett IV, Courtney Tippett, Chad Tippett, and Bobbie Jo Tippett, and his great-grandchildren Savannah Smith, Ayden Tippett, Kaylee Woodburn, Brielle Jones-Hurley, Charlie Woodburn, Jackson Tippett, Jamison Tippett, Kevin "KJ" Bryant, Malachi Tucker, and Kenna Jo Bryant. Richard was preceded in death by his son, James Anthony Tippett, his brother, David Allen Tippett, and his grandson, James Anthony Tippett, Jr.

Richard was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident. He was the owner and founder of Tippett's Construction for over 60 years. Richard was the grandson of the late Capt. Sam Bailey, which is where his love for the water, boats, and seafood came. His passion for boat racing started at a very young age. Over the years, Richard had many boats; his favorite boat was "Fuelish Pleasure", a flat-bottom, 540 cubic inch Ford. He won over 50 races and several championships across the country. He traveled to over 47 states during his racing times and had a love for driving nonstop until he needed fuel to get to his events. Richard enjoyed eating at his favorite restaurant, Abell's Diner.

Richard was well-known as one of the toughest, hardest working men you would know. He could figure out how to fix or build anything. He loved his wife, Coo-Girl, dearly, as she was always by his side, supporting him in all of his passions and adventures.

The family will receive friends on Monday, September 9, 2024 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 10:00 AM with Father Ray Schmidt. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Mike Rickett, Danny Fitzgerald, Nicole Tippett, Ronnie Norris, Richard Dennis Tippett IV, and Chad Tippett. Honorary pallbearers will be Charlie Woodburn, Robert Knott, Ayden Tippett, Timmy Norris, Jackie

Tippett, and Kevin Bryant.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Catholic Church, 43950 St. John's Road, Hollywood, MD 20636.

Condolences may be made to the family at [www.mgfh.com](http://www.mgfh.com).

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

### Julie Robbins, 58



Julie Ann Robbins, 58, of Great Mills, passed away on Thursday, August 29, 2024. She was born on October 26, 1965, in Detroit, to the late Ray and Patricia (Stuckey) Burke. On December 20, 2000, she married James Lloyd Robbins in San Diego.

Survivors include her husband James, her son Joshua, her stepchildren Jacob Robbins of Morrisville, NC and Katherine (Alex) Moss of Suffolk, VA, her sister Tracey (Ken) Semmler of Piedmont, SC, nieces Ashley Semmler and Dr. Nicole Semmler, her step grandchildren James Moss, Gracelyn Moss, and Briarlynn Moss, and her beloved shih-tzu Rosia Ann (Woof).

Julie graduated in 1983 from Notre Dame High School. She was active in the school band as part of the drum core and rifle squad. She joined the Navy in 1984, serving in Rota Spain, the Philippines, Oklahoma City, and Patuxent River. She served as an aviation machinist mate for 10 years performing power plant maintenance on various naval multi-engine, jet, and turboprop aircraft. She separated from the Navy and from 1994 to 2023 she supported the Department of the Navy as a subject matter expert in acquisition and sustainment programs. Most notably, she was a technical data lead for the in-service AH-1W/UH-1N and newest AH-1Z/UH-1Y aircraft. During her time in the Military and Civil Service she earned Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees in Business Administration, graduating Summa Cum Laude. On May 20, 2023 she retired after 32 years of Military and Civil Service combined.

She enjoyed 70s, 80s, and 90s rock music and reading, especially the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child and Andrew Grant. She took pride in caring for, reproducing, and distributing Christmas cactus' originally from her late mother. Following her marriage, she dedicated herself to her career and family, managing the family finances and designing and caring for the home.

Her funeral service will be at 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 6, 2024, at Holy Face Catholic Church in Great Mills, MD. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service at Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. Burial will be on a future date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.



## A View From The BLEACHERS



### JUDGING OTHERS

By Ronald N. Guy Jr.  
Contributing Writer

This "View" lands well before the 21st night of September, but hopefully it will as cool as a funky Earth, Wind & Fire beat. Maggie, it's not even late September and kids are already back to school. "Wake me up, when September ends": really Green Day, dudes? You don't want to sleep through this screed!

Such an opening has to precede a passionate column on football's return. Yes indeed, the great American game is back – and with it, many things. Gameday rituals. Epic dips. Deep couch sitting. Remotes never, ever beyond arm's reach. And willfully, proudly neglecting chores. Look at that grass grow. Go nature! Has it sprouted yet? Has wildlife taken up residence? How many light bulbs are out? Mmmm...smell the fabulous fragrance of fermenting garbage. Should I wash laundry or order more boxers from the couch?

Ahhh...there will be plenty of time for pigskin. Embrace delayed gratification. For now, and for this column, baseball takes centerstage. Disappointed? Gimme 500 words to change your mind.

By "baseball", I mean Aaron Judge. I know, that is a very dangerous subject two hours south of Baltimore and with Birds fans circling throughout Southern Maryland. If it helps, I like the Yankees as much as "Green Eggs and Ham", which is to say not at all...Sam I am. But, their distinguished place in sports history is undeniable. With alumni like Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and Mickey Mantle, it is hard to impress in pinstripes. Judge has - he hit 62 homers in 2022 to set an American League record - and he's at it again this year.

Judge has a shot this year at eclipsing those 62 homers and he is currently posting a 0.464 on-base percentage (OBP), a career high. Regarding that OBP, if it holds, it would rank around the 150th best in MLB history. It is more impressive than that. Consider a few things. Of those seasonal OBPs greater than Judge's, only about 18 have happened since 1985. That's an arbitrary date, but the general attempt is to define a point in time before pitcher specialization. Batters now can expect to face three pitchers a night, all throwing 95 MPH-plus heaters and Wiffle ball-worthy breaking pitches. Further, of those 18-ish post-'85 OBP seasons, about two-thirds occurred during the steroid era (1994-2004), a time when growth in baseball's batting stats made the inflation of recent years appear to be a non-event. And one additional point: Judge, all 6'7" of him, is the classic baseball slugger. He has no business belting 60 bombs, hitting for average and basically having a coin flip's odds of getting on base. But he does all of the above. Dude is a human video game.

This is all presented to remind that, ease of Yankee-hatred aside, Judge is having a season. And if you love baseball, he deserves a tip of the cap.

Psychiatrist Carl Jung once said, "It is easier to judge than to think." Admission: when judging Judge's league-leading 2024 OBP, I was initially disappointed and unimpressed to find it buried 150 rows deep in MLB history. Then Yung reminded that additional thought was required. Context was important – eras, changes to the game, types of hitters and banned pharmaceutical boosts. With an appropriate pause to think on it, Judge's 2024 season is among the best in baseball history - period.

There's more. These next few months are sure to be challenging. Targeted ads and wild claims loosely based in or completed unmoored from fact will be blasted across the hinterland – an attempt to force final and absolute judgement on one candidate or another and, more importantly, on one entire group of supporters or the other. Just as Judge's season is deserving of deeper thought, so are our fellow Americans. For when this ends, we'll remain as interconnected and interdependent as always – for health care, education, safety, emergency services or an excellent cup of coffee on a rough Monday morning. Jung isn't wrong – it is easier to judge than to think - but the bet is he underestimated our willingness to hard thing, especially when doing so is the right thing.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

## The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb  
Contributing Writer

Perfect weather and perfect fishing will make a glorious September.

We have hardhead in the Patuxent in good size and numbers, maybe the best in a decade. Big spot are there and some sea bass.

There are rockfish in the deep holes and in the shallows of the Patuxent and Potomac and their tributaries.

The redfish/puppy drum/slot reds/channel bass/bull reds (all same fish just different sizes) are proliferating in the bay, rivers, and creeks.

Spanish mackerel, bull reds, cobia, and chopper bluefish are in the bay taking trolled surgical eels and small shiny spoons. Just drop over your number one or two planers and lure and hold on!

Shore fishermen are finding blues, reds, rockfish, spot and croaker on the moving tides. Bloodworm, lug worms, shrimp, and squid baits are all working well.

The catfish are starting to ease their way down from their summertime retreats in the upper rivers and fresher water. The catfish bite was good in Bushwood and Cobb Island this week.

Crabs are plentiful and huge for recreational pots off private docks. Chicken neckers are getting them, too.



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# 2024 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS W SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	SCORE
SEPT. 8	@ TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	4:25 PM	_____
<b>SEPT. 15</b>	<b>NEW YORK GIANTS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
SEPT. 23	@ CINCINNATI BENGALS	8:15 PM	_____
SEPT. 29	@ ARIZONA CARDINALS	4:05 PM	_____
<b>OCT. 6</b>	<b>CLEVELAND BROWNS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
OCT. 13	@ BALTIMORE RAVENS	1:00 PM	_____
<b>OCT. 20</b>	<b>CAROLINA PANTHERS</b>	<b>4:05 PM</b>	_____
<b>OCT. 27</b>	<b>CHICAGO BEARS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
NOV. 3	@ NEW YORK GIANTS	1:00 PM	_____
<b>NOV. 10</b>	<b>PITTSBURGH STEELERS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
NOV. 14	@ PHILADELPHIA EAGLES	8:15 PM	_____
<b>NOV. 24</b>	<b>DALLAS COWBOYS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
<b>DEC. 1</b>	<b>TENNESSEE TITANS</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
DEC. 15	@ NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	1:00 PM	_____
<b>DEC. 22</b>	<b>PHILADELPHIA EAGLES</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	_____
<b>DEC. 28/29</b>	<b>ATLANTA FALCONS</b>	<b>TBD</b>	_____
TBD	@ DALLAS COWBOYS	TBD*	_____

HOME GAMES ARE IN **BOLD** | \*SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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# Saturday, September 7

- 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.** Zumba class at the Port of Leonardtown Park Pavillion
- 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Sidewalk Art Contest at the Wharf - Open to all ages and experience levels
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Local Author Book Faire in LTown Alley hosted by Fenwick Street Used Books
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring King Fuzion Bank and Heidi's Easts and Sage's Treats food truck
- 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley
- 7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.** Hydrafx album release at the Rex Theatre

# Sunday, September 8

- 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.** Rise + Shine Yoga at the Leonardtown Wharf
- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Sunday Brunch at Social Coffeehouse
- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center
- 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Jazz Trotters and Aunt Tilley's food truck

The information presented here is accurate at the time of posting and is subject to change. Please check the event/organization pages/websites for current information.



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## Weekend Specials

The Good Earth Natural Food Store is offering the **Melon Melody Smoothie**, this cooling concoction of watermelon, cantaloupe, hibiscus flowers, & a splash of lime juice in electrolyte-packed coconut water is a treat perfectly fitting for the end of Summer!

**Specials and Sales** throughout Shepard's Old Field Market



## Friday, September 6

**10 a.m. - 7 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center for FREE tours and extended hours for First Friday

**4:30 p.m.** St. Mary's Ryken High School Dance Ensemble performance in Leonardtown Square

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m.** St. Mary's Arts Council audience participation Drum Circle on the Art's Council lawn

**5 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Creation Station at Elsewise Art (Room 204 above SMC Arts Council)

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** St. Mary's County Arts Council meet and greet with The Arts Fam co- hosts Lindsey Pommerenck and James LePore

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** North End Gallery 38th Anniversary Opening Reception

**5 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

**5 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Reiki Share at Spice Studio

**5:30 p.m.** Ballet Caliente performance in Leonardtown Square

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** MADE by you Parent's Night out

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Live music in the Square featuring Doc Lohn

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** FREE Tissue Paper Flower Activity in LTown Alley

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Synergy SOMD and Grizzly Mountain Grille food truck on site



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# Archery Deer Hunting in Maryland Opens September 6



Photo by Mary Pat Bozel

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will open the archery hunting season for white-tailed and sika deer on Sept. 6. The season runs intermittently through Jan. 31, 2025.

Archers may use vertical longbows and vertical recurve bows Feb. 1 and Feb. 3-4, 2025 during the third annual Primitive Deer Hunt Days. Hunters should consult the 2024-2025 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping for specific dates and closures in their region.

"Archery season is always exciting because it signifies the changing of the seasons, enabling hunters to really get on the ground (or in the stand) and take advantage of our abundant hunting opportunities," Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Karina Stonesifer said. "For many, archery season provides a fresh start for both new and experienced deer hunters. It allows folks to get outdoors, become reacquainted with nature, and if they're lucky, put some meat in the freezer."

For the 2024-25 deer season, the statewide bag limit for white-tailed bucks is two deer total (no more than one per weapon season). Hunters have the option to take one additional bonus buck in Region B (the state's central, southern, and eastern regions) after purchasing a Bonus Antlered Deer Stamp.

The antlerless archery deer bag limits differ between deer management regions. In Region A, comprising Western Maryland, up to two antlerless deer may be harvested during archery season, and no more than two total for all weapon seasons combined. Only one antlerless deer per day may be harvested in Region A. An additional antlerless deer may be harvested in Region A during the Primitive Deer Hunt Days.

In Region B, the antlerless archery limit is 15, except for in the Suburban Deer Management Zone, where the archery antlerless limit is now unlimited. This zone comprises Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties.

Hunters intending to pursue sika deer must purchase a sika hunting stamp in addition to the archery stamp. Sika stamps may be purchased on the department's online

licensing system, at a licensing agent, or by calling the department's Licensing and Registration Service at 866-344-8889.

New for the 2024-25 season, non-residents may purchase the sika hunting stamp for \$200. The sika deer archery season bag limit is three with no more than one being antlered. An antlered sika is defined as a deer with at least one antler visible above the hairline. The sika deer archery season is open in every county.

Multiple Sundays are open to archery hunting in most counties, including on some public lands. Hunters can consult the 2024-2025 Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping for additional information on Sunday hunting and other deer hunting opportunities.

An antler-point restriction remains in effect. Deer hunters may harvest one antlered white-tailed deer within the yearly bag limit that does not meet the requirement of having at least three points on one antler. Any additional antlered deer taken within the established bag limit must meet the minimum point restriction. Licensed junior hunters and apprentice license holders who are 16 or younger are exempt from this restriction.

Hunters should carefully inspect all tree-stands and always wear a full-body safety harness while in the stand and while climbing in or out. The department strongly recommends using a sliding knot, commonly known as a prusik knot, attached to a line that is secured above the stand that allows the hunter to be safely tethered to the tree as soon as they leave the ground.

Hunters should report deer taken with a long, compound, or recurve bow as harvested with a vertical bow when checking in their deer. Crossbow hunters should register their deer as taken with a crossbow. This information helps biologists collect information on preferences and trends in how deer are harvested.

Hunters are encouraged to help others by donating deer taken in Maryland to food banks. A state tax credit offers hunters an incentive for donated deer. Other local or state programs are also available so hunters should check with their deer processors.

# St. Mary's Horse Pull Team Wins Top Honors at State Fair



St Mary's County resident and fair board director Bruce Barnes, alongside his brother Chuck Barnes, won the heavyweight horse pulling competition at the Maryland State Fair this past Sunday, competing under the team name "The Barnes Brothers."

Horse pulling is a historic sport of elimination where teams of draft horses compete to pull the most weight the farthest distance. The Barnes Brothers team of Belgian draft horses named Clay and Tug made a full pull (27.5ft) at 10,000 pounds earning them first place.

Bruce and Chuck started their journey with horses as young children logging alongside their father in the woods, learning the ropes of horsemanship and horse pulling.

Bruce is the current owner and operator of Barnes Logging and was Master Logger of the Year in 2020. Chuck, now retired, works with the horses on a daily basis to keep them fit and ready for competition. The heavyweight horse pull on Saturday nights at the St Mary's County Fair is one of the biggest attractions of the fair each year.

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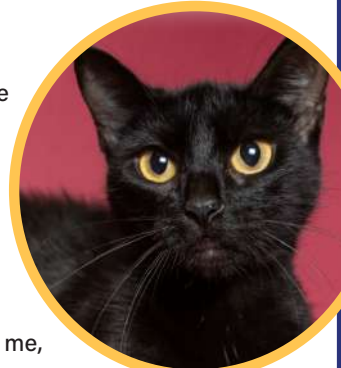
Why did the black cat run from the tree?  
Because it was afraid of the bark!

Hello, my name is Doodle Bug! I'm a sneaky little kitty who will STEAL YOUR HEART (and your straws), play hide-and-seek in the shower, and fetch paper like a pro! But beware: I'll also demand head rubs and snack on ice cream and cookies (don't worry, I'll share... or not). Are you ready for a WHIRLWIND OF MISCHIEF AND CUDDLES? Then I'm definitely your girl!

Doodle on down during adoption hours to meet me,  
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BE MY MIRACLE AND PLEASE CHOOSE ME! ALWAYS OPT TO ADOPT,  
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To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or view us on our website at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>







# NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

## Final VH-92A Presidential Helicopter Delivered

Presidential Helicopters Program Office (PMA-274) and the Marine Corps accepted delivery of the final VH-92A helicopter, built by Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, in August. The achievement signifies the completion of the program of record to deliver 23 new presidential helicopters in support of the executive lift mission.

The total inventory of 23 VH-92A aircraft will consist of 21 operational and two test aircraft. This quantity allows for aircraft to be ready to support the executive lift mission, undergo various levels of maintenance, lifecycle upgrades, and provide assets for pilot/aircrew training.

"This exceptional team has successfully completed the program of record for the VH-92A within budget and schedule," said Brigadier General David Walsh, program executive officer for air anti-submarine warfare, assault, and special mission programs. "This helicopter not only embodies the hard work and dedication of those responsible for building and delivering the aircraft, but it will remain a recognizable patriotic asset known around the globe for safety, security, and reliability."

In May 2014, PMA-274, with approval from the Navy, awarded Sikorsky a contract to build the next presidential helicopter, the



VH-92A, a derivative of the commercial S-92.

The new presidential helicopter was built to increase performance and payload over the VH-3D and VH-60N. It will provide enhanced crew coordination systems and communications capabilities in addition to improving availability and maintainability.

The Marine Corps works with the White House Military Office, PMA-274, and Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) to ensure the conditions are set for a successful transition from the current in-service VH-3D and VH-60N aircraft to the

VH-92A. Currently there are 10 VH-3D's, six VH-60N's, and 9 VH-92A's that support various missions assigned to HMX-1.

"Between the program staff and artisans within Sikorsky and PMA-274, we have the best and brightest. These great Americans are experts at their craft and put their all into this platform," said Colonel Alex Ramthun, PMA-274 program manager. "Not only have we delivered increased performance and reduced maintenance costs and time over the current fleet of presidential helicopters, but we have also delivered the next phase of

Marine One helicopters. Knowing those who step aboard any of the 21 VH-92A will have absolute top-notch execution, maintenance, and service for the life of the aircraft makes me proud to be part of this amazing team."

The VH-92A Patriot is in the midst of a phased plan to ensure a smooth, safe, and timely transition from the legacy VH-3D and VH-60N aircraft.

PMA-274 expeditiously provides safe, ready, high-performing, and affordable aircraft, capabilities, and support to HMX-1.



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# Pedestrian Fatally Struck in Charlotte Hall

At approximately 1:37 a.m. on September 1, 2024, patrol units from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a motor vehicle collision involving a pedestrian in the area of Three Notch Road and Carpenter Lane, Charlotte Hall, MD, with CPR in progress.

The preliminary investigation indicates that a 2014 Chevrolet Traverse, operated by Samuel Robert Simmons, 41, of Saint Inigoes, was traveling southbound on Three Notch Road when a vehicle in front of him swerved to avoid a pedestrian walking in the right lane. Simmons also attempted to swerve but was unable to avoid striking

the pedestrian, identified as Lew William Chavis, 39, of Gaston, S.C. Chavis was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Initial findings suggest that speed was not a factor in the collision.

Due to the nature of the incident, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Collision Reconstruction Unit has assumed the investigation. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or the events leading up to it and has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Corporal Rachael Roszell at 301-475-4200, ext. 8108, or via email at Rachael.Roszell@stmaryscountymd.gov.

# Driver Identified in Single-Vehicle Collision Fatality

At approximately 7:01 p.m. on Sunday, September 1, 2024, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to a reported single-car collision in the center median in the area of Route 5 and Oak Station Drive in Charlotte Hall.

Upon arrival, deputies discovered a 2021 Nissan Armada with extensive damage, indicating that the vehicle had flipped over. The sole occupant, an adult male, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The driver and sole occupant of the 2021 Nissan Armada involved in Sunday evening's fatal car crash has been identi-

fied as 64-year-old Melvin Leon Elem of Baltimore, MD.

Due to the nature of the accident, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Reconstruction Unit has assumed the investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that speed and alcohol were contributing factors in the collision.

Anyone who may have witnessed the collision or the events leading up to it and has not yet provided a statement is asked to contact Corporal Dale Reppel at 301-475-4200, ext. 8059, or via email at Dale.Reppel@stmaryscountymd.gov.

# Identity of Theft Suspect Sought

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office requests help to identify and locate the individual shown in this picture. The individual seen in these photos is suspected of entering one vehicle, stealing a quantity of cash, and unsuccessfully attempting to break into other vehicles in a Lexington Park neighborhood.

If you recognize this individual or have information about these incidents, please contact Deputy Santiago Estrada-Lora at Santiago.Estrada\_Lora@stmaryscountymd.gov or 301-475-4200, ext. 8070. Please reference case number 2024-00051724

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

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



# FEMA to Evaluate Readiness of the State of Maryland

## Emergency preparedness exercise scheduled for Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will evaluate a Biennial Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise for communities around the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant. The exercise will occur during the week of September 10, 2024, to assess the ability of the State of Maryland to respond to an emergency at the nuclear facility.

"These drills are held every other year to evaluate government's ability to protect public health and safety," said MaryAnn Tierney, Regional Administrator for FEMA Region 3. "We will assess state and local government emergency response capabilities within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone within the State of Maryland."

Within 90 days, FEMA will send its evaluation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for use in licensing decisions. The final report will be available to the public approximately 120 days after the exercise.

FEMA will present preliminary findings of the exercise during a public meeting at 4:30 p.m. on September 12, 2024. The meeting will be conducted in person at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis, MD. Planned speakers include representatives from FEMA and the NRC.

At the public meeting, FEMA may request that questions or comments be submitted in writing for review and response. Written comments may also be submitted after the meeting by emailing FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov or by mail to:

MaryAnn Tierney  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 3  
615 Chestnut Street, 6th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

FEMA created the Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program to (1) ensure the health and safety of citizens living around commercial nuclear power plants would be adequately protected in the event of a nuclear power plant accident and (2) inform and educate the public about radiological emergency preparedness.

REP Program responsibilities cover only "offsite" activities, that is, state and local government emergency planning and preparedness activities that take place beyond the nuclear power plant boundaries. Onsite activities continue to be the responsibility of the NRC.

Additional information on FEMA's REP Program is available online at FEMA.gov/Radiological-Emergency-Preparedness-Program.

# Sheriff's Office Highlights Co-Responder Program

## Recognizing Mental Health Response During Suicide Prevention Month

As the nation recognizes Suicide Prevention Awareness Month this September, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) is spotlighting its innovative Co-Responder Program, a critical initiative designed to address mental health crises.

Since its inception in September 2021, the Co-Responder Program has been at the forefront of mental health intervention in St. Mary's County. Under the leadership of Alexis Higdon, the Community Mental Health Liaison, this program pairs sworn SMCSO Crisis Intervention Team members with a mental health professional on calls involving individuals in crisis. This unique approach allows for immediate mental health assessments and timely interventions, including connecting individuals with behavioral health care services.

Over the past three years, more than a hun-

dred individuals have received timely mental health care assistance from this program. The co-responder program is a vital part of the Sheriff's Office's commitment to reducing the risk of suicide and improving mental health outcomes in St. Mary's County.

According to the most recent data available from the state's Department of Health from 2021, St. Mary's County experiences approximately 16 suicides per year.

To further support well-being, the SMCSO website, [www.firstsheriff.com/community/resources](http://www.firstsheriff.com/community/resources), offers a comprehensive list of resources, contact information, and details for support services, including behavioral health, crisis management, financial assistance, and many other needs. Those needing immediate emotional support should call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.



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# State Approves Permit for Route 5 Widening Project



The 111-year-old bridge over the St. Mary's River.

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The traffic problems that have continued at the intersection of Route 246, also known as Great Mills Road, and Route 5 have become some of the most troublesome in St. Mary's and there have long been plans to improve the intersection and surrounding infrastructure.

With the latest notification from the state's Department of the Environment (MDE), those plans appear one step closer to action.

In an Aug. 22 letter to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and nearby property owners, the MDE issued environmental permit approval for the state project to widen Route 5 between the Route 246 and Indian Bridge Road intersection.

This project also includes the replacement of the bridge over a portion of the St. Mary's River, which is nearly a century old.

The section of Route 5 to be widened would be increased to four lanes from its

current two, the missive reads.

Aside from helping to decrease the long queues of traffic on Route 5, the road widening will also help increase pedestrian access and utility there, the notice from MDE said.

The bridge replacement and widening of the road is also designed to reduce flooding impacts which can happen multiple times in a year, often after heavy rains.

The preferred alternative building plan for the replacement means the bridge would be widened slightly to 62 feet, while the overall width of the of the roadway would be 60 feet, the notice stated, complete with five-foot-wide sidewalks.

The bridge would remain at the same elevation; the speed limit there would be reduced from 45 to 35 miles per hour also, under that particular plan.

The permit to begin the project lasts until August of 2029 five years from now, according to state documents.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

# SMCHD Seeks Potential Dental Contractors

St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD) seeks interested dental practices to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to contract with our Adult Dental Program. SMCHD has been working for over 20 years to reduce the proportion of adults suffering from untreated dental decay, pain, and infection through the Office of Oral Health grant. This grant enables us to fund contracts with qualified dental practices to deliver conservative dental services to uninsured or under-insured adults over 21 in St. Mary's County.

To apply for this RFP, an organization must:

- Hold a valid and unrestricted dental

license in the State of Maryland

- Have a demonstrated commitment to serving underserved populations
- Possess the ability to deliver conservative dental services in a clinical setting
- Have appropriate malpractice insurance
- Remain as a "business in good standing" with the State of Maryland
- Agree to comply with all relevant federal, state, and local regulations

Proposals must be submitted by September 20, 2024. For more information or to submit a proposal for this request, please visit [smchd.org/rfp](http://smchd.org/rfp).

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## Town House Project Up for Public Hearing



An artist's rendering of Riverside Townhomes

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The county's planning commission is set to hear the concept site plan for a project proposal to build 42 new town homes in California, near the intersection of Route 4 and 235 at its Sept. 9 meeting.

The project, known as Riverside Townhomes, would be built on 4.75 acres on Three Notch Road.

The townhomes to be built by LAHACO Investments, LLC, would be 120 feet in length and approximately 20 feet wide and less than 40 feet in height.

The traffic study for the project states the development would have a strictly controlled right-turn-in, right-turn-out only access point on Three Notch Road despite its proximity to Three Notch Road's intersection with Route 4.

The project would be sited on the north-bound side of Three Notch Road just north of the intersection with Route 4.

According to the traffic study, entered into

the record by Lenhart Traffic Consulting Inc., the project would generate approximately 252 daily vehicle trips in addition to the traffic already in the area.

The traffic study reported this addition would amount to only a fractional increase in nearby area traffic.

John Seisman, a dentist who operates a practice in the vicinity of where the project is slated, wrote to the planning commission that he was concerned about it, the administrative record showed.

Seisman wanted the planning commission to consider how more green space could be conserved along with the project.

"The proposed development would significantly impact these resources, diminishing the aesthetic and ecological resources of the area," Seisman wrote. "The preservation of these green spaces is vital for maintaining environmental balance and supporting local biodiversity."

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

## Fire Destroys Clements Home

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

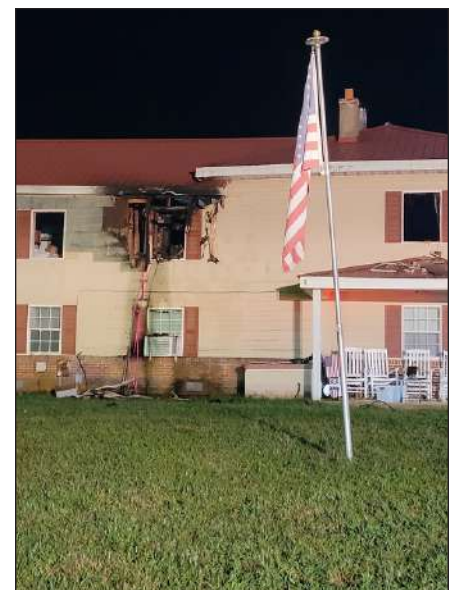
A Sept. 2 house fire on Long Road in Clements caused \$100,000 in damages to a two-story, single-family home, though no one was injured as a result, State Fire Marshal's investigators say.

The fire occurred shortly after 7p.m. and was contained to the upstairs bedroom; it was found by the homeowner.

It took 48 firefighters from the Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department 15 minutes to put out the fire, which is initially being considered by investigators to be accidental.

Investigators have not released the cause of the fire as of press time.

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# Base Commander Remembers 9/11

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

In 1998, NAS Patuxent River CO Capt. Douglas Burfield, had graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and was just starting his naval career as a helicopter pilot.

In a few short years as a lieutenant junior grade he, and the rest of the nation's military, would be at war against terror after the strikes against the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in New York that left almost 3,000 Americans dead and thousands more injured.

Burfield told The County Times he was already headed home after a deployment to the Middle East when the attacks happened Sept. 11, 2001. He was part of an aircraft carrier strike group, flying resupply and search and rescue missions.

"We turned around and went back to duty," Burfield said. "We changed our deployment; it affected our whole nation."

Though he was a graduate of the elite naval education institution, he was still new to the military deployment life.

"That was my first deployment," Burfield said of what the Navy was like just before 9/11. "I was taking it all in; it was a steep learning curve."

His missions of search and rescue and logistical transfer of resources by helicopter from ship to ship did not change, though; it was what he and so many others had been trained to do.

Their mission now focused on supplying U.S. forces engaged in a counter insurgency shooting war.

But, for Burfield, except for a much-increased tempo of operations and many more numerous and longer deployments, he didn't feel much different in his day-to-day duties.

"I don't think I felt like I was at war," Burfield said. "There was much more heightened security and we were working faster for longer periods of time."

While sailors, soldiers, airmen and marines were trained to some degree to deal with the increased deployments and the stress that accompanied them, their families back home didn't necessarily have that.

"We're deployed 24/7 [the military] and we always are," Burfield said. "But I think the families felt it mostly more than the service members."

"You went further for a longer period of time."

Burfield had multiple deployments to the Middle East during the Global War on Terror and he spent time back in the U.S. helping others to deploy and train them up for service.

He also had a tour of duty at the Pentagon and credits the Navy with allowing him to have some time at home while on duty to spend with his family.

But it wasn't easy for either him or them. "It builds up after a while," Burfield said of the strain on family through deployments.

"You learn that to maintain our freedoms we enjoy, this has to happen."

Burfield met his wife after his first deployment, he said, and they started a family with the full knowledge that he would be gone much of the time.

His two oldest sons, 18 and 15 years old, were the first of his four children to experience that.

"They remember me being gone a long time and quite often," said Burfield, 48.

But the time apart, while difficult, made them appreciate the time they had together all the more, he said.

It also helped them grow stronger, he said.

"It's made them resilient and appreciate the time we have together," Burfield said. "My wife has been a true champion through all of this."

While serving as the commanding officer of the naval air station, Burfield still flies helicopters, though his main mission is providing the best facility possible for all the other tenant commands there such as NAVAIR.

He credits his family with supporting him in his career to serve what he calls a "greater cause" of defending the country.

"That's helped me to stay in the Navy," Burfield said.

He calls serving at Naval Air Station Patuxent River "a blessing" and appreciates how Southern Maryland as a whole recog-



Capt. Douglas Burfield

nizes the military and veterans' service to their country.

It was especially important to remember, he said, the ones the nation lost in the terror attacks and those service members lost in the war fighting back.

"It's important to pause and reflect on how we maintain our freedom and what it takes to defend it," Burfield said.

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# Superintendent: Most Students Adhering to Cell Phone Rules



By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The new policy of students keeping cell phones turned off and stowed away during the instructional day appears to be working, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told the St. Mary's County Board of Education last week, with cell phone confiscations making up a tiny fraction of disciplinary actions.

According to statistics from the first five days of school for the 2024-2025 school year, there were a total of 209 cell phone confiscations, almost all of them in the high school grades.

The highest number of cell phone confiscations took place on the first day back to class on Aug. 21 with 21 confiscations each at Chopticon and Great Mills high schools and 13 at Leonardtown High School.

That number dropped sharply the following day with just 10 seizures at Chopticon, 19 at Great Mills and six at Leonardtown.

By Aug. 27 there had been three confiscations at Chopticon, nine at Great Mills and 11 at Leonardtown.

The total confiscations on the first day of classes versus the fifth was 61 down to 32.

On each day, cell phone confiscations accounted for less than one percent of the total disciplinary infractions recorded, the data, which accounted for 9,366 students in middle and high school grades locally,

presented at the Aug. 28 school board meeting showed.

"Those [nearly] 10,000 students all have cellular devices because you can't be a teenager in United States and not have your cell-phone," Smith told board members. "They spent the entire summer — and their lives — on their cell phone... they rolled into school [on the first day] and we only confiscated 61 phones.

"If we see it, we're taking it."

Under the new rules, promulgated in the summer through the actions of a stakeholder committee looking at the effects of cellphones on student behavior and performance, students in middle and elementary schools must keep their phones deactivated and stowed away during the entirety of the instructional day; elementary students are encouraged to leave their phones entirely.

High school students are allowed to use their phones during lunch period but nothing beyond that.

Violations of the policy lead to confiscation and return of the cell phones to the student's parent or guardian.

"It's working," Smith said of the policy. "One thing I've noticed is that the hallways are a little louder.

"They're louder because kids are talking to each other as opposed to staring at phones."

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# Esperanza MS Mold Clean Up Could Take Another Week



Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

At the Aug. 28 meeting of the St. Mary's County Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith told board members that the remediation of the mold found in the ceiling of Esperanza Middle School (EMS) just days before the beginning of school could take another two weeks.

Smith went into detail about how the mold was found and that once a wet ceiling tile was found by building services workers, the investigation into the area between the ceiling tile and the top roof itself revealed the contaminant's presence.

"Now, we could have stopped right there but that's not the way our operations staff works, that's not the way the maintenance staff works. We recognized we had a problem with the HVAC [heating, ventilation and air conditioning] system."

The HVAC system at EMS is approximately 20 years old, Smith said, having been replaced in the early 2000s.

"And so for 20 years all of the piping for the HVAC... had been up in that space and it would appear that the wrapping of those pipes has deteriorated over time, allowing moisture to escape," Smith said. "Moisture in a humid, confined space [results in] mold."

The instances of mold were so extensive, Smith said, that it pervaded many class rooms, resulting in the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade class having to be transported to the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland campus in California for instruction.

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades were able to return to school after a few days of virtual learning.

Smith said the initial finding of mold led to the whole building being tested.

"We wanted to make sure the air quality throughout the building wasn't compromised," Smith said. "Teachers and staff were never in a space where an there was unacceptable level of mold."

"But all of it has to be remediated."

Local environmental cleanup contractor Servpro has sealed off 14 classrooms worth of space, Smith said, in its remediation efforts.

"They're going to address all mold that's found up above," Smith said. "And then they're going to test everything to make sure that the air is clean."

Another subcontractor will then rewrap the piping with "state of the art" materials that are "most resistant" to mold, Smith said.

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## *World Class Music*

**Nobuntu, a cappella quartet  
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Friday, Oct. 4 @ 7 p.m.

**Brubeck Brothers Quartet w/  
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Friday, Nov. 1 @ 7 p.m.



## *Orchestra Concerts*

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**SMCM Orchestra | SMCM Jazz Ensemble**  
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# Hollywood Volunteers Look for Community Donations



Life member Kelley Bean and HVRS Preside Barbara Wible

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The membership of the Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad say they have outgrown their facility on Rescue Lane and need to make renovations and additions.

But they need community donations to make that happen, they say.

The volunteers already have two sheds filled with equipment and apparatus they say really belong indoors at the main building, which was built in 1982.

That structure can only fit three vehicles, said Kelley Bean, an emergency medical technician and life member there.

"But we have six vehicles," Bean said, four ambulances and two chase vehicles.

Like many other rescue squads in St. Mary's, the squad is fully staffed by career personnel during the day and at night volunteers take over.

The volunteers are just as busy, Bean said, which helps necessitate the improvements at the station.

"You're going to run your crew all night," Bean said. "You're going to be out all night, unfortunately."

Barbara Wible, president of the squad, said COVID had taken its toll on the membership.

"They were told [by their employers] to either give up their volunteer work or give up their paid job," Wible said. "They didn't want people bringing COVID back into the office."

The membership is holding a community meeting Sept. 13 to encourage residents to support the squad's efforts to increase its footprint.

The estimated cost of the renovations and additions the squad wants is high: \$3.5 million, but they are not expecting residents to donate that entire sum.

"This is going to be no Taj Mahal," Bean said. "This will be a functional space for what we need."

That includes enough space to put all emergency vehicles under one roof, a dedicated gear room, better security to include new cameras, and office space for administrative purposes.

"We're asking for just one office, a larger office," Wible said.

The open house on Sept. 13 is also designed to show residents the cramped quarters at the rescue squad and the need to improve them, said Bean.

"Anything would help," Bean said. "Seeing and saying are two different things."

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

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 2024  
10 AM - 4 PM**

**Piney Point Lighthouse Museum**

**Free Admission to Museum, Lighthouse, & Park  
Live Entertainment & Family Fun All Day  
Kids' Activities, Exhibits, & Vendors  
Variety of Food Trucks on Site**

**Featuring...**

**SIBLING RIVALRY Fiddle Band**



**PARKING & OTHER INFO:** Free offsite parking will be serviced by free shuttles that will loop all day from parking to event. There will be no public parking at the museum except for vehicles displaying appropriate handicap parking permit. No animals permitted inside museum buildings except service animals.

**Donations accepted -- help preserve local history!**

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park  
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Call for full event details or visit [www.facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)

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# THANK YOU.

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## “THIS WILL BE NO TAJ MAHAL.”

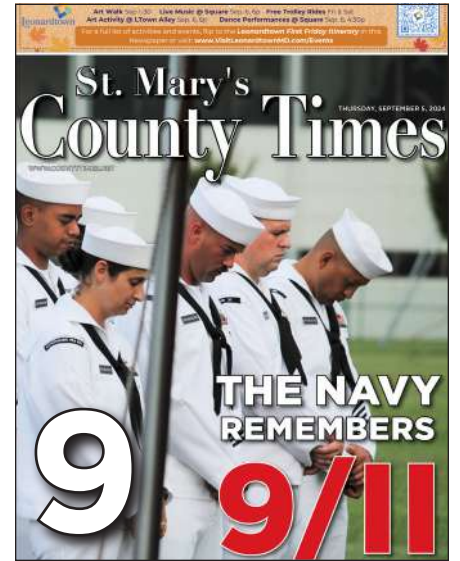
HVRS LIFE MEMBER KELLEY BEAN ON THE NEED FOR RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THEIR BUILDING



**LOCAL 3**  
Hollywood rescue squad looks for donations



**COMMUNITY 15**  
Local team wins state fair horse pull contest



**ON THE COVER**  
Base CO remembers big changes brought by 9/11

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, SEP 5	FRI, SEP 6	SAT, SEP 7	SUN, SEP 8
Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 62°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 66°	Showers Hi: 76° Lo: 53°	Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 52°
MON, SEP 9	TUE, SEP 10	WED, SEP 11	THU, SEP 12
Sunny Hi: 76° Lo: 55°	Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 58°	Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 60°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 60°

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September First Friday in Leonardtown



Art Walk Sep 1-30 Live Music @ Square Sep. 6, 6p Free Trolley Rides Fri & Sat  
Art Activity @ LTown Alley Sep. 6, 6p Dance Performances @ Square Sep. 6, 4:30p



For a full list of activities and events, flip to the **Leonardtown First Friday Itinerary** in this Newspaper or visit: [www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events](http://www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/Events)

# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

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## THE NAVY REMEMBERS

# 9/11

