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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

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**State Economy  
Described as 'Quirky'**

**Deputy's Shooter  
Receives Life Sentence**

**Ballfield to Honor  
Outgoing Mayor**

# CALVERT 5K RACES FOR A CURE





# STRENGTH IN *Every Step*

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**OCTOBER 19, 2024**

VENDORS START AT 7 A.M. / RACE STARTS AT 8:30 A.M.

CalvertHealth's 15th annual 5K run/walk benefiting the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast care will be held on beautiful Solomons Island.

Support this year's 5K alongside friends, family and community members.

We are striving to make this year's event our most successful 5K yet, so don't miss out on the inspiration and fun.

**5K Run/Walk:** \$40 (before Oct. 13)

**NEW! Fun Walk (about 1.5 mile loop!):** \$40 (before Oct. 13)

**Day of Race Registration:** \$50

**Tribute Signs:** \$50- Make your race more personal! With your tribute gift, we will place a memorial or honorary tribute along the race path for others to see along the way. Celebrate a loved one's survivorship or recognize someone currently undergoing treatment.



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For more information on the event or sponsorship opportunities, contact the Foundation Office at  
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or email:  
[foundation@calverthealthmed.org](mailto:foundation@calverthealthmed.org)

#### Breast Cancer Death Rates

**25.6**  
deaths/ 100,000 females

#### Compared to:

  
MD Counties  
21

  
U.S. Counties  
19.6

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AUTHORIZED BY: CCRCC, DONNA ZUPANCIC, TREASURER

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“THE STATE’S SITTING ON SEVEN, \$800 MILLION STRUCTURAL SHORTFALL.”

MD ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MICHAEL SANDERSON



**LOCAL 6**  
Man who shot Calvert deputy gets life in prison



**LOCAL 6**  
Ball field may get outgoing mayor's name



**ON THE COVER**  
Fighting back against breast cancer

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 17	FRI, OCT 18	SAT, OCT 19	SUN, OCT 20
Mostly Sunny Hi: 60° Lo: 44°	Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 46°	Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 44°	Sunny Hi: 72° Lo: 46°
MON, OCT 21	TUE, OCT 22	WED, OCT 23	THU, OCT 24
Sunny Hi: 73° Lo: 49°	Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 52°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 54°	Sunny Hi: 74° Lo: 52°

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# County Group's Head Calls State Economy 'Quirky'

## MACO Meets with Commissioners

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) Executive Director Michael Sanderson talked about "how quirky a spot we're in in the state's general fund budget." Sanderson gave the assessment during the county association's annual visit to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on Oct. 8. The county is a long-time member.

Sanderson said the state's general fund budget of \$25 billion has "been really weird in a variety of ways" for the past couple of years.

He said, "You would expect the cost of living to be something like two- or three-percent inflation, thereabouts. And on a \$25 billion budget, if the cost of living is three percent or so, then when someone buys a pair of shoes, they pay sales tax, that turns into a little bit more sales tax money. People get a little bit of a raise, that turns into more income tax money. State revenues you would think would grow by that. Plus, maybe a tiny bump for population or productivity. Typical growth, maybe like four percent in revenues. You don't have to be an expert to kind of follow that a \$25 billion budget usually has about a billion dollars in new revenues under ordinary circumstances."

"Well, is our current economy strong or weak?" he asked "The easiest indicator you used to be able to look at was the unemployment rate. It's a real nice quick measure is unemployment. Five, six, seven percent is kind of high. That means a sluggish economy, the factory laid off the second shift or other quick back of the thumbnail sorts of things.

"So, Maryland's economy, our unemployment rate is at or below three percent, which textbooks say you shouldn't be able to maintain. That should be an indicator of a robust economy. Like we should be growing like crazy and instead of having four- or five percent growth in state revenues, which you would think with those ingredients, they just closed the books on last year and they're projecting for 2024 into this year, 2025, one-percent growth and into '26 with even less than one-percent growth. That's with the best bean counters in the game on contract advising. That's what the underlying piece of the Maryland economy looks like. Income tax in particular is really sluggish. So that's just a weird circumstance that we're in. A lot of the indicators suggest a strong economy. Consumer optimism and confidence is not strong."

Sanderson observed, "The state's sitting on seven, \$800 million structural shortfall."

He said costs are driven up by employee pay and the cost of goods and services.

He noted, "Annapolis sometimes can manage without it being an absolute nightmare. But after a couple years of a big but

manageable problem, they run out of money in the trust fund that they're using to pay for their share of the Blueprint, the big education plan that we're three years or so into the rollout for. And then they got to start paying cash for that to the tune of another \$2 billion or so per year. So, the state's problem goes from being difficult but manageable to basically unmanageable just a few years down the road. Does that mean, get a handle on it now and make a tough decision?

Sanderson said, "There's only so many places to go. You want to solve a billion or two or three billion problem in the state's general fund budget, you look at the Blueprint and you say, are there pieces we can push back our timetables, we can change our intermediate deliverables or that sort of thing. The governor hinted that maybe that sort of stuff is on the table, but there doesn't seem to be unanimity with legislative leaders to do that. Do you go into the state budget and say we've negotiated a rate for the state employees, and we've got these services we want to do in our jails and environmental department and so forth."

He asked do you reduce those promises or "do you find the revenues to live up to the promises that you've made? Any of those are going to disappoint somebody and be frustrating to some constituency."

He said, "Those are tough decisions. The later part of the four-year political cycle, the harder it is to make really tough, anger people type decisions. So, we're in a tough spot to predict what Annapolis has next."

He did note that when Annapolis needs to find money they often fall back on the counties, as they did in the past with teacher pension monies and the county's share of transportation revenues. Or they've found accounting solutions. But the size of the problem makes that a difficult solution, he added.

"Annapolis sometimes can pull rabbits out of the hat. Sometimes those hats, those rabbits actually come from local government."

Sanderson said, "So we're planning to play some defense on fiscal issues, especially if there's not a big broad solution to all this stuff."

Sanderson observed, "Transportation is in its own special fund with its own revenues, and they may be in even sharper crisis than the state's general fund." The county found out about that at the recent presentation from the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Sanderson and MACO President, Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Jr. said on the organization's radar for the next session are housing costs and availability, local control over marijuana dispensaries, and solar energy and wind turbines.

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

# Hello again, INDEPENDENT VOTERS of Calvert County!

We trust that you know how crucial this election is for our nation, state, and county.

As of September 2024, we have **16,572 Independent voters** in Calvert County! We need each of you to vote on or before **Tuesday, November 5.**

Vote for the sensible and student-focused BOE team — the JAM team of Jeanette Flaim, Antoine White, and Mike Shisler!



Remember – no matter where you live in Calvert County, you can vote **countywide** for the BOE Election and vote for all **3 districts!**

Stay healthy!

By Authority of Citizens for Mike Shisler  
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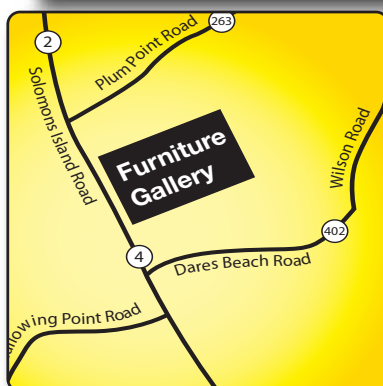




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# Town Poised to Name Baseball Field After Outgoing Mayor

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

In recognition of his contributions to youth sports, the Town Council of Chesapeake Beach is poised to name the baseball field art Kellam's Field in honor of outgoing Mayor Pat Mahoney. It will be called Mahoney Diamond. The council is expected to introduce the legislation at its Oct. 19 meeting.

At an Oct. 7 town council work session, Town Administrator Holly Wahl said, "There's been some significant contributions made by the mayor for youth recreation during his eight-year term as mayor. Top being acquiring Kellam's Field in partnership with the Board of County Commissioners, which was valued at close to \$2 million, at zero cost to the town. Really opening the gates of Kellam's Field to be open to the general public for access to recreation, open, free play and space, and an overall public awareness that the field is town-owned and open for residents and general public's enjoyment and organized sporting activities. Continued investments to maintain safe play areas. This includes adding fill to the fields, also installing a storm drain to alleviate water issues on the field itself.

"Converting the small baseball field to Bermuda grass to create additional practice spaces for varied sporting access. Allocating the funds necessary to ensure the Kellam's Field concession stand can become a licensed food service facility. This is something that we have not had in the past. We've made progress with cleaning up the concession stand, new sealed windows, service doors as well, flooring, cabinets, and equipment.

"We've improved the large baseball field for continued representation of our local baseball teams, adding additional fill-in material, leveling the field as well. Also offering continued grants and funding to our youth sports organizations at no cost to the teams who meet non-profit requirements."

Randy Wilkerson, baseball coach of Calvert Cutters, said, "We travel around to local areas using the baseball fields in the county, and we're looking to utilize Kellam's baseball facilities a lot more this upcoming spring and summertime."

Mahoney said, "I leave my door open when I'm in the office. I had heard some scuttlebutt with a member of council... and some members of staff about this. I'm truly honored. I'm really just flabbergasted by this idea."

Mahoney said, "Thanks to my strong



Chesapeake Beach Mayor Pat Mahoney

partnership with county, former county commissioner Tim Hutchins and the current president, Buddy Hance, I guess it was in my first term, I was able to acquire the field from the county at zero cost, which basically means that now the taxpayers own it. Now the taxpayers fund it to maintain it. It was big win. I remember the day a long time ago, because my son was a toddler, six or seven, and I went over there, it was one of those February days where it was 60 and sunny, and we grabbed a baseball bat and a glove and the baseball, and we went over there, and the field was locked. We weren't allowed in there, this big old field, big green space. A dad and his kid weren't allowed to go in there and throw a baseball, and I said something. and I was just told, well, it's not open. It's usually only open in the fall."

Mahoney added, "Probably half the kids don't sign up for a team. Maybe they're not that good. Well, they'll never develop skills or athleticism if they're not on some green space somewhere where they're comfortable with their family members, chasing a Frisbee or doing this or that. But you don't have to be the captain of the team to use Kellam's Field. And you go by there now and the gates are open, and people are in there playing it and using it. And it's just one of the major accomplishments that this group has had because it's for families, it's for children."

The town council members in attendance enthusiastically endorsed the idea of naming the baseball field in the mayor's honor.

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

# Life Sentence Issued for Attempted Murder of Deputy

Brandon Alexander Turner, 23, of Greenbelt, was sentenced on Oct. 11 to life imprisonment, with 40 years of active time, for the attempted first degree murder of Calvert County Master Deputy Sheriff James Flynt.

Turner also received consecutive sentences for first degree assaults on Deputy Anthony Aranda and Deputy Tyler Bowen. Turner's total active period of incarceration equals 66 years.

On the evening of Dec. 17, 2022, Turner led deputies on a high-speed chase on MD Route 4 for nearly 10 miles. During the chase, Turner produced a handgun and fired multiple shots at the pursuing deputies. The chase ended near the Walnut Creek subdivision in Huntingtown when Deputy Flynt executed a maneuver that caused Turner's vehicle to crash. Turner exited the vehicle and shot Deputy Flynt in the leg, severing an artery. But for extraordinary measures, Deputy Flynt would have died.

At trial in June 2024, Turner was convicted by a jury of 16 separate offenses. The trial and sentencing were presided over by the Honorable Andrew S. Rappaport.



Brandon Alexander Turner

The case was prosecuted by Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey and Deputy State's Attorney Timothy Maher.

*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney*

# Lusby Man Dies in Single-Car Crash

Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal single-vehicle crash in Calvert County. The crash occurred on Oct. 12 at approximately 4:35 a.m. on Route 4 near Skinners Turn Road. The deceased was identified as Perrin Douglas Hupp, 22, of Lusby.

EMS pronounced him deceased at the scene. Hupp was the driver and sole occupant of a Mazda 6.

According to a preliminary investiga-

tion, the sedan was traveling northbound on Route 4 when it lost control and struck a utility pole. Police believe alcohol was not a factor.

The MSP Crash Team is leading the investigation. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

*Press Release from MSP*

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# Array of Services Support CalvertHealth Breast Cancer Patients

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month Observed

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

CalvertHealth Medical Center offers a range of services to patients diagnosed with breast cancer. And during this Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the hospital is also holding a variety of events including the fun walk 5K run on Saturday, Oct. 19.

Oncology Social Worker Stacey Newman said, "My role is to see patients, both in the doctor's offices, but also in our infusion centers. I provide a lot of psychosocial support to patients and their family members. And that can be the range of patients who are overwhelmed with their illness and their diagnosis, to some end-of-life discussions, things like that.

Newman added, "We have patients who have concerns with anxiety or depression to begin with. And then they have their diagnosis on top. So, it's really talking to them and then finding out too what type of other support might they need in the community, if they need outpatient therapist or psychiatrist.

With Breast Nurse Navigator Megan Hance, they co-lead the breast cancer support group. Newman explained, "We just started a caregiver support group for the family members or friends who are the caregivers. Then, I also do with another nurse navigator, a general cancer support group."

Hance said, "I work primarily out of the Center for Breast Care, which is with our breast surgeon, so surgical oncology. And my role is really just to get the patient basically from biopsy through whatever their treatment is going to be, if that includes surgery, involving medical oncology or chemotherapy or other medical follow up, any imaging that is needed."

Hance added, "I'm basically just the patient's first point of contact for whatever they might need through their care."

Newman said, "A lot of our patients have their own things going on in their life prior to their cancer diagnosis. So, they could already be dealing with anxiety and depression or being homeless or transportation or food insecurities. Those are a lot of the things that our patients come in with to begin with. And then they have the cancer diagnosis on top of it. So, we're really trying to provide a lot of support, connecting them to a lot of the community resources that are available. But then specifically for the cancer diagnosis, it's scary and they can be overwhelmed, and things are moving so fast. So, it's really making sure that they're understanding what their doctors are saying, what the process is going to be. It's great that we have the nurse navigators to kind of walk them through everything. But being able to have a sounding board for them so that patients can even just talk about how they're feeling and talk about if they are overwhelmed, what are some of the things that we could help them with?"

There could be a self-esteem issue, she said. "The breast cancer itself, there's so much that comes with that, and so it absolutely can affect your self-esteem as well.



And so, it's really supporting them. And that's part of the goal with our breast cancer support group, is to have the patients be able to talk with other people who are at various stages in their treatment, for the patients to understand that they're not the only one who may be having self-esteem issues or other concerns."

As to loss of hair from chemotherapy, Newman said, "I've had other patients that treat is, okay, I'm going to lose my hair, but this gives me the opportunity to dye my hair pink before I lose it all. And they never would've maybe done something like that before. I've had patients that wanted to do a mohawk before they shaved their hair. So, they really have taken some control of that, with some patients. But it is a concern with some, so we certainly support them in connecting them to organizations that they can work with to get wigs and scarfs and headwear, if that's something that they'd like."

Hance said, "That is absolutely one of the no. 1 concerns patients have when they come up against chemotherapy. It's probably the most common side effect that we all sort of equate with it. But Stacy's right, we see a lot of creative hairstyles and colors and ways to sort of cope with that. And I love how Stacy said that they were taking control of that. That's absolutely something that's so important, because a lot of what's going to happen, while we want it to feel like it may not completely be in their control, they may have choices, but these choices are not something someone would choose really to do at any given time. We definitely have great resources to offer them to help with wigs and headscarves and things like that."

She added, "It's going to be different for everyone with that too. For patients after the very first cycle of chemotherapy, they start to see a lot of that hair falling out, for some patients, they can get through almost their entire course before that actually happens for them."

Newman said, "Every new breast cancer patient that comes in is given a distress screening tool that they fill out. Megan sends all of those to me. So based on what they say on that screening, I may initially get in touch with the patient. The other avenue of how I get in touch with them is if they are

coming in for chemotherapy, I see all of our new chemotherapy patients within their first three visits."

Hance said there is a patient navigator available for the financial aspect, "who was a dedicated position to help patients with financial concerns. There's many organizations that are there with resources to help not just pay for their treatments and cancer care, even pay for things such as grocery bills, utilities, because we don't want anyone to have to choose between groceries that week or their chemo."

Hance explained the various steps of treatment. "The way it begins is, hopefully they've been keeping up with your yearly mammograms. We recommend yearly mammograms starting at age 40 and doing them until they can't do them anymore. There's really no endpoint, or any age specific time to stop. Typically, they have a mammogram done, something's identified, they have a biopsy. And once those biopsy results are received, they can be referred to us here at the breast center. Typically, they start with the breast surgeon who reviews all of their results and images and talks to them about a plan.

"For many patients, the progression seems to be biopsy, surgery, sometimes chemotherapy, not all. Radiation plays a big role, particularly in what type of surgery a patient has. If they were to have a lumpectomy, meaning they just have the cancer removed from their breast, a radiation is almost always given. If they have a mastectomy, which is completely removing the breast tissue, radiation is not always a given. And for many patients, they're fortunate to have the benefit of being able to take an anti-hormonal therapy following all of this treatment, which helps more in the preventative way of making sure that the breast doesn't make breast cancer again. It also protects the other breast."

Newman said about the support groups, "It's a very open group, and so it's available for breast cancer patients, at all stages. And we've been doing the group for years. So, we have some patients who have been coming for years, and they find it very reassuring to be able to talk about what they experienced and their concerns and things along the way.



CalvertHealth Breast Nurse Navigator Megan Hance

"And then we also have patients who come in who have just newly been diagnosed. And so, it's helpful for them to be able to connect with other people, asking questions. When we have patients who are just kind of starting their journey, they're able to ask suggestions from other group members. We also have presenters that come into the group occasionally. So, last month we had our physical therapist who specializes with our breast cancer patients come in and just kind of talk about some of what she does with patients, if that's needed."

Hance said, "A lot of the things I end up helping with in the support groups are questions about side effects of medications they might be experiencing, certain questions about having imaging done, whether it's time for a mammogram, a breast, MRI, and why they need both, what's the difference? And really if they're having any issues with getting something scheduled as far as imaging or testing goes, or just kind of meeting that advocate or that bridge between them and the provider."

Hance said of what she sees every day, "Everybody's different. There is never the same and there is something to learn every day."

At CalvertHealth, she said, "We are able to offer the surgical oncology, the medical oncology; we are affiliated with a radiation oncology office where their closest locations are either Charlotte Hall or Waldorf. So that's the only service that is not offered on site. But we are the direct connection to them."

As part of Cancer Awareness Month, CalvertHealth is holding the Breast Cancer 5K Run and Fun Walk this Saturday, Oct. 19 on Solomons Island. Vendors start at 7 a.m. with the race starting at 8:30 a.m. Funds raised will go to the for the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast Care.

This year they are excited to be adding a fun approximately one-and-a-half mile walk, which will follow along scenic Solomons Island!

To register go to: [www.calverthealthfoundation.org/CH-5K-Run-Walk](http://www.calverthealthfoundation.org/CH-5K-Run-Walk)

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





Jeanette Flaim

educational achievement. CCPS is ranked 5th in the state and our CTA and AP and dual enrollment programs are well established. Calvert County is one of the top three wealthiest counties in Maryland and our school system can afford the educational reforms. Calvert should never say “we can’t” or “we’re good enough”, investing in our students, staff, and our futures is a goal that everyone can support.

*Goshorn:* While the Blueprint is a requirement, it’s not financially feasible as it stands. We would likely need to raise local taxes in addition to a significant contribution from the state. Although there are many valuable initiatives, I’d like to see in CCPS, we face both financial and practical challenges that need to be addressed first. For instance, expanding full-day preschool and implementing a 60/40 teaching-to-planning ratio would require physical space that we simply don’t have at this time.

**What do you see as the most pressing issue before the board in the first year?**

*Marchio:* While the budget is the largest looming issue, we need to first renew our focus on safety, discipline and respect in our schools. Teachers have made their concerns known at recent board meetings, and the situation needs urgent attention. While there have been some positive steps recently, more needs to be done. Students are still avoiding bathrooms because they’ve become hot spots for vaping and fights. We can’t rely on teachers to confront unruly teens, they need to focus on educating. My priority is to have a dedicated SRO in every school and empower them to help restore order and create a safer learning environment for our students and staff.

*Shisler:* As long as I can remember, each year the budget for CCPS becomes the elephant in the room. Each year, we need to build a school budget that addresses the needs of our kids, our staff, and our buildings. Our annual budget cannot be covered by a blank check. We need to make sure that we all are paying our fair share at the state and local levels. Our budget building process and funding requests must be transparent. Our citizens need to know what it takes to build and protect a great to excellent school system where



Melissa Goshorn

each of our graduates leaves with options to pursue for his/her success in life.

*Harrison:* For FY26, the most pressing issue is the restoration of \$22.5M in state appropriation to CCPS. In FY25, CCPS is using reserves (Fund Balance) to meet operating needs. If state funding is not restored, the Calvert County Commissioners will then be requested to close the operating gap (\$10M) as they were asked to do for FY25.

*White:* As we look ahead to the next year, there isn’t one specific issue that needs to be focused on. Our school system has demonstrated steady growth in academics, safety, and discipline over the past four years. Building on this momentum, our goal is to become Maryland’s top-performing school system. My commitment is to ensure each student achieves excellence and is fully prepared for graduation, with pathways to two-year or four-year colleges, military service, workforce, or vocational training. Furthermore, I prioritize recognizing the value of our teachers, support staff, administrators, bus drivers, and central office personnel with fair compensation and support.

*Flaim:* The most pressing issue facing the board is funding. Without fully funding our educational system we are not able to reassure educators that their positions are secure, purchase laptops for all our students, support our sports, arts, sciences, etc., provide proper maintenance, build new schools, and promote programs that will help our students. My 29 years of experience gives me the knowledge and expertise to examine the budget and promote how our administrators have been fiscally responsible by utilizing different programs to save money. By using concrete examples of conscientious budgeting we can advocate for more funding from our community.

*Goshorn:* Academic achievement has many significant barriers that need to be addressed. Safety and security of our school buildings and classrooms, unmanageable administrative tasks on classroom staff, outdated or insufficient curriculum offerings, and unnecessary political influence in the classroom. We need to get back to basics, improve operational efficiencies, and ensure school system spending directly impacts student achievement.



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# Board of Education Candidates on Top Issues



Joseph Marchio

## Why are you a better candidate than your opponent?

*Joseph Marchio (District 1):* I'm a father of two students currently enrolled in Calvert County Public Schools. I fully understand that my decision making would have a direct effect on my children's education and safety while in CCPS. My decisions will be based on what is best for all students from an educational and safety standpoint. What we don't need are more "status quo" candidates pushing the same policies that led us to where we are, no. 5 in the state = 70% failing math & no. 4 in the state = 40% can't read. We need a fresh vision focused on making the basics a priority once again. There is too much emphasis on ideology and not enough on concrete action. Our teachers are already overwhelmed. We need to shift our focus towards creating a five-star school system that serves students, parents and educators alike.

*Mike Shisler (District 1):* I am not here to evaluate the other 1st district candidate. That's the job of Calvert County voters. My life has revolved around education. My first teaching position was with the Peace Corps in Central Africa. After I returned, I taught in Baltimore City and later in Anne Arundel County. I have taught and worked with Calvert County Public Schools for 43 years: 10 years teaching between Appeal ES and Mutual ES. I then served as assistant principal at Beach ES, and then I served as principal at Beach for 29 years. I taught graduate education courses for a decade for McDaniel College. I read frequently about education and its local, national, and international efforts. Education is fascinating and complicated. Our main duty as adults and educators is to make sure each of our kids is respected, protected, and loved.

*Paul Harrison (District 2):* I am certainly a different candidate than my opponent. With 35 years of administrative experience in education, mostly as an accountant, I am uniquely positioned to best manage the \$309 million annual budget of CCPS.

*Antoine White (District 2):* As a board of education member for four years, I have navigated the most challenging periods, including the pandemic and school bus driver strike, while advocating for students



Mike Shisler

and CCPS staff. My leadership has fostered innovative initiatives, such as project-based learning, mediation, and restorative justice, to enhance our county's education system.

*Jeanette Flaim (District 3):* My professional career as a Contracts and AR Manager for Freestate Electrical has provided me with the essential skills of listening, learning, reviewing, researching, collaborating, and negotiating. For the last 18 months I have faithfully attended the BOE meetings in person, as well as attending the Science and Engineering Expo, History Fair, Writing Nights, plays, CTA open house, summer graduations, etc. and I will continue to be an involved and available board member. I have extensive experience as an engaged CCPS parent and a firm belief that every student deserves an excellent education.

*Melissa Goshorn (District 3):* With 3 children currently in CCPS, I have a vested interest in our school system. I've been actively involved through our Citizens Advisory Committee and currently sit on the Calvert Blueprint Committee. I've fought to get kids back in schools during covid, spoken at countless board meetings, rallied with our bus drivers for better pay, and advocated for parental rights. I'm not just campaigning; my heart is with these kids!

## How will you decide an issue when your personal beliefs conflict with input you have received at board meetings, and by email and social media?

*Marchio:* I will not compromise my values and beliefs due to the input or pressure from others. For example, I will not put our girls' safety, scholarships, and female spaces at risk because a biological male claims to be female. However, leadership is about balancing personal beliefs that will naturally influence decisions, with law and input from stakeholders. Ultimately, I will work to serve all of CCPS and consider all perspectives before casting my vote on any issue.

*Shisler:* My personal beliefs are based on my life's experiences, what I read, and the people with whom I work and interact. I am not a social media user. My job is to listen, and then evaluate, and act based on what I hear, see, and know. Folks can contact me



Paul Harrison

if they have questions or ideas to share. My contact info: mikeshisler@comcast.net and cell: 410-474-4848

*Harrison:* I am running on my beliefs and voters will decide if that is what they want for the BOE.

*White:* As an elected board member, I am tasked with collecting and considering all pertinent data and stakeholder perspectives before rendering decisions, strictly adhering to federal, state, and organizational policies. My duty is to serve students' interests, keeping personal beliefs distinct from decision-making processes.

*Flaim:* In my professional career I research issues extensively, seeking information from a variety of unbiased sources to reach a fair and equitable decision and will bring that experience to the Board of Education. Board members follow federal law and guidelines from the MSDE as well as sending out surveys to educators, students and parents/guardians and receiving feedback through public comments, emails, and social media. Securing a great education for our students requires us to leave behind personal political agendas and work collaboratively to build and support educational opportunities and excellence for all students.

*Goshorn:* When elected, I will collaborate with all stakeholders to find solutions to our complex challenges. I recognize the importance of balancing personal views with Maryland law, community input, and our other board members. To gain a well-rounded perspective, I plan to survey staff, parents, and students directly, rather than relying solely on feedback from organized groups.

## Will the school system be able to afford the state-mandated education reforms? Explain.

*Marchio:* No. The Blueprint, while well intended, is focused around the belief that if you just throw enough money at a problem, it will go away or improve. There are pay rate requirements and position requirements (more administrators instead of more teachers) that may not really be needed in improving our education system in Calvert County. The Blueprint requires funding full



Antoine White

day pre-school, a decrease in teaching time (requiring more teachers), etc., all of which drive up costs to the taxpayers. With funding taken away by the state, the only way to fund this is to increase property tax – unacceptable. Calvert County currently pays \$18,200 per student, Baltimore County pays \$23,200 per student. Does anyone think more money would solve the problems in Baltimore?

*Shisler:* In the USA, we have a pattern of new reform movements every 10 years beginning with the first George Bush and Clinton. In Maryland, it started with MSPP with Glendening. We always start off with great goals and plans. Our national and state reforms wither away because we don't fund them for the long term. Other events take over, like 9/11, and the decades long war on terror. We fall repeatedly into the trap of considering education only as a cost, and not as an investment in our kids, our county, and our nation. So, it's not our school system that has to be able to afford the Blueprint. The better question is: Will our state and county commit to investing in our kids, staff, and communities for the long term? There are over 3,100 counties in the USA. Calvert County ranks 17<sup>th</sup> nationally in terms of wealth. Among MD counties, we rank 2<sup>nd</sup> in terms of wealth. So, what will we do?

*Harrison:* No, most state mandates are unfunded putting additional pressure on local governments. We should push back on these mandates and continually ask the question of where all the Lottery and Gaming revenues are for Education.

*White:* I am confident that we can accommodate the state-mandated education reforms within our budget. Having navigated four budget cycles as a board member, including the most recent challenging cycle, I've seen firsthand the value of collaboration with the superintendent and Calvert county commissioners. By recovering from the \$22.5 million shortfall and working together, I believe Calvert county's elected officials will ensure our system's financial stability.

*Flaim:* The Blueprint for Maryland is an important document for the school system and deserves universal support. Pay should be increased for our staff and Head Start programs are crucial for the foundation of



# 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.

Thu, Oct 17

Surviving Rt. 4: SHOULD You Drive?

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

Learn how to assess your or your loved one’s readiness and safety to navigate the traffic of Rt. 4. Learn some compensation strategies for areas of weakness. Learn how to help someone who’d be better off NOT driving come to that conclusion. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Oct 18

Fall Festival

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church  
9463 HG Trueman Rd, Lusby  
4-6 p.m.

Fun for all ages. Games, food, bounce house, pony rides, cake walk, prizes.

Sat, Oct 19

Lower Marlboro Freedom Day

Lower Marlboro United Methodist Church  
6519 Lower Marlboro Lane, Owings

Lower Marlboro Hall  
3911 Lower Marlboro Road, Owings  
1 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Citizens are invited to celebrate and revel in Calvert County history at a celebration to commemorate freedom of those who escaped slavery with the help of the British during the War of 1812. For more information visit [calvertcounty.gov/Lower-Marlboro-Freedom-Day](http://calvertcounty.gov/Lower-Marlboro-Freedom-Day) or contact Natural Resources Division Chief Karyn Molines at 410-535-5327 or by email at [Karyn.Molines@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:Karyn.Molines@calvertcountymd.gov).Fish

Fish Fry

North Beach Fire Department  
8536 Bayside Rd., Chesapeake Beach  
12-4 until Sold Out

\$20 fish or chicken wings; \$28 combo: fish & chicken wings. With potato salad, green beans, and bread. Sherri Gray, 410-474-5307 or Linda Hall, 202-256-9651

Pop-up Market and Adoption Event

Vintage by the Bay and  
Blue Heron Boutique  
645 Deale Rd., Deale  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Wag-o-ween benefits the Humane Society of Calvert County. Food, fun, crafts, and puppies

Pop-in with Poppie

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

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

Halloween Painting Party

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue  
7940 Flint Hill Rd., Owings  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

Join FHHR and our horses for a spook-tacular painting party! Inspired by our Equine Assisted Learning programs, participants should come prepared to customize a pre-drawn, Halloween-themed canvas. This session also includes meet and greets with our horses, discussions on horse health and nutrition, and how these lessons can be applied to the participants’ well-being. For tickets go to [www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-painting-](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/halloween-painting-)

party-tickets-989268156687?aff=oddttdcreator.

**Fiber Fiends: Knitting and Crocheting**

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons  
2-4 p.m.

If you knit, embroider or crochet, or would like to learn, join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Registration requested. BYOY! (Bring Your Own Yarn!) 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Oct 20

Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

Calvert Marine Museum  
1:30 p.m.

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum’s artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind the emblem from a paddle wheel boat, the tools found in the blacksmith shop, and the Gov. R. M. McLane name board. Hear captivating stories about WWII’s impact on the Solomons community and uncover hidden pictures within the museum murals. It’s a unique opportunity to delve into local history and see these artifacts in a new light. Learn something new every tour. Included with museum admission.

Tue, Oct 22

Book Discussion

Calvert Library (Online)  
8-9 p.m.

Join us this month to discuss “What Storm, What Thunder” by Myriam J.A. Chaney. One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities. Meeting link will be sent to registrants morning of event. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Oct 23

Job Seeker Resources

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>.

Library Art League: Chibi Portraits

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

Join us for an event exploring how to draw portraits in chibi manga style. For artists ages 10-18. Registration required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Homeschool Day in Solomons: Cycles and Stages

Calvert Marine Museum and  
Annemarie Garden  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ideal for grades K-5, but all ages can discover something new. Space is available at both locations to enjoy your lunch. Pick up an interactive Homeschool BINGO card at CMM, complete the tasks at both sites to earn BINGO, and turn it in at AMG for the chance to win a prize! Pre-registration not required. Regular admission applies for both locations. CMM 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. AMG 12 - 3 p.m.

For more information, visit: [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/182/Homeschool](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com/182/Homeschool). Visit [www.annmariegarden.org](http://www.annmariegarden.org) for information about AMG.

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

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



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FINAL PRICE  
**2/\$4**



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Green Giant  
Vegetables

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Oven Roasted Or Buffalo  
Kretschmar  
Chicken Breast

**7.98** Lb.



White Or Yellow  
Kretschmar  
American Cheese

**5.98** Lb.



61-Oz.  
Double Layer  
Carrot Cake

**13.98**



8-Oz., Selected  
Bakery Fresh  
Fudge

**4.98**



19.5-Oz., Selected  
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Cake Rolls

**6.58**



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Baked  
Sweet Potato Pie

**5.48**



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McCormick  
Gin

**7.99**



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**35.99**



1.75L  
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Spiced Rum

**27.99**



1.75L  
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1.75L  
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**37.99**



1.75L  
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**37.99**



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750mL  
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**57.99**



750mL  
Alamos Sleccion  
Malbec

**16.98**



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Savignon Blanc

**39.99**



750mL  
Cupcake Sauvignon  
Blanc

**9.98**



750mL, John & Michelle Jam Cellars  
Butter  
Chardonnay

**17.99**



750mL  
Noble Vines 181  
Merlot

**10.99**



750mL  
Josh Reserve  
Zinfandel

**15.99**



750mL, All Flavors  
Sweetland Cellars  
Wines

**9.99**



750mL., All Flavors  
Bonterra  
Wines

**14.49**



750mL  
Freixenet Asti  
Docg

**13.99**



750mL  
Chateau Souverain  
Pinot Noir

**9.99**



750mL  
Force & Grace  
Cabernet Sauvignon

**24.99**



### Wine of the Month

750mL  
Vint By  
Robert Mondavi

**7.99**





# 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.

## Sat, Oct 19

### Poker at HVRs

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad  
43256 Rescue Ln., Hollywood  
6 p.m.

\$85.00 buy-in for \$20k in chips. Rounds are 20 minutes each. Doors open at 5 pm, tournament starts at 6pm. BYOB, food and sodas will be available for purchase.

See [www.hvrs.org](http://www.hvrs.org) for more info. Chance at 50/50 included in your buy-in. Tables deal their own cards, dealers are not provided. Late Entries permitted until 1st break, approx. 7 pm cut off. No rebuys allowed.

Please note this event is at the rescue squad, not the fire house.

### Concert to Benefit Hurricane Helene Victims

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

Everyone is invited. Event sponsored by Apostolic Church in Jesus Christ

## Sun, Oct 20

### All You Can Eat Breakfast

Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department  
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

\$15 for ages 13 & up; \$8 for ages 4-12; FREE for age 3 and under. Menu: bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, apples, potatoes, waffles, chipped beef, biscuits, made to order omelettes, assorted beverages. Mimosas and Bloody Marys Available for an additional charge

### Leonardtown Wellness Day

Leonardtown  
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Leonardtown Wellness Day organized by Reflexology with Ruth of SaltroomSOMD and with participation of local small businesses.

- 9am Tai Chi Town Square
- 10am Gong bath
- 10am-2pm Seated Chair Massage 15min \$15 Town Square
- 11-2pm Meet DeeKline Wellness @ Botanic Cafe (in the garden) Learn about Biofeedback with a free Food Scan. Enter drawing for gift certificates!
- 12-2pm Visit SoundflowSOMD new Energy Studio. Offering Sound baths

& more. Located above The Arts Council across from Marie & Nash.

- 5-7:30pm Kids yoga & exercise, 7 ft interactive Kaleidoscope, Bubble zone & Sunset Water Lantern Release. (Lanterns will be collected after event by volunteers)

Check posted events schedule for more details!

### Craft & Vendor Fair

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge 495  
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Never too early to start Christmas Shopping. Proceeds will benefit Clements Cuties in memory of Peyton Greer. Free admission. We will be accepting monetary donations at the door. Baskets raffles, food for sale, over 40 vendors & crafters. This event is full for vendors. Please do not contact the Moose Lodge.

### Designer Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville VFD  
28165 Hills Club Rd., Mechanicsville  
12:30 p.m. to 5p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses, raffles, door prizes and more! Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Proceeds will benefit the Southern Maryland Boot Scooters Walk to End Alzheimer's and the Sabres 14U Gold Hockey Team.

### Pitch Tournament

Potomac Gardens  
20254 Colton's Point Rd., Coltons Point  
2 p.m.

Entry fee \$25.00. Benefits the 7th District VFD Auxiliary. 1<sup>st</sup> place \$100; 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$50; 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$25. Prizes donated by Triton Defense.

Scratch off basket and 50/50 raffle tickets \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Snacks and home-made desserts available.

Contact Bobbie at 301-481-1510 for information or to make reservations.

## Mon, Oct 21

### ELKs Texas Holdem Tournament

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

Buy-in: \$35.00. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building. For any question or additional details contact James Dean: 240-577-0828 or [jdeanjunior@gmail.com](mailto:jdeanjunior@gmail.com)



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Steaks \$6.98/lb.

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**15.98** lb.

Fresh  
Cod  
Fillets



**9.99** lb.

1-Lb., Nature's Best  
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Fillets



**4.98**

1-Lb., 26/30-Ct.  
Southern Seas  
EZ Peel  
Raw Shrimp



**5.98**

12-Oz.  
BBQ Bay  
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Hampton Farms  
Peanuts

**.98**

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Large Carving  
Pumpkins

**2/\$12**

## FAMILY FAVORITES



24-Oz., Selected  
Hunt's  
Pasta Sauce

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7.4 To 11.88-Oz., Selected  
Banquet  
Entrees

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12-Oz., Selected  
Spam  
Luncheon Meat

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**3.78**  
DIGITAL COUPON  
**1.00**  
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Pillsbury  
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**2.98**



12 To 17.3-Oz., Selected  
Kellogg's  
Large Size Cereal

**3.98**



48-Oz., Selected  
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10 Ct. K-Cups Or 11 To 12-Oz., Selected  
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LIMIT ONE PER TWO



7 To 13-Oz., Selected  
Tostitos Or  
Ruffles Chips

**2/\$7**

8.5 To 9-Oz. Fritos Can Dips 2/\$5



7.34-Oz., Selected  
Idahoan  
Potatoes

**2/\$6**



28 To 29-Oz., Selected  
Hunt's Canned  
Tomatoes

**2/\$5**



**1 FREE 10.6-Oz. Veetee Microwave Rice (Selected)**

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# In Remembrance

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

## Frank Bowles, 70



Francis Xavier "Frank" Bowles, 70, of Hollywood, MD passed away on September 30, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on December 28, 1953 in Leonardtown, MD to the late Thomas Douglas Bowles and Catherine Merle (Oliver) Bowles. Frank is a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, where he was raised on the family farm that he resided his entire life. He attended St. John Francis Regis Catholic School in Hollywood and a 1973 graduate of Chopticon High School, studying Masonry at the Tech Center. Growing up he helped his family to raise and harvest many crops including: tobacco, soybeans, wheat, rye, barley and corn. He worked many dedicated years as a skilled brick layer up until October 2006 when he lost his arm in a freak farm accident. He quickly adapted and never slowed down. His deep rooted love of the farm was evident as he continued to maintain and harvest it, adding cows, chickens, ducks, and Tom, the pet turkey.

He enjoyed spending time at Sotterley helping to care for the cattle on Tranquility Farm and helping his friends within the Amish community wherever needed. He was handy and could just about fix or rig anything that was broken.

On July 22, 1999 he married his soul mate, Bonnie Kay Bowles in Leonardtown, MD. Together they celebrated over 25 wonderful years of marriage. Frank was an excellent dancer, and he and Bonnie enjoyed the local dances. They also enjoyed trips to Dixie Caverns in Virginia, the Natural Bridge, Skyline Drive, antiquing and yard sales. However, his greatest pride and joy was his grandchildren. He loved to watch them play on the farm. He and Bonnie decorated every year for Halloween, and put on an amazing Halloween spooktacular for them and family friend's children. The farm was filled with decorations galore. It included a flashlight walk on a spooky trail through the woods, a pumpkin hunt, loads of candy, potato sack races and a hay ride, which Frank drove the tractor so he could enjoy children's excited laughter and joy.

He also liked to share his love of the farm with his grandson Leighlend. He taught him many things, from taking care of the land, love of animals, how to work on and main-

tain things, and most importantly a strong work ethic. Frank always had a can-do attitude and was a great role model for his children and grandchildren. He could be stubborn and hard headed but underneath his tough exterior he was a kind and gentle soul with a heart of gold.

In addition to his loving wife, Bonnie, Frank is also survived by his daughters, Stacey Bowles Teichman (Robbie) and Anna Leigh Behm (Wayne) both of Hollywood, MD; his step-children: Kevin Bryant (Wendy) of Columbia, SC, Kimberly Wursta (Scott) of Panama City Beach, FL, and Kelly McMaster (Kenny) of Lusby, MD; and his bonus daughter, Aggie. Also surviving him are his siblings: Doris Lawrence of Mechanicsville, MD, Douglas Bowles (Mary) of Hollywood, MD, Cathy A. Hohnson of Chaptico, MD; Eleanor Alvey of Hollywood, MD; Phyllis Hall (Joe) of Chaptico, MD; and Wallace Bowles (Donna) of Hollywood, MD. Frank is also survived by his favorite rays of sunshine, his grandchildren: Sebastian Behm (Emily), Bryleigh Teichman, Leighlend Behm, Stiles Behm, Caitlin Wursta, Christopher Haile, Tyler Haile, Kayla Bryant, Kevin Bryant, Jr., Logan McMaster, Declan McMaster, and Owen McMaster; and his great grandchildren: Catania Haile and Christopher Haile, Jr; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

All services will be private.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

- [www.medstarhealth.org/locations/hospice-of-st-marys](http://www.medstarhealth.org/locations/hospice-of-st-marys)

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

Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Betty Thomas, 73



Elizabeth Lee Thomas, "Betty", of Loveville, MD, passed away peacefully on October 8, 2024 on her family farm in Loveville, MD. Born on November 12, 1950,

in Leonardtown, MD, she was the daughter of the late Mary Rita Owens and the late John Edgar Joy, Sr. Betty was the loving wife of Carlyle George Thomas II, whom she married on September 6, 1969, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her son, Lawrence "Bryan" Thomas, Sr. of Loveville, MD, her siblings Ruth Coombs of Loveville, MD and John Edgar Joy, Jr. of Arizona, her daughter-in-law, Patricia "Trisha" Thomas, her grandchildren Derrick Thomas, Lawrence "Bryan" Thomas, Jr., Kayla Thomas, and Faith Thomas, and her great grandchildren, Waylen, Addison, Dayton, and Landon.

Betty was a lifelong St. Mary's County, MD resident and graduated from Chopticon High School in 1968. She was a front desk receptionist at a dental office for 48 years, retiring in 2016. Betty was active in the community as a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Morganza, MD and the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, serving as Chaplain for the last four years, as well as serving as an election judge for 52 years. Betty worked as an auctioneer clerk for many years; during this time, she worked for Rodney Thompson, Chesapeake Auction House, and Ronnie Farrell. Most of all, Betty loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren and cherished the time they spent together.

The family received friends on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD, where a funeral service immediately followed with Father David Beaubien officiating. Interment was private.

Contributions may be made to the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 50, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650.

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.

## Elizabeth Bieber, 98



Elizabeth Denham Bieber, 98, of Drayden, St Mary's County, MD passed away at home on October 6, 2024. On May 26, 1945, she married her late beloved husband,

Victor Emanuel Bieber, Jr. Together they celebrated over 69 wonderful years of marriage. Elizabeth spent her married life as a wife and mother. She enjoyed being a member of the PTA in Somerset, Chevy Chase, Maryland and was a member of the Montgomery County Player's Theater. She moved to Drayden, Maryland in 1985 and enjoyed reading, boating and traveling. She was an active member of the Daughter's of the American Revolution, Major William Thomas Chapter.

She is survived by her children; Meredith Dunnigan (John); Elizabeth Wade (Dennis); and Deborah Lewis (Richard); four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

She will join Victor at Parklawn Cemetery, 12800 Veirs Mills Road, Rockville, MD.

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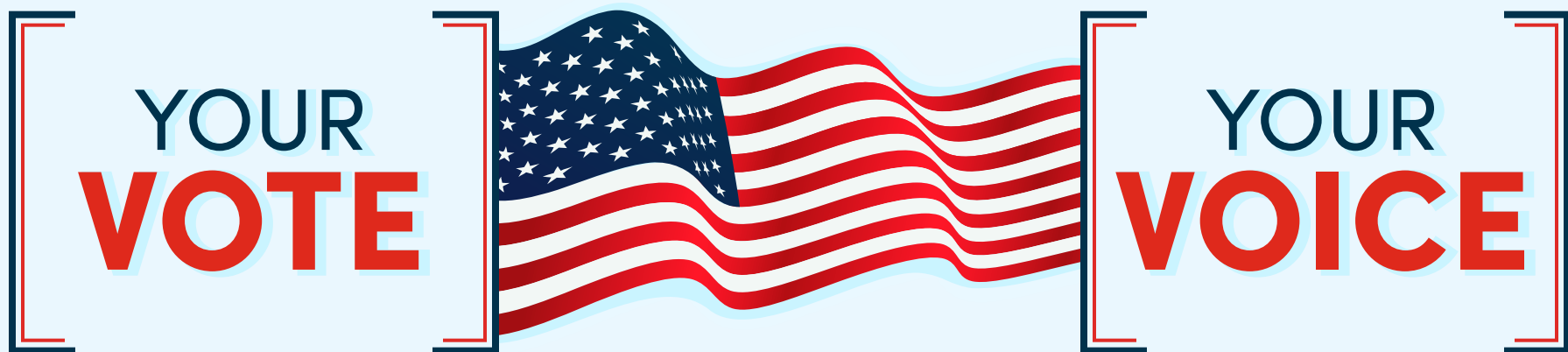


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Elena Brewer



David Drys



Mary Washington

sional development and collaborative planning is an important part of that effort.

*Brewer:* The critical factor in academic achievement is for students to be grade-level proficient in reading and writing upon completion of the 3rd grade. Otherwise, their learning ability is impaired. I would support whatever is required to achieve this goal of literacy.

*Drys:* My plan includes focusing on individualized instruction, improving teacher support, and targeting areas where students traditionally struggle with early intervention strategies.

*Washington:* I support regularly monitoring student progress or lack of progress as it is essential to remediate shortfalls. The first thing is to disaggregate the data to find areas of strength and areas in need of improvement for the individual student. Then, to develop a plan of success for each student. Setting high expectations, giving students a sense of connection where they can thrive, taking care of students' mental, physical, and social-emotional health are some of the keys to achieving student success. Active and positive parental support, highly-qualified educators, and the resources available to do effective teaching and learning are essential to the success of students.

#### **What will you do to ensure or increase discipline and a structured learning environment in classrooms?**

*Edelen:* I will hold the superintendent of schools and staff responsible for ensuring that the board's policies and regulations governing student conduct and discipline are faithfully enforced.

*Guy:* Last year, Spring Ridge Middle School faced 500 suspensions, primarily due to fighting. This high number creates an environment where both students and teachers struggle to thrive. To address this, I strongly support implementing alternative education programs for students who repeatedly endanger the safety of their peers and staff. Additionally, it's crucial that when teachers, parents, or students report bullying, harassment, or threats, the administration conducts thorough investigations and responds swiftly to these concerns.

*Allen:* Our code of conduct makes clear what behaviors are expected and the consequences of not following it. With continued infractions by a student the consequences grow. Because we cannot share with other parents what consequences a student receives (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or FERPA) it can be frustrating for parents who want to ensure that discipline has been delivered. Determining why a student is acting out, addressing the root cause if possible, and providing alternatives takes time and appropriate staff. It is an ongoing challenge.

*Brewer:* School discipline is the personal responsibility of every student in SMCPS, and students should be held accountable for their actions on school property. Parents/guardians should be involved and held accountable for the student's behavior during the disciplinary process. Discipline in school is a family matter and parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their child's behavior in school.

*Drys:* I will push for clear, consistent discipline policies that hold students account-

able while also addressing underlying issues with appropriate support for teachers and administrators.

*Washington:* The BOE has policies on students discipline which promote a safe and healthy teaching and learning environment. To continue to follow those policies in a timely, equitable, fair, and consistent manner is mandatory to orderly and safe schools. Having the following personnel are key: parents, safety and security officers, resource officers, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, pupil personnel workers, principals, assistant principals, and community partners.

#### **How will you implement cost savings in the annual operating budget?**

*Edelen:* I have proposed to the board that the superintendent of schools be directed to draft a budget based on the expectation of "maintenance of effort" funding from the state and county and provide an addendum of prioritized spending contingent upon additional funding. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the superintendent to identify cost savings.

*Guy:* When considering budget cuts and savings, it's essential to focus on efficiency. While many candidates highlight administrative expenses, they represent only 1.7% of a \$328 million budget. We should also examine plant operational and maintenance costs, which have surged by 45% over the past five years. The school board should prioritize replacing aging HVAC systems with new energy-efficient systems and closely scrutinize maintenance contracts to prevent cost overruns. Additionally, this

past year, SMCPS partnered with a private primary care provider to offer teachers and staff direct medical appointments, reducing emergency medical expenses. I propose expanding this initiative to further lower medical costs, ultimately allowing us to allocate resources more effectively.

*Allen:* Nearly 90% of our budget covers personnel. Ever growing mandates from the state make it difficult to adjust staffing. The superintendent is reviewing workload and staffing to determine where additional adjustments can be made. He will bring those forward as personnel retire or leave for other reasons. Staff are also reviewing various options to decrease costs of benefits without decreasing coverage. The Everside health clinic employees can access is a perfect example of offering better service at no cost to employees while decreasing the cost to the system.

*Brewer:* The board should provide the school administration with budgetary guidance at the beginning of the process. For example, directing a proposed budget based on no additional funds (maintenance of effort) from either the state or the county; or a budget predicated on how much the county could increase its funding without the need of raising taxes. It is the duty of the administration, not the board, to find reductions in spending.

*Drys:* I will implement cost savings by closely scrutinizing contracts and administrative costs, focusing spending on classroom resources, and exploring community partnerships to fund necessary programs.

*Washington:* It is prescribed in law that the superintendent will submit a budget to the BOE that meets the needs of the school system. Firstly, there is a focus on fixed charges, salaries, negotiated agreements, recurring costs, and unfunded mandates. The emphasis is on programs, people, and progress. The budget is a process that takes months and oftentimes years to develop. It is an on-going process of carefully weighing the needs of the school system with limited resources and ensuring sustainability. I look at each page of the budget looking for areas of possible efficiencies and areas of possible inefficiencies. Re-evaluating the zero-based budget for effectiveness and efficiencies and making recommendations as necessary. Cost savings include energy efficiencies and sustainability. Careful budgeting requires looking at the budget for efficiencies in each category and department.



# ST. MARY'S COUNTY VOTER'S GUIDE 2024

## Board of Education Candidates on Top Issues

**What is your top priority should you win a seat in this election?**

**Brandie Edelen (At Large):** Academics. I want our students to be proficient in core subjects (Reading, Writing, Math, History, and Science). The MD Report Card revealed to us that this is not the case. We can do better than this. We need ambitious goals, not mediocre ones. I will work with the other Board members to explore solutions to reduce distractions and disturbances in the classrooms and supply teachers with the resources necessary to ensure the best possible education for the students of this county. Additionally, I will advocate for Financial Literacy class, as a requirement for graduation.



Brandie Edelen

**Josh Guy (At Large):** My foremost priority is ensuring the safety and security of our schools. Every parent desires a safe environment for their child, and every student and teacher deserves a secure space to learn and grow. I advocate for enhancing our school entrances, expanding our security teams, and collaborating with our sheriff's office to strengthen the school resource officer program. Additionally, to reduce the number of assaults in our schools, I support implementing alternative education programs for students who consistently pose a threat to the safety of their peers and staff.



Josh Guy

and stakeholders to foster a world-class education system. Working together as a cohesive and focused team will bring about increased student achievement; recruiting, hiring, and retention of a highly qualified workforce; safety and security for students, staff, and administration; effective and efficient uses of resources; putting forth a budget which is realistic and sustainable; promoting open and honest communications, and managing unpredictable situations and circumstances. Most importantly is to prepare students who can succeed in college, career, and life-long learning.

**What will you do to increase parental engagement/parental trust in the county school system?**

**Edelen:** I intend to propose a policy that specifies the "rights" of parents in their interactions with the school system. At present, by policy, parents are only permitted "involvement."

**Cathy Allen (District 2):** My top priority will continue to be working to make changes to the Blueprint law in areas that need to be addressed. We need to push out dates for some requirements and adjust other areas. Full day preK for 3 year olds and mandating the amount of time teachers are in front of students (to a 60/40 split) without evidence that this will improve instruction should be revisited. The Blueprint has much to offer but also has a lot to reconsider.

**Elena Brewer (District 2):** I am running for the Board of Education because I would like to review the curriculum and establish age-appropriate educational materials for K-12 and eliminate any materials that sexualize children and are not appropriate for minors.

**David Drys (District 4):** My top priority is restoring transparency and accountability to the school board by ensuring decisions are made in the best interest of students and parents, not bureaucratic stagnation.

**Mary Washington (District 4):** My top priority is to continue working collaboratively, honestly, and openly with the board of education members, superintendent of schools, St. Mary's County commissioners, citizens,

**Guy:** Parents are their child's first and most influential teachers, and it's crucial that our school system collaborates with and values their input. I propose the creation of a parental portal on the SMCPS website to streamline access to vital information, including volunteer opportunities, PTO/PTA updates, information on parental opt-outs, and curriculum details. Furthermore, the board should prioritize hosting feedback meetings with our county's PTOs and PTAs, ensuring that parents have a direct line of communication with their school board.

**Allen:** The system uses many forms of communication for parents and students. Determining which are most useful and are

most likely to be accessed would help focus our efforts. Encouraging re-establishment of the County Council of PTAs would provide opportunities to share information with a central group of parents who then take that information back to their schools would help. I'm in the community talking with parents at many events. Parents, by and large, are happy with our schools and the education their children are receiving. Continuing to include parents on system-wide committees supports trust and engagement.

**Brewer:** I will support the adoption of a policy that specifies the participatory rights of parents in the education of their children. Parental involvement is a right not a privilege.

**Drys:** I will increase parental engagement by advocating for open communication channels and ensuring parents have a meaningful voice in policy decisions, forums, and curriculum transparency.

**Washington:** Parental engagement and trust are paramount to a smooth-operating school system and ultimately result in student achievement, safety and well-being, and engagement. I support continuing open, honest, and timely communication with parents from schools, the superintendent, and BOE. Parents are encouraged to talk with their principal first with concerns and questions. Parents may contact the BOE at boe@smcps and they will get a call or written response. Public comment is held at each BOE meeting. There are many school and system committees where volunteers are needed. A welcoming school environment where parents feel they matter and they are valued is essential. Conscious Discipline and other parent-involved programs are



Cathy Allen

offered free of charge to parents often with food, childcare, and materials. PTA and PTO input is appreciated.

**What is your plan to boost student achievement and performance on standardized tests?**

**Edelen:** Concentrate on achieving grade-level proficiency in reading, writing, and math by completion of the 3rd grade.

**Guy:** To truly enhance student achievement and proficiency, we must prioritize early intervention. Research shows that if a child struggles with reading or writing by the third grade, they are likely to face significant challenges throughout their time in school. I am committed to increasing the number of paraeducators in our classrooms to provide essential one-on-one support tailored to each child's needs. Additionally, we should explore innovative ways to utilize existing and future classroom space to reduce class sizes, ensuring that every student receives the personalized attention they deserve. By investing in these strategies, we can empower our students to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

**Allen:** Maryland will soon be contracting for a new series of standardized tests to be developed. The State Superintendent has put together a committee of educators and others working on assessment and accountability. Until we know what the outcome of that effort SMCPS will continue to provide instruction supporting the state curriculum. Our teachers work together using data metrics to review how students are performing and where interventions are needed. Ensuring teachers have the time for profes-



# A View From The BLEACHERS THAT THING



By Ronald N. Guy  
Contributing Writer

One day last week marked the fifth anniversary of unforgettable October magic. The exact date doesn't matter. The memory certainly does. It was the deciding Game 5 of the National League Division Series. The Nationals and Dodgers were tied 3-3 going into the top of the tenth inning. Adam Eaton led off with a walk. Anthony Rendon doubled off the wall in left. Juan Soto was intentionally walked. Veteran utility/do-everything player Howie Kendrick stepped to the plate. He fouled off the first pitch. The next pitch was a fastball. Kendrick barreled it. The camera switch to Dodgers centerfielder Cody Bellinger who was running back to the wall. Just short of the warning track, he slowed, acknowledging the inevitable. Kendrick's blast landed beyond the fence - a grand slam that sent the Nats to the National League Championship Series and, ultimately, the 2019 World Series championship.

Where were you? I was standing in front of my television, pacing the floor and nervously flipping a football from one hand to another. When Kendrick's ball sailed over the fence I jumped, whipped my right arm in jubilation, and the football I held in my hand scraped against the ceiling. It left a six-inch mark that is still there today. It will never be cleaned or painted over. Never. "Kendrick Patina": It's a treasured artifact of that World Series championship.

In 1998, Lauryn Hill released her epic album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." Track 5 is a lovely little number called Doo Wop (That Thing) - the parenthetical being the catch. Like the album itself, "That Thing" was both for its time and ahead of its time. And I'm about to do it a disservice with a sports-related message reallocation. "That Thing" is about toxic masculinity and its impact on female self-worth, a condition-critical topic that took another two damaging decades before it commanded serious social attention. For this piece, just the "That Thing" chorus will be used to illustrate a point. Shallow, I know. Hence the advanced apology and acknowledgement of the song's far greater intended purpose.

October: The best month on the sports calendar. College football's best are jockeying for post-season position. NFL teams are rounding into shape and gearing up for a second half push. Hockey is starting. The NBA is about to tip off. The World Series and WNBA titles are up for grabs. It is a time for the hopeful. The seekers. The determined dreamers. October: It begs for the spinning of Hill's record and random the humming of "That Thing."

From a sports perspective, "That Thing" is the nebulous, intangible force teams seek. No proven formula to either acquire or retain it exists. As a fan, it's a presence or absence you can sense. I suspect it's the same for athletes and teams. If a team has it and can hold it, they are practically unbeatable. Fail to grasp it, though, and practically no amount of talent can overcome the lack of mystical magic.

The Nats had "That Thing" in 2019. Crazy, explanation-defying, stuff happened after an ominous 19-32 start to the season. Baby Sharks took over Nats Park. Soto arrived as an MVP-level force. Stephen Strasburg remained healthy. Balls took funny hops in the outfield. Veterans played out of their minds. Youth was served. A dugout aligned. The energy grew into a raging winning fever. Champagne celebrations. Trophies. Parades. Forever memories and beautiful scuff marks on ceilings.

Keep an eye out for it - "That Thing" - when watching teams navigate their seasons, and especially in the playoffs. It is one of the best lessons from sports: a group of individuals, with specific jobs and skillsets, unifying behind a common goal, catching a mysterious wave of momentum and riding it to places where only dreams once resided.

Another key to success in sports and life is situational awareness. To the heavy-hearted Orioles fans and readers, take some solace in this piece and the 2019 Nats. "That Thing" is as elusive as it is powerful; the Nats' many pre-2019 playoff disasters are proof. But the penance now will make it all the sweeter when October magic visits Baltimore.

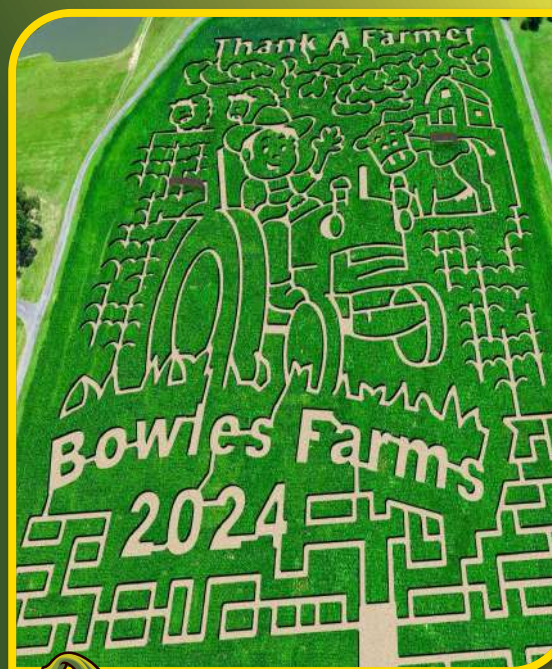
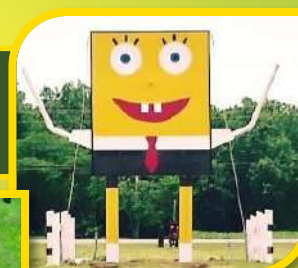
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Sunday, October 20: **Southern Knights Rod & Custom Car show** from 10am to 2pm.

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## 'He listens to parents'

I'm a proud parent of several SMCPs students. I believe Josh Guy is the best choice for the Board of Education At-Large race.

Josh is focusing on issues that matter to all parents. Number one on that list is safety & security. Time and time again our children have reported on incidents of violence, weapons being brought into school, and constant disruptions in the classroom. Unlike other candidates in the race for school board, Josh doesn't just talk about this problem, he proposes solutions. He proposes alternative education programs for students that repeatedly instigate violent assaults inside our schools and he supports emergency training exercises between our security teams and the sheriff's office.

Special education is important to me. Josh has taken time to talk with special education parents like myself to grasp some of the struggles us parents are facing. He's sincere when he proposes more special education paraprofessionals, ensuring IEPs are specific with clear goals, and focusing on individualized services.

I believe every parent wants their child to be safe in school and every child with a disability should have access to the resources they need to succeed. Josh Guy is an excellent choice for St. Mary's County Board of Education At-Large and he's earned my vote.

Melissa Wesley  
Mechanicsville, MD

## 'Vote for a new beginning'

We all want the best for students, teachers, parents, but as tax payers we deserve more Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability. School Board candidates don't get as much attention as other candidates for political office, but they should. 44% of your County real estate taxes goes to the Public School System; and, our County Commissioners, as a group, don't have the courage to challenge requests for more, more, more money from the tax payers. The Public School System is a government bureaucracy with excesses, overlaps, and waste. How many assistants, deputies, and special administrators are really necessary? Catholic Parochial, Christian, and private schools produce much more with much less. These schools don't have top heavy administration, and they must be efficient in order to survive. Those that can afford to are moving to those schools. Many are otherwise moving to home schooling. Our Public School enrollment is down, which should logically translate into less demands for money and resources. All incumbents and candidates for School Board have students and teachers as the priority, that is a given, but we must have Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability. The present Board shows no evidence that Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability are a priority. We need a new beginning! Take a look at Brandie Edelen, highly qualified candidate at large as compared to her opponent, 22 year old Josh Guy

who lacks experience and qualifications. She was a special education teacher with 6 public school educated children, has a degree in Psychology and masters in Human Services. She teaches at the Community College. And, Brandie runs a small business so she knows about efficient budgeting to remain solvent. Her mission statement focuses on students, teachers, safety, parental rights, and Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability which is now lacking. Also look at Elena Brewer for a new beginning, another Fiscal Conservative, highly qualified, highly educated candidate with children in public school, who promotes the basics in Education, not Indoctrination of our children with woke policies which is part of the problem. Look at David Drys, also a highly qualified candidate, with children in public school, who has high level experience in Budgeting and Strategic Planning which is necessary to re-balance resources due to declining enrollment. He also supports term limits for Board of Education positions, a great idea. 12 years is enough, like our County Commissioners can only serve 3 terms. Ms Allen and Ms Washington have been there long enough with mediocre results. Vote for a new beginning with Fiscal Responsibility and Accountability. Vote for Brandie Edelen, Elena Brewer, and David Drys, a great team!

Joe Wible, Sr  
Leonardtown

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For qualifications visit: [www.smcm.edu/hr/careers](http://www.smcm.edu/hr/careers). Application materials should include a cover letter, résumé, and three references and submitted online at: [apply.interfolio.com/142773](http://apply.interfolio.com/142773). Questions may be directed to Brad Newkirk at [bdnewkirk@smcm.edu](mailto:bdnewkirk@smcm.edu).

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11:00 a.m. 'til



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# Letters to the Editor

## 'Set an example and just be kind'

As a friend of Brandie Edelen, I have listened to her frustrations for the past couple of years regarding the direction of education in St. Mary's County. So, when Matt Morgan suggested she run for school board, I was as thrilled as her family to support her. We couldn't have known the amount of backstabbing and lies that would come with running for such a small seat. It is not in my nature to sling mud back at opponents or destroy yard signs or attempt to destroy someone's character so I would like to address some of the lies by just stating the facts.

Brandie wants children to get an education at school. She wants that education to occur in a safe, comfortable environment conducive to learning. She wants to make sure that children have access to appropriate accommodations to facilitate that education. How does Brandie see that happening?

The reality for high school and middle schools are that most children won't use the bathrooms because they have become a haven for drug users and fights. Physical and verbal violence in the halls and classrooms do not result in weighty discipline and security is stretched too thin. This leads to an unsafe environment or, at the very least, a stressful environment which is not conducive to learning. Brandie is for increased school security. She is 100% for removing physical threats from the classroom, for disciplining bully's who threaten or make a classmate feel unsafe.

As a college educator, Brandie Edelen is aware of the lack of common, necessary knowledge children have once they leave high school. Poor grammar, inability understand paragraphs, how to create a bibliography, or write a resume. The most appalling is that children are starting college with no concept of what an interest rate is or how it effects

a loan. Brandie believes that children need to focus on school required curriculum and wants to see financial and life literacy brought back to the schools (Home Economics).

Brandie is for transparency in the classroom by collaborating with school administrators on using today's technology to keep parents better informed of requirements, school incidents, and events. NEVER has Brandie expressed an interest in changing state law which gives parents the right to opt out from instruction. Brandie believes that every parent should understand the curriculum so they can make an educated decision that includes speaking with their children. My own child can tell you that Brandie values student's opinions, their thought process, what classes are enjoyable, which classes are painful and the why.

Lastly, Brandie Edelen supports the teachers of St. Mary's County. She worked in St. Mary's and Charles County public schools and is aware of the need teachers have for more classroom support, materials, and administrative back up. She understands that teachers are not only the foundation for a child's learning, but they are also coach, cheerleader, detective, and safe haven. Brandie wants educators to feel supported by their school board which starts with teachers first, then administration.

It seems that as election day gets closer, the vitriol becomes worse, but I can tell Brandie's supporters it only makes her more diligent to her campaign. Whatever you choose to do with this information, please be respectful and save it for the election booth. Let's set an example for our kids and our community and just be kind.

Roxann Mejia  
Mechanicsville, MD

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR SAINT MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND CASE NO: C-18-FM-24-000303

Karen Atkintade  
26160 Yowaiski Mill Rd  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
**Plaintiff**

vs.

Devonte Brown  
1043 Catesby Terrace  
Hyattsville, MD 20785  
**Defendant**

## NOTICE – Alternate Service (Md. Rules 2-121, 2-122)

Karen Atkintade, the above named plaintiff, has filed a complaint titled Complaint for Custody asking the court to grant custody of a minor child. The Circuit Court for St. Mary's County may grant that relief unless Devonte Brown, above named defendant, can show a reason why the court should not grant the relief. Devonte Brown must file a response to the complaint on or before December 18, 2024.

If Devonte Brown fails to respond within the time allowed, the court may enter a judgment by default or grant the relief sought, as long as a copy of this Notice is:

- posted by the sheriff at the courthouse door or on a bulletin board within its immediate vicinity on or before November 13, 2024
- published in a newspaper in this county at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks on or before November 13, 2024.

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



# State Police Make Arrest in St. Mary's Death Investigation

Maryland State Police homicide investigators arrested a 50-year-old woman in connection with the death of Demeatrum Scarborough in St. Mary's County.

The accused is identified as Simone Stewart, 50, of Lexington Park, Maryland. She is charged with second degree murder, first degree assault, homicide by motor vehicle, and driving under the influence. Stewart is currently at the St. Mary's Detention Center awaiting an appearance before the court commissioner.



Simone Stewart

The victim is identified as Demeatrum Scarborough, 53, of Lexington Park, Maryland. Scarborough was pronounced deceased yesterday by hospital personnel at Medstar Washington Hospital.

Police believe Stewart and Scarborough were involved in an ongoing relationship. Further investigation indicates they were involved in an alleged altercation at the time the incident occurred. Based on additional information received, evidence collected, and consultation with the St. Mary's County State's Attorney, Stewart was charged with the murder of Demeatrum Scarborough.

Shortly before 1:00 pm on Monday, October 7, 2024, troopers from the Leonardtown Barrack responded to Spring Valley Drive and Valley Court in Lexington Park for the report of a pedestrian struck by a Chevrolet Suburban. Upon arrival, troopers located the pedestrian, later identified as Scarborough, with apparent injuries. He was subsequently flown by Maryland State Police Aviation Command to MedStar Washington Hospital.

The preliminary investigation indicates Stewart was the driver of a Chevrolet Suburban at the time of the incident. Investigators from the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit are leading the investigation.

Assistance with the investigation is being provided by troopers from the Leonardtown Barrack, regional investigators from the Maryland State Police Criminal Enforcement Division Central South, crime scene technicians from the Forensic Sciences Division, and the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office.

Anyone with information relevant to this investigation is urged to contact homicide investigators at the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack at 301-475-8955. All calls may remain confidential. The investigation is active and ongoing.

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By Committee to Elect, Mary Washington,

Eddie Washington, Treasurer

# Self-Proclaimed "Zoophile" Sentenced to Prison

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced today that Sean Patrick Kraese, 24, of Piney Point, Maryland, was sentenced to the maximum penalty of seven years in prison after his conviction for animal cruelty and obscene material charges related to performing sexual acts on his pet dog.

"The Defendant was convicted of distribution of obscene material, possession of obscene material with intent to distribute, and two counts of aggravated animal cruelty following a bench trial. I want to thank the countless members of law enforcement officers including the responding animal control officers, sheriff's deputies and detectives, crime lab technicians, and prosecutors who worked tirelessly together on this investigation to ensure the successful prosecution for these unimaginable crimes," said State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling.

Sgt. Keith Moritz of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Sarah



Sean Patrick Kraese

Proctor and Assistant State's Attorney Zachary Varda prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

The Honorable Joseph M. Stanalonis presided over the case.

Edward Jones

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Coffee Club

You're invited to join us at the next meeting of our Coffee Club.

Join us for a casual discussion of current events, the economy and investing. We look forward to seeing you!

When

Friday, November 1st  
9am

Where

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We hope you will join us. Feel free to bring friends and family.



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Financial Advisor  
41680 Miss Bessie Dr Suite 302  
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# Deadly Shooting Leads to Police Chase

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The victim of a shooting the morning of Oct. 16 in Lexington was later pronounced dead at MedStar St. Mary's Hospital while her alleged killer led law officers on a chase to Hughesville in Charles County where he shot himself, St. Mary's Sheriff's Office spokesperson ALisa Casas said.

The female victim was 25-year-old Alaysia Janell Milburn.

A seven-month-old infant was also transported from the scene for precautionary measures, the sheriff's office reported.

Sheriff Steve Hall said: "We mourn the loss of this young mother, and we hold her family in prayer.

"Today's tragic set of circumstances brings light to the need to continue efforts on all fronts to prevent violence in domestic relationships. We are grateful no one else was injured during the vehicle pursuit. The professionalism displayed by officers of the tri-county and the teamwork between our three counties was on full display, and the work was exemplary."

Witnesses at the scene told deputies a male suspect fled in a red Hyundai Kona. Deputies located the vehicle traveling north on Route

5 at high speeds and initiated a lawful pursuit, the St. Mary's sheriff's office reported. As the car entered Charles County, deputies from the Charles and Calvert County Sheriff's Offices and the Maryland State Police responded and joined the pursuit.

While traveling near the 15000 block of Prince Frederick Road in Hughesville, a Calvert County Deputy made contact with the suspect's vehicle, rendering it inoperable.

The suspect briefly exited, then reentered his vehicle and fired a single shot, the St. Mary's Sheriff's Office reported.

When deputies reached the car, they found the suspect with a self-inflicted gunshot wound and immediately rendered aid until emergency medical services arrived and transported the suspect to a nearby trauma center; he was later pronounced deceased just before 1 p.m.

The suspect's identity is being withheld by the sheriff's office pending notification of next of kin.

The Calvert County deputy was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The initial fatal shooting occurred at about 10:54 a.m. in the 46000 block of Rosewood Drive.

## Housing Authority Draft 2025 Annual Plan

The Housing Authority of St. Mary's County announce a crucial meeting to discuss the sing Authority of Public Housing Authority Annual Plan and Five-Year Plan. The meeting will take place on Friday, October 18, 2024 at 9 a.m. at HASMC's office, located at 21155 Lexwood Drive, Suite C, Lexington Park, MD 20653 Your participation and insights are vital in shaping our strategic direction for the upcoming year.

We encourage all community members, residents, and stakeholders to attend. Your insights are vital as we work together to enhance housing opportunities for all.

A draft of the 2025 Annual Plan and Five-Year Plan is available to the public at HASMC's office or by calling (301) 880-7074 ext. 1400.

We encourage you to provide written comments and suggestions related to the draft Annual Plan or Five-Year Plan or the housing and community development needs of the local area. Please ensure that your written feedback is submitted by the deadline of Friday, October 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. to HASMC, Attention: Tomica Scriber, 21155 Lexwood Drive, Suite C, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653 or by email to [tscriber@stmaryshousing.org](mailto:tscriber@stmaryshousing.org).

Citizens with mobility, vision, or hearing impairments should contact HASMC at 301-880-7074, ext. 1400 or the Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-735-2258 (V/TTY) so that arrangements can be made to meet any special needs.

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# U.S. Oyster Shucking Competition Comes to Leonardtown

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Dozens of the nation's best oyster shuckers will descend on Leonardtown this weekend to take part in the U.S. Oyster Festival's annual shucking competition to determine who will be named the best in the country.

The national champion, crowned after two days of competition, will come from amongst the best male and female shuckers who each win their respective gender categories.

The national champion will then move on to the world shucking competition in Galway, Ireland which takes place in September of the following year.

This year's oyster festival marks the 58<sup>th</sup> year of the event here in St. Mary's at the county fairgrounds starting Oct. 19 through Oct. 20.

The event is sponsored each year by the Lexington Park Rotary Club, which in turn takes its share of the proceeds and donates it to local charities and service organizations such as St. Mary's Hospice local rescue squads and fire departments, the Three Oaks Shelter, Christmas in April and scholarships for high school students seeking to go to college.

But the festival is about celebrating all things relating to oysters, including the U.S. National Oyster Cook-Off where chefs from around the region and the country will com-



pete to see who has the best recipes.

Oysters will also be available for sale to eat on site, either raw or cooked.

Oysters available during the two-day festival include those grown locally and throughout Maryland in aquaculture farms such as the Double T Oyster Ranch in Tall Timbers, Johnson Bay Oyster Company

in Berlin, Madhouse Oysters from Fishing Creek, Nomini Bay Oyster Ranch, Nomini Bay Oysters from Montross, Virginia, Shore Thing Shellfish LLC of Tall Timbers and Madison Bay Seafood of Madison, Maryland.

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## 2024 Maryland Public Schools Report Card

### St. Mary's County Public Schools

- **29.1% proficient in Math**
- **54.9% proficient in Reading / English**

*Brandie*  
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**Board of Education**

By Authority of Friends of Brandie Edelen; Luis Mejia, Treasurer



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<https://www.voteforbrandieedelen.com/>



# School Board Approves Boundary Shift

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education made a decision last week that will send some children who attend Mechanicsville Elementary School to Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School.

School system staff recommended that bus routes that service Lockes Forest Road and Critter Run Lane homes be redistricted to Lettie Marshall Dent elementary at the Oct. 9 board meeting in Leonardtown and the school board unanimously agreed to make the transition.

Currently, Lockes Hill Road is split between the Lettie Marshall Dent and Mechanicsville elementary school districts. Critter Run Lane and Lockes Forest Road, located on the westbound portion of Lockes Hill Road were districted to Mechanicsville Elementary School, while the eastbound portion of Lockes Hill Road is districted to Lettie Marshall Dent Elementary School, school board documents explained.

The boundary change was not discussed during the public meeting, rather it was approved along with the consent agenda in the early stages of the meeting, which started at 6 p.m.

School Board member Cathy Allen said the boundary shift affected a maximum of three children.

"It just got overlooked and some point,"



School Board member Cathy Allen

Allen told The County Times. "The new routes make a lot more sense done this way. "It's very minimal; it's a correction of what should've happened previously."

Boundary line changes have, in the past, been a deeply contentious issue when it involves sending large numbers of students to a new school, Allen acknowledged, and is not taken lightly by the school board.

"If there is a boundary changes of any significant difference those are always discussed in open session," Allen said. "And they are usually discussed over several meetings. We don't do something like that willy nilly."

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

# Vandalism Hits Town Scarecrow Contest

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

There are approximately 80 scarecrows created by local businesses as part of a contest to see which is nominated to be the best around Leonardtown this year, but some have already become the subject of vandalism, Town Administrator Laschelle McKay reported at the Oct. 15 meeting of the Leonardtown Town Council.

"We've received so many positive comments from visitors as well as business owners regarding this event," McKay said. "Unfortunately, we did have some vandalism over the weekend."

McKay has already informed local law enforcement, she said, but the town is looking into possibly increasing surveillance of the downtown in hopes of stopping any further vandals.

"We do have cameras in the square," McKay said. "We have a nice [camera] system in the alley now."

"We have money in the budget for a couple more downtown and new cameras at the wharf and the Port of Leonardtown Winery."

McKay called the incidents of vandalism "unfortunate."

"Because the kids are loving this, the parents are loving this," McKay said. "There's been a lot of participation."

Council member Heather Earhart encouraged town residents to vote for their



One of more than 80 town scarecrows

favorite scarecrows not matter the vandalism done to some of them.

"Don't forget to vote for the scarecrows, even the ones that got damaged," Earhart said. "I was just really impressed with the scarecrows and how creative everybody is with them."

She called the level of participation "awesome."

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

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**4-5:30p** Live Music w/ Bethany Yeh

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# Delegate Calls Out Ballot Mistake

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Del. Matt Morgan (R-Dist. 29A) took to social media last week and warned of mistakes on sample ballots mailed out to St. Mary's residents, some with the wrong address for their polling places.

In one instance, Morgan stated in a post on his Facebook page, two sample ballots mailed to the same house in Mechanicsville had different addresses for polling places.

One address was for the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department on Hills Club Road while the other said it was also for the Mechanicsville firehouse but the address was listed as Hermanville Road in Mechanicsville.

Hermanville Road is in the southern portion of St. Mary's closer to Lexington Park.

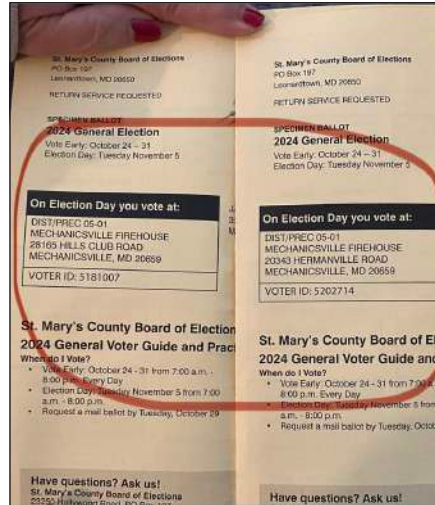
The second erroneous address is that of Park Hall Elementary School in Park Hall.

Morgan posted that he had initially received complaints from constituents in the 7<sup>th</sup> District and that the local Board of Elections was aware of the error and would be sending out corrected sample ballots.

Another constituent of Morgan's posted on his page that her polling place was listed as Chopticon High School but that it was on Three Notch Road, in Morganza.

Chopticon High School is in Morganza but is on Coltons Point Road; the erroneous address is that of Spring Ridge Middle School.

Wendy Adkins, director of the St. Mary's County Board of Elections, told The County Times that the mishap was a printer error in which addresses were mismatched only, but other information on sample ballots was



An example of an erroneous sample ballot shared by Del. Matt Morgan on Facebook

accurate, such as the precinct number.

"They are going to send out a corrected sample ballot to everyone who was affected," Adkins said of the approximately 6,900 erroneous sample ballots mailed out.

The elections board knows exactly which addresses received erroneous sample ballots, Adkins said, and the deliveries were scheduled to go out Oct. 15.

Morgan said the error should have been caught earlier and that it caused "needless confusion."

"That was a pretty big mistake," Morgan said. "That's something like 10 percent of the registered voters in St. Mary's County."

"It doesn't leave you with a lot of confidence in the Board of Elections."

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

# Firefighters Want All New Emergency Radios Sooner

By Guy Leonard  
Staff Writer

Several failures of portable radios by local firefighters have their leadership calling on the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to speed up their replacement and ensure that all firefighters are issued one.

The county's Emergency Services Board and County Fire Board Association have both thrown their support behind the request.

The volunteer fire service noted last year that they needed to have a radio available for every firefighter riding on an apparatus to ensure that any firefighter operating on a fireground or in a hazardous situation would have their own radio communications, according to emergency services documents.

A February structure fire resulted in a firefighter making a mayday call, emergency services documents showed, but radio coverage problems prevented that firefighter in distress from transmitting calls for help.

The fire service has considered using

repeaters — a combination of a radio receiver and a radio transmitter that receives a signal and retransmits it — but this solution will not work without new radios, fire service officials have said.

"Currently, it's a phased plan to purchase the radios over multiple years," said John Nelson, president of the St. Mary's Fire Board Association and chief of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Volunteer Fire Department at the Oct. 9 meeting of the emergency services board. "When we get the radios we'll have a mix of old and new... the old portables are not able to support the repeaters or the cell service items."

"So, it's simple things that the old radios just can't do."

The request of the fire service is to merge the multiyear plan into a much shorter plan and use any available funds from either ARPA funding or savings from other projects that effect emergency services projects.

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

RE-ELECT

# Cathy Allen

- Active, well-informed Board member
- Proven leadership and experience bringing our county's voice to Annapolis
- Former critical care nurse
- Effective, tireless advocate for our students, schools, and community



St. Mary's County Board of Education, District 2

**"I NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE WORKING ON BEHALF OF OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY."**

Find me on Facebook: @CathyAllen2016

By authority Cathy Allen, Candidate; Bradford J. Allen, Treasurer

*6th Annual*

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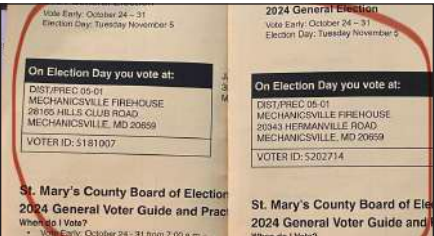


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“IT’S VERY MINIMAL; IT’S A CORRECTION OF WHAT SHOULD’VE HAPPENED PREVIOUSLY.”

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CATHY ALLEN ON A BUS ROUTE CHANGE IN MECHANICSVILLE



**LOCAL** 5  
Nearly 7,000 erroneous sample ballots mailed



**LOCAL** 5  
Oyster festival coming this weekend



**ON THE COVER** 9  
Donations from Southern Maryland pour in for hurricane victims

WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, OCT 17</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 60° Lo: 42°	<b>FRI, OCT 18</b>  Sunny Hi: 67° Lo: 45°	<b>SAT, OCT 19</b>  Sunny Hi: 69° Lo: 44°	<b>SUN, OCT 20</b>  Sunny Hi: 72° Lo: 46°
<b>MON, OCT 21</b>  Sunny Hi: 74° Lo: 49°	<b>TUE, OCT 22</b>  Sunny Hi: 75° Lo: 52°	<b>WED, OCT 23</b>  Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 54°	<b>THU, OCT 24</b>  Sunny Hi: 74° Lo: 53°

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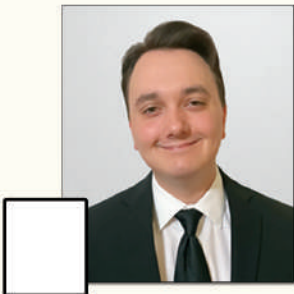


# WHICH CANDIDATE IS BEST FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY SCHOOLS?

Compare their experience and decide.

Brandie Edelen

Josh Guy



Age: 52

Age: 22

PARENT		
CURRENT EDUCATOR		
ADVANCED DEGREES: BACHELOR'S/MASTER'S		
BUSINESS OWNER		
SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFIED		
ENDORSEMENTS	1776 PROJECT 	 Teacher's Union (not teachers)

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

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## ST. MARY'S HELPS HURRICANE VICTIMS