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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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Mail-In Votes Do Not Change Results

Judicial Review Sought on Apartment Project

Town Council Seat Still Undecided



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“THE CALVERT COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE TAKES RACIAL AND HATE- RELATED INCIDENTS SERIOUSLY.”

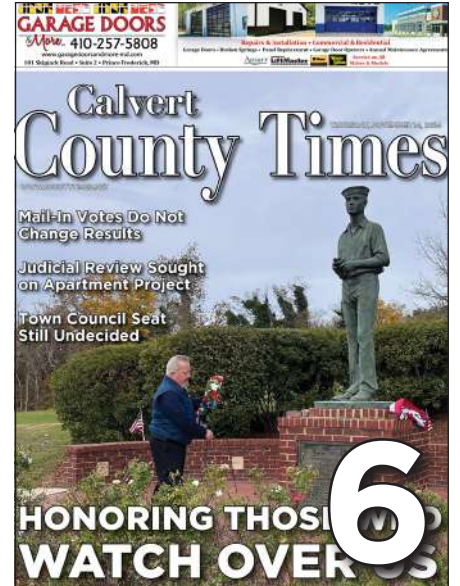
COMMENT ON HALLOWEEN DECORATION



LOCAL 4
Mail-in ballots don't change election outcome



LOCAL 5
Residents go to court over Lusby Villas



ON THE COVER
Calvert honors its veterans

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 14	FRI, NOV 15	SAT, NOV 16	SUN, NOV 17
PM Showers Hi: 55° Lo: 46°	AM Showers Hi: 56° Lo: 44°	Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 41°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 45°
MON, NOV 18	TUE, NOV 19	WED, NOV 20	THU, NOV 21
Mostly Cloudy Hi: 66° Lo: 46°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 50°	Showers Hi: 63° Lo: 48°	Showers Hi: 60° Lo: 46°

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No Change After Mail-Ins Counted in Calvert

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Although the three losing Calvert County Board of Education candidates significantly outpaced the winning GOP-endorsed ticket in mail-in voting, the difference was not nearly enough to overcome the final outcome.

Candidates Mike Shisler, Antoine White and Jeanette Flaim received more than 2,000 more mail-in votes than their challengers, they lost by from 2,200 votes to more than 7,000 votes.

The closest race was between Shisler and Joseph Marchio. The retired educator received 47.1 percent or 21,035 votes to Marchio's 23,339 votes or 52.3 percent.

The top vote-getter was Melissa Goshorn in the 3rd District with 26,299 votes or 57.62 percent compared to Flaim's 41.97 percent or 19,158 votes.

In the 2nd District, incumbent Antoine

White, the current board president, received 43.12 percent or 19,637 votes compared to Pail Harrison's 25,740 votes or 56.52 percent.

None of the vote totals above include the counting of the relatively small number of provisional ballots. Those were expected to be tallied on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Excluding the provisional ballots, a total of 51,768 votes were cast in the presidential race, which represents 74.6 percent of the total 69,367 registered voters in the county. That is higher than the 72 percent four years ago.

Of registered voters, Democrats make up 33.8 percent, Republicans 46.9 and Unaffiliated or Others, 19.4 percent.

President-elect Donald Trump received 54.62 percent of the Calvert vote. Democrat Vice President Kamala Harris did outpace Trump in mail-in votes by more than 2-1.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Sixth Chesapeake Beach Council Seat Still Undecided



Anthony Greene



Daniel Duvall



Stephen Sharp

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's down to the wire for the final seat on the Chesapeake Beach Town Council. With all but 26 potential provisional ballots counted, Anthony Greene leads Daniel Duvall by four votes. Duvall gained a vote after absentee ballots were counted.

According to Chesapeake Beach Election Board Chairman Randy Getman, as of Wednesday, Nov. 13 there still were 27 provisional ballots left to be counted. Of those, 17 have been certified by the county as being valid. The other nine were still being investigated. Provisional ballots include people showing up on election day and asking to be registered.

Getman said the votes would be counted as soon as they were certified by the county, although he said those already having been certified may be tallied as early as Thursday, Nov. 14.

The election board still considers Stephen Sharp to be in the running for the sixth slot, since he is only behind by 17 votes.

The vote totals after the absentee ballots were counted were:

- Anthony Greene — 797

- Daniel Duvall — 793
- Stephen Sharp — 779

The five candidates declared winners, in order of vote magnitude, were Laura Blackwelder, Jamey Shuls, Kathleen Berault, Jonathan Evans and Eric Reinhardt.

After the absentee votes were counted, in the mayoral race Bruce Wahl led Valerie Beaudin by 162 votes, or 1,021 to 859. Wahl is a former mayor and councilman who decided not to seek re-election eight years ago. Beaudin had been on the council for 20 years.

The ballot also included two questions. On Question 1, "Do you support the State of Maryland permitting expanded gaming (i.e. additional electronic bingo machines, casino slots, table gaming) to venue(s) in the Town of Chesapeake Beach?" after absentee ballots were counted, 1,455 voted No and 428 voted Yes.

On Question 2, "Do you support the Town of Chesapeake Beach to continue to limit attendance at Bayfront Park to Town residents and their guests, the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department, and the Twin Beaches Deputies?" 1,498 voted Yes and 284 voted No.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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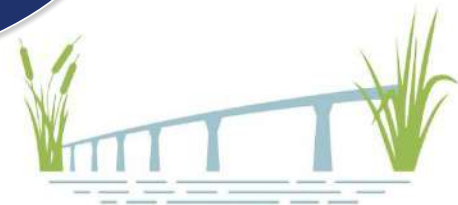
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NEWLY REMODELED

Citizen's Group Seeks Judicial Ruling on Lusby Villas

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The newly formed citizen's group in Lusby is seeking judicial review of the approval by the Calvert County Planning Commission of the 276-unit Lusby Villas apartment project.

The petition by Sean McGuire, Megan and Kyle Farringer, Terry Singer, and Chris Lee, officers of Save Lusby, Inc., was filed in Calvert County Circuit Court. It seeks to overcome the planning commission's Aug. 21 approval of the project on land owned by the Gott family.

The petition was signed by the attorneys for the group, C. Macy Nelson and Alex Votaw, with a law firm that specializes in zoning cases. They represented Calvert Citizens United in their failed lawsuit against the county to overturn the adoption of the county's comprehensive plan.

The attorneys had requested information from the county on the approval. Save Lusby, Inc. Secretary Megan Fareinger told the County Times on Nov. 12, "As of this morning I believe we got all the requested information that our attorney is going to begin preparing the official motion for."

The group has been holding meetings to inform the Lusby area of what they are doing. The most recent was at the Southern Community Center last week. They are also soliciting money to fund their suit.



Save Lusby bracelets are available for a one-dollar contribution to their legal fund.

A position paper from Save Lusby Inc. explains their opposition:

1. Calvert County is the smallest county in MD and 6th in the US.
2. The US Pentagon is 35 acres, the current proposition of the Lusby Villas is a disturbance area of 31 acres of land in Lusby.
3. The proposed Lusby Villas is on land owned by a singular family since 1965, with a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) executed in 2005 by Planning Commission members with questionable authority.

- a. Only the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has authority to execute a MOU, not the Planning Commission.
- b. MOU outlines areas for a Village Green and Shopping Center, not a 276-unit apartment complex.
- c. The proposal has aged 20 years with

no approvals or changes, with a rush now to approve and build it. No additional changes in the plan include comp plans, environmental impact, updated traffic patterns regulations, zoning ordinances, and sewer/water designations.

4. There are Back Room Meeting Minutes, by and between Calvert County developers and builders that exceed 100 pages and were cited in the Calvert Citizens United lawsuit.

5. Forest Retention Area for the Lusby Villas is located on the landowner's property in Prince Frederick. This means any trees destroyed on the property in Lusby, the owner can plant trees to fulfill the Forest Conservation Act can be done in an entirely different town 17 miles away.

"Lusby residents were informed on August 21, 2024, that there were 30 days to file an appeal to the project. Community members acted quickly to organize and create Save Lusby, Inc and retained Towson Lawyer, G. Macy Nelson to serve a Petition for Judicial Review on September 18, 2024. With the petition in place, the Villas are paused while the parties prepare their legal arguments," the organization says.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Calvert Celebrates Veterans Day



NAS Pax River XO Capt. Mark Zematis and the base honor guard attend Veterans Day ceremonies at the On Watch memorial in Solomons on Nov. 11. Also in attendance was Rodney Jones, deputy director of Charlotte Hall Veteran Home, laying the wreath.

Routine Maintenance Scheduled for Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge



The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will perform maintenance work on the MD 4 Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge at the Calvert and St. Mary's County line on Thursday night, Nov. 14. Work will begin at 9 p.m. and the two travel lanes are expected to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning, weather permitting.

State Highway Administration crews will be on-site installing navigational lighting on the bridge. One of the two lanes will be closed while work is underway. A flagging operation will safely guide drivers through the work zone. Portable variable message

signs will be in place along area state routes to alert drivers of the upcoming work.

Drivers are asked to slow down in the work zone for the safety of all drivers and for the crews working to improve our roadways. Customers may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603 for additional information.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, visit Project Portal or the homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to md511.maryland.gov.

Press Release from MDOT



Hurry... It's The Final Day's Of Our Amazing Moving Sale!

The Furniture Gallery Of Prince Frederick located at 559 Solomons Island Rd N. Prince Frederick, MD lost our current lease and must **Immediately Eliminate up to \$1,000,000 worth of Brand Name Furniture direct to the public**, on a first come basis, to help us prepare for our move to our new location down the street, in the Prince Frederick Center, near Dream Weavers's. **The Final Days...** **this Thursday/Friday/Saturday 10am-7pm, and Sunday 12 Noon-5pm.** Financing and delivery are available.



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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of October 28, 2024 – November 3, 2024, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,792 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 68
- Disorderly: 17
- Domestic: 28
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 48
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 809
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 25
- Traffic Complaints: 65
- 911 Hang Ups: 61
- ARRESTS: 29



Clifford Eugene Strickland, Sr.

CDS Violation: 24-83516 On October 29, 2024, Deputy Morrison initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for erratic speeds, swerving, and braking in the area of

Old Town Road in Huntingtown. Upon making contact with the driver, **Clifford Eugene Strickland, Sr.**, 61 of Woodbridge, VA, a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage was emitting from his breath and person. Further investigation revealed Strickland was driving under the influence of alcohol and unable to safely operate a vehicle. A vehicle search subsequent to arrest revealed 3 pills (suspected methadone). Strickland was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with DWI, Negligent Driving, Reckless Driving, and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.

CDS Violation: 24-84530 On October 2, 2024, DFC Grierson responded to a report of a vehicle off the roadway near the intersection of Route 4 and Monticello Lane in Lusby. Witnesses had stopped to assist but found the occupants unresponsive. Upon



Terry Jefferey Harris, Jr.

arrival, deputies attempted to make contact with the individuals, who appeared disoriented and did not respond to commands. An investigation determined that both occupants were under the influence of PCP. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered drug-related items, including a cut straw with white powdery residue, a folded \$1 bill, and a plastic tear-off with a similar residue, suspected to be cocaine or heroin. Additionally, a Newport cigarette pack was found containing a "dipper" cigarette laced with PCP. **Terry Jefferey Harris, Jr.**, 35 of Lexington Park, was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia. The driver was evaluated by EMS personnel, and additional charges are pending.

Damaged Property: 24-83706 On October 30, 2024, Deputy Hill responded to the 300 block of Fairgrounds Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised the wreath on her front door had been damaged. The estimated value of damaged property is \$25.



John Frederick Marshall, Jr.

bomb threat. Contact was made with **John**

arrival, deputies attempted to make contact with the individuals, who appeared disoriented and did not respond to commands. An investigation determined that both occupants were under the influence

of PCP. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered drug-related items, including a cut straw with white powdery residue, a folded \$1 bill, and a plastic tear-off with a similar residue, suspected to be cocaine or heroin. Additionally, a Newport cigarette pack was found containing a "dipper" cigarette laced with PCP. **Terry Jefferey Harris, Jr.**, 35 of Lexington Park, was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia. The driver was evaluated by EMS personnel, and additional charges are pending.

Disorderly Conduct: 24-84645 On November 3rd, 2024, Deputy Brown responded to the Calvert County Sheriff's District Three Office, located at 11780 HG Trueman Road in Lusby, for a reported

Frederick Marshall, Jr., 41 of Lusby, who was agitated, irate, and was shouting profanities, causing a disturbance to the public peace. Marshall was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Disorderly Conduct.

Property Destruction: 24-84375 On November 2, 2024, Deputy Deinert responded to the 500 block of Sonoma Lane in Prince Frederick, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) kicked in the victim's garage door on Halloween night. A shoe imprint and a dent was observed on the door. The estimated value of damaged property is \$500.

Theft: 24-83079 On October 28, 2024, Deputy Stuart responded to the 3000 block of Stephanies Lane in Huntingtown for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his Maryland registration plate was stolen from a boat trailer while parked at the Solomons Island boat ramp on Oct. 27. The estimated value of stolen property is \$200.

Theft: 24-83738 On October 30, 2024, Deputy MacWilliams responded to the 9100 block of N. Woodland Way in Owings, for the report of a theft. The complainant advised his rear Maryland registration plate was stolen from his trailer. The estimated value of stolen property is \$200.

Theft: 24-84449 On November 2, 2024, DFC Alely responded to Hallowing Point Park located at 4755 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick, for the report of a theft from a vehicle. The complainant advised an unknown suspect smashed her passenger side window and stole a purse from inside. The purse contained \$300 in cash and two debit cards. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.

Theft: 24-84459 On November 2, 2024,

DFC Crum responded to a theft from vehicle at Hallowing Point Park, located at 4755 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick. The complainant reported that an unknown suspect had smashed the victim's windshield and rear passenger window, stealing a purse containing \$200 in cash and two credit cards. The estimated total damage to the vehicle is \$1,000, with an additional \$245 in stolen property.



Miracle Favour Momnoughi

made with **Miracle Favour Momnoughi**, 18, of Largo, who had previously been issued a trespass warning by Maryland State Police earlier in the day. Momnoughi was informed that the active trespassing order was still in effect and that further violations would result in arrest. Momnoughi was subsequently transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with Trespassing: Private Property.

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

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

Halloween Decoration Causes Scare

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office on the morning of Nov. 8 responded to a report of a suspicious event in a residential neighborhood in Dunkirk. Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) were assigned to the case. Upon arrival, it was reported that a human-shaped object had been seen hanging from a tree in the front yard of a residence. Concerned citizens initially believed the object to be a racially motivated statement, causing alarm in the community.

Detectives made contact with the homeowner where the object was located. The homeowner advised that his family had decorated for Halloween and that the object in question was part of a larger display put up in the spirit of the holiday. Prior to law enforcement arriving on the scene, when a family member realized the negative perception of the object hanging from the tree,

they promptly removed it and placed it on the ground.

Other neighbors not directly involved in the incident confirmed that they had seen the object in various locations around the yard for the past two weeks.

The homeowner requested to speak with the concerned neighbors, apologized for the misunderstanding, and extended an open invitation to his home if they wished to discuss the incident further.

Through the investigation and consultation with the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, this case was closed and determined to be an unfortunate misunderstanding resulting from a Halloween decoration.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office takes racial and hate-related incidents seriously and will continue to work toward keeping Calvert County a safe community for all residents.

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In Remembrance

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

Sarah Denton Ayotte-Halloran, 74



Sarah L. Denton Ayotte-Halloran (74) of Margate, FL; formerly of Branford, CT passed away on May 28, 2024 after an intense battle with an extremely rare

sarcoma. Sarah was born September 8, 1949, daughter of the late Jean Poffenbarger and C. Wilburn Denton of Broomes Island, MD.

Sarah was born in Moline, IL but spent most of her childhood on Broomes Island and was a Calvert Senior High School Class of 1967 graduate. Sarah married Kenneth Ayotte of Waterbury, CT where they raised their five children. She was a devoted mother, coaching Little League teams, Scouting and assisting with leadership of their other youth activities. Sarah was employed as a letter carrier for many years before serving as a top-notch waitress, hostess and assistant manager at LaLuna Restaurant in Branford, CT.

Sarah later married Edward Halloran and they made their home in Margate, FL. Sarah and Ed traveled extensively. Ireland had a special place in both their hearts. Sarah continued her travels after Ed's passing (December 31, 2015) often hosting friends traveling to Ireland as well as solo tour trips to Italy and Austria's Christmas Market. Sarah's love for sports and athletics never ended. She swam almost every day,

captained her bocce team and other activities in Coral Cay and could always be found at the American Legion Post 157 Auxiliary BINGO. Sarah was never one to sit idle. After COVID her friend needed some additional help at her restaurant in Lauderdale By The Sea. Sarah jumped in and worked the night cashier shift until she was forced to leave due to her condition. Sarah met her match when she adopted Quincy, a "last chance" rescue dog. Her devotion to him revealed her hidden loving spirit. Sarah's leadership, loyalty and commitment to family, friends, and organizations will be greatly missed.

Sarah was preceded in death by her parents, Jean and Willie Denton, her brother, S. Michael Denton and her husband Ed Halloran. She is survived by her Aunt Benita Poffenbarger Grooms; sister, Becky Grover (Melvin) and brother, Dickie Denton (Betsey); her five children, Heidi Ayotte (Scott Seraphin), Peter Ayotte and wife Kelley, Matthew Ayotte, Jennifer Ayotte (Dwayne Usher), Patrick Ayotte; and Kevin Halloran (Pam). Additionally, Sarah is survived by 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Sarah's family and friends are invited Saturday, November 16th between Noon and 2:00 p.m. for a time of Celebration of Life and sharing memories at the Broomes Island School, School Road, Broomes Island, MD 20615.

Donations can be made, in Sarah's memory, to St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 500 NW 21st Avenue, Pompano Beach FL 33069.

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Letters to the Editor

'Winners not whiners'

It's mind-blowing UNBELIVABLE that the BOCC, County Attorney and the Planning Commission refused to ask probing, intelligent questions regarding the proposed 20-year-grandfathered GOTT 276-unit federally funded apartments known as Lusby Villas. In order to visualize the magnitude of the 276 Units, the Pentagon sits on 35 acres; Lusby Villas will encompass 31 Acres tragically impacting the Ranch Club, Mill Pond, Mill Creek, and our fragile Chesapeake Bay.

Let me share the absurd and snide comments laughingly made by Gott, Jr., and some county staffers' notion that "Lusby and Ranch Club citizens will whine, complain yet do absolutely nothing about the (276) apartments" that guarantees detrimental impact upon taxpayers and their children's quality of life.

WRONG: 180 plus citizens rallied around one another at the first public notice meeting in May 2024 regarding the undisclosed deal. Lusby Villas "legally came to life in January 2005" pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding. The 20-year MOU is legally challengeable and appears to have altered dates!! This according to "knowledgeable parties."

Gott, Jr., some elected and appointed "Powers That Be" confide, "1st District citizens won't pony up just \$20 dollars for legal fees to G. Macy Nelson in order to win." Gott's uppity opinion is "Ranch Club owners/renters are too lazy to stand up and FIGHT." 1st District is too gutless to get involved they arrogantly proclaim. "Even Solomons won't help them, Lusby is on their own." Gott states the citizens will say, "We can't stop the Gotts, they are too powerful." Solomons doesn't believe this could ever happen to them. They may want to reexamine; the Glasscock family has removed its property from Rural/Farm Exemption status! 1st District has SEWER!

WRONG: 1st District immediately put

together an incredible six-member Board of Directors confirmed by the State of Maryland establishing Save Lusby, Inc. The board hired one of the top three attorneys in Maryland and successfully renegotiated the hourly rate for the benefit of neighbors' wallets. (Factually, if only one-third of Chesapeake Ranch Estates contributed just \$20, the legal fees could be paid in full). More importantly, send the explicit message to all the backroom participants, 1st District are winners not whiners! See you in court.

Lastly, Calvert Citizens United, Inc. is well familiar with all the backroom maneuvers because we fought the last Board of County Commissioners and argued before Maryland's seven-member Supreme Court against the BOCC and

Commissioner Kelly McConkey and his Code of Ethics violation. With the financial support of Republicans and Democrats standing together to fight for Calvert: the smallest, most fragile county in Maryland, with neighbors supporting neighbors in all three districts, we won and changed the law signed by the governor. It's time to finish the job CCU started and stand up to the self-serving old-boy's club. Calvert Citizens United supports all the full-time efforts of Save Lusby, Inc. as they slug it out against the most questionable 20-year grandfathering document which may have been altered. My personal understanding is planning and zoning is state regulation driven and this MOU is highly questionable and immensely suspect.

To protect the 1st District, donate at your comfort level: Save Lusby, Inc.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/protect-lusbys-charm-stop-overdevelopment> or Save Lusby, Inc. PO Box 102, Lusby, MD 20657.

Myra Gowans

Founder, Calvert Citizens United, Inc.

'Moving from Charm City'

I wanted to tell you of my experience moving from Charm City to my trailer on Rousby Hall Road in Calvert County. The first week I got a speeding ticket on Route 4. The next week I got another speeding ticket for going 51 miles an hour on the Connector Road. I do not know why they call it the Connector Road because it does not connect to anything except two circles. In Baltimore they never give speeding tickets. I brought my dogs and received a visit from the Animal Control that advised me about something called a Leash Law. Whoever heard of such a silly law. In Baltimore everyone has a Pit Bull for protection and that was my thought after hearing about the dope heads in Chesapeake

Ranch. I have applied for several jobs but have either not heard back or they required a drug test, and I will not do that. Cars speed up and down Rousby Hall Road and no one seems to care. I find it difficult to walk for fear of being hit or run over by a bicycle. The area is pretty but the price of t-shirts is too high. SMILE is great for a visit every week for free food and comic books. I see your paper covers St. Mary's county and I may be open to moving there. In any event when I open my day care business, I will be using your free paper to advertise.

Brenda Schaffer
Lusby

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Nov 14

Small Business Boost

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for an expert panel of small business resource specialists to hear about certifications, updates and free or low-cost resources to help your small business thrive. Network with fellow entrepreneurs and resource providers, enjoy refreshments and discover tools to grow your business. Co-sponsored by Calvert County Minority Business Alliance. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Nov 15

Beaver Full Moon Hike

Gatewood Preserve
2800 Grays Road, Prince Frederick
4-5:30 p.m.
\$5

Walk in tune with nature's rhythms this month's as we hike around the Gatewood Preserve. The Beaver Moon provides an opportunity to slow down and reflect on the intricacies of the natural world while we take inspiration from the industrious spirit of the beaver and use our time wisely.

Campfire on the Beach

Town Beach, North Beach
9023 Bay Avenue
5:30-7 p.m.

Warm up by the fire, roast marshmallows and enjoy hot cocoa! 301-855-6681

Children's Theatre of Southern Maryland Presents: Sweeney Todd

Calvert Middle School
655 Chesapeake Blvd., Prince Frederick
7 p.m.

Step into the dark, thrilling world of Fleet Street this fall as the Children's Theatre of

Southern Maryland presents Sweeney Todd: School Edition. This special adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's iconic musical tells the chilling tale of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, in a way that's crafted for young performers and audiences.

Sat, Nov 16

Royal Tea Party

Career and Technology Academy (CTA)
330 Dorsey Road, Prince Frederick
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
\$45

Join us for a day of magic! Be pampered at our fairy tale salon, receive a crown, enjoy snacks and crafts, and a professional photo with our princesses. Must purchase ticket for appointment time - ticket link here at: <https://gofan.co/event/1968124?schoolId=MD100323>

Autumn Painting Party

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
7940 N Flint Hill Rd., Owings
1:30-3:30 p.m.
\$28.52

Come get cozy and paint some horses during our Autumn Painting Party! Join FHHR and our horses for a cozy 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.

Railway Museum Sweet Treat Express

Northeast Community Center
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave.,
Chesapeake Beach
2-3:30 p.m.

Bring your family and come build some sweet train engines out of candy and treats with us! No reservations required. Drop-ins welcome. Free and open to the public. Meet

at the Northeast Community Center in the Exercise Room (upstairs).

Christmas Bazaar Vendor Show

Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department, 13150 HG Trueman Road; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Enjoy great shopping for all of your holiday gifts and decorations!

Knitting and Crocheting

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

Get together with other fiber crafters to learn or develop your skills. Work on projects in progress or start something new! Registration requested. BYOY! (Bring Your Own Yarn!) 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Rock, Rescue and Roll

Calvert Elks # 2620
1015 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
6-10 p.m.

A tribute to rescue dogs and those who love them. Benefiting the Humane Society of Calvert County. Food, Fun, Music and Dancing, cash bar, 50/50 raffle, live and silent auctions and more...tickets \$65 to purchase tickets go to humanesocietyof-calvertcounty.org

Sun, Nov 17

Fossil Club Meeting & Free Public Lecture

Calvert Marine Museum
2:30 p.m.

The CMM Fossil Club meeting is at 1:30 p.m., followed by a free public lecture at 2:30 p.m. in the Harms Gallery. Dr. Robert "Bob" Hazen will speak on: "A 'Missing' Natural Law of Evolution: Minerals, Fossils, and the Second Arrow of Time."

Holiday Craft Fair

Huntingtown High School
4125 N Solomons Island Rd., Huntingtown
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Join us for a festive day of holiday shopping with over 75 unique vendors! Enjoy food trucks, sweet treats and fun activities for the whole family. Meet Santa and The Grinch, and let the kids get creative at our craft station. Don't miss out on basket raffles and more!

Mon, Nov 18

Book Discussion

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

Join us this month to discuss James: A Novel by Percival Everett. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Nov 20

Dictionary of Lost Words

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

Explore how words shape history and personal identity through Esme's journey amid the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tween Book Club

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

The Maze of Bones (39 Clues Bk 1) by Rick Riordan. Tweens ages 9-12, join us for a fun book club! We will play a game, discuss the book, do an activity and choose a prize! 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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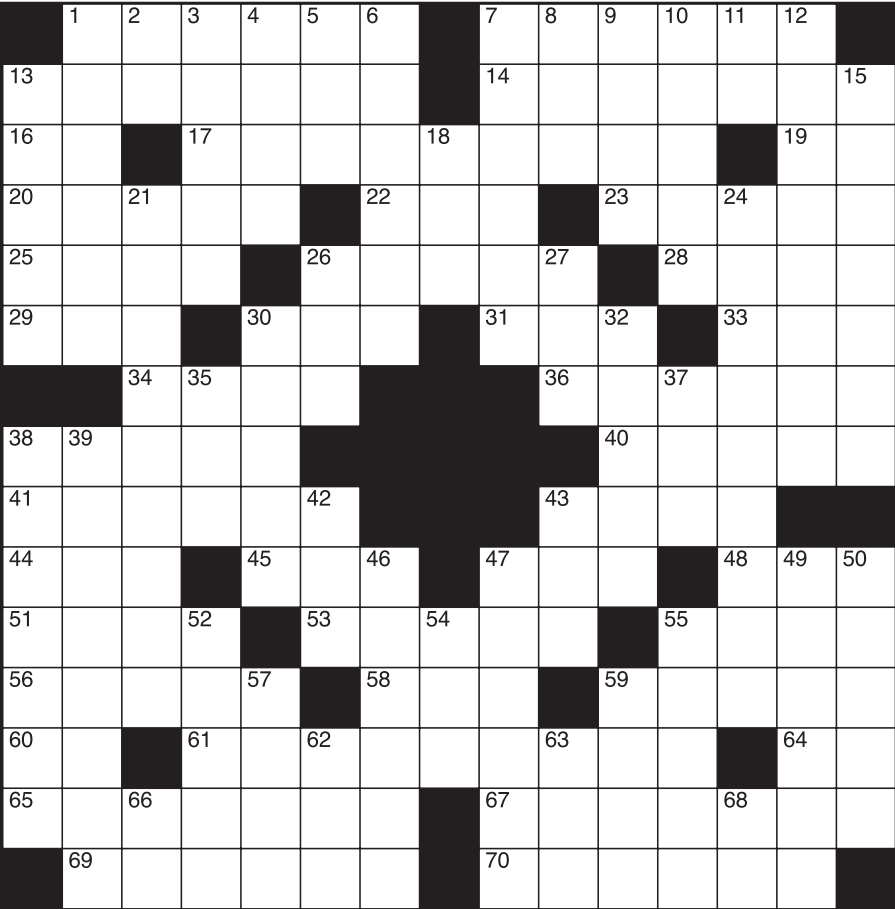
The County Times is a weekly newspaper providing news and information for the residents of St. Mary's and Calvert County. The County Times will be available on newsstands every Thursday. The paper is published by Southern Maryland Publishing Company, which is responsible for the form, content, and policies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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



- CLUES ACROSS
- CLUES DOWN
1. Schoolhouse tool

7. Martens

13. Slags

14. One who scrapes

16. Centiliter

17. White wine

19. Of I

20. Former Syracuse great Warrick

22. Relating to the ear

23. Sandwich shops

25. Victories

26. White (French)

28. Self-immolation by fire ritual

29. Genus of parrots

30. Unhappy

31. Talk incessantly

33. Type of Squad

34. Unit of perceived loudness

36. Violent seizure of property

38. Agave

40. Sound units

41. Removes from record

43. Partner to Mama

44. Mythological bird

45. Dash

47. Hair product

48. Two-year-old sheep

51. Signs a deal

53. Conifer

55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia

56. Wife of Muhammed

58. British Air Aces

59. Ears or ear-like appendages

60. Not caps

61. Deep-bodied sea dweller

64. Rural delivery

65. Feeling

67. Study of relations of organisms to one another

69. Room to argue

70. Question
1. Cream puff

2. Road open

3. Stressed syllable

4. Thailand's former name

5. Cologne

6. Recounted

7. Garment of cloth

8. Airborne (abbr.)

9. Reproduced

10. Emits coherent radiation

11. "Westworld" actor Harris

12. Smallest interval in Western music

13. Unstressed central vowel

15. Lives in

18. When you expect to get somewhere

21. Storage bags

24. One who covers with plastic

26. Cast out

27. Automobile

30. Repaired shoe

32. Belonging to the bottom layer

35. Possesses

37. Soda

38. Programs

39. In an unexpected way

42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal

43. For each

46. Unbelief

47. Seized or impaled

49. Arrive on the scene

50. Especially happy

52. Classic western film

54. Split pulses

55. Frida __: Painter

57. Start again

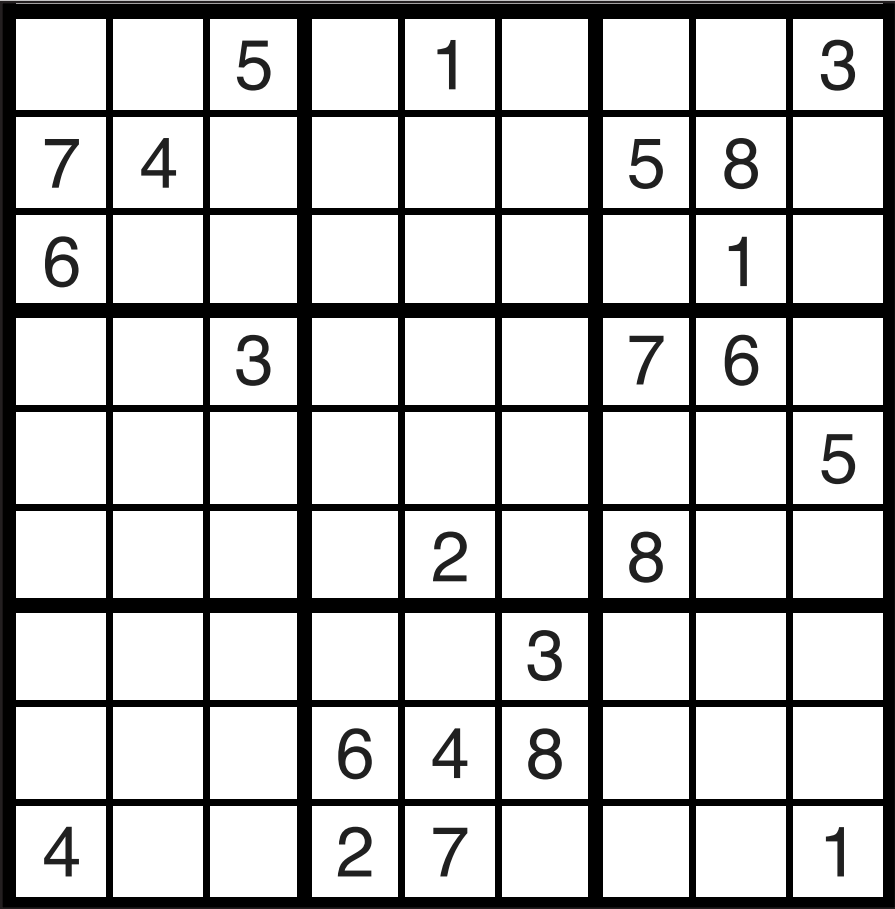
59. Employee stock ownership plan

62. Young women's association

63. Frozen water

66. "The First State"

68. Computers need one



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EASE

EMBALM

APPRECIATION

REUNION

SEEERS

OSPREY

EPID

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SODAS

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RESTATEMENT

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

Review of résumés will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. SMCM is an AA/EOE.

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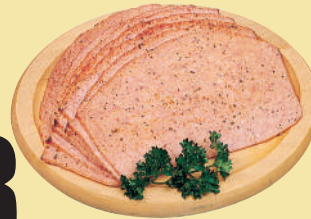
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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Nov 14

Coffee with the Sheriff

Northern Senior Activity Center
29655 Charlotte Hall Rd., Charlotte Hall
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Cost: Free

Would you like to know more about the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office or discuss issues that affect public/personal safety? Enjoy a cup of coffee and meet Sheriff Steven A. Hall face-to-face in a relaxed group setting. Sheriff Hall will give a brief presentation, followed by a Questions & Answers session. To register, visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/Activities-Programs/.

Sat, Nov 16

MVRS Fall Bazaar

Mechanicsville Vol Rescue Squad
28120 Old Flora Corner, Mechanicsville
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mechanicsville Vol Rescue Squad will be hosting a Fall Bazaar. We will be having vendors, food trucks, raffles, and more! If

you are a vendor or a food truck please reach out to Vanessa at vrudolph@co29.org for information! We hope to see everyone there!

Poker at HVRS

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

Texas Hold'Em at Hollywood Vol Rescue Squad. \$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 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.

Sun, Nov 17

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Hollywood Vol Fire Dept
24801 Three Notch Rd., Hollywood
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Menu: bacon, sausage, scrapple, scrambled eggs, apples, potatoes, waffles, chipped beef, biscuits, made to order omelettes and assorted beverages. Mimosas and Bloody Mary's available for an additional charge.

Mon, Nov 18

Companions N Buddies for Seniors

Leonardtown Library Meeting Room
23630 Hayden Farm Ln., Leonardtown
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Companions and Buddies for Seniors (CABS) meet every Monday from 5pm-6:15pm. This group has been established for 29 years. We welcome Singles and/or married couples age 55 plus to join our group. Each Monday, we gather to catch up and talk about area highlights of activities for the week. We also participate in celebrating holidays and/or other occasions with potluck dinners. Our other activities include game night, picnics in the spring, theater events, day groups etc. Normally after meeting, we dine at one of the local restaurants in the area. Come check us out on Monday Night at 5pm. For additional info, please contact Karen Williams 301-481-8123 or

email Williamskl@md.metrocast.net.

Thu, Nov 21

Notice of NAACP 7025 Elections Process

Church of the Ascension
21641 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park
4 p.m. to 8p.m.

November 21, 2024, the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will be administered using our electronic voting platform. Voting will open at 4:00 PM and close at 8:00 PM. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election.

Should a run-off election be necessary, that election shall occur on Monday, November 25, 2024, Lexington Park Library—Meeting Room A, 21677 FDR Blvd., Lexington Park, MD 20653, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Run-off elections shall be conducted not less than ten (10) days after the original election.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS



Cricut Crafts: Custom Tote Bag

Come learn more about the library's Cricut Maker and practice cutting heat transfer vinyl to embellish a tote bag to take home! Lexington Park Library, Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. This introductory, in-person class will cover how to use the Cricut Maker, an electronic die-cutting machine, to create an iron-on decal using heat transfer vinyl (HTV) and how to apply that decal to a cloth tote bag using the Cricut Easy Press. Participants will also learn the basics of Cricut Design Space, the software used to create endlessly customizable designs. No experience necessary, all materials

provided. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Robots are A-MAZE-ing! STEM Fun

We'll learn some basic coding concepts, build mazes, and code instructions for our Botley robots to find their way through. Please register each child attending. Charlotte Hall Library, Saturday, November 23 from 2 – 3 p.m. No coding experience required; this program is intended for beginners in the lower elementary grades. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Beneath the Floorboards: Archaeology at Jerusalem Mills

Come join us for a virtual archaeology presentation! Guest speaker Dr. Jim Gibb

will explain archaeological findings from a historical mill village in Harford County, MD. This is a virtual event on Monday, November 25 from 7 – 8 p.m. Excavations beneath the floor of a kitchen addition to a house of uncertain date at Jerusalem Mills, Gunpowder Falls State Park, revealed more than decades of domestic debris, some dating to the early 19th century. A stone foundation clearly indicated an earlier building. When was it built, why was it replaced? Smithsonian Environmental Archaeology Laboratory teamed with members of the Friends of Jerusalem Mills and the Archeological Society of the Northern Chesapeake to find the answers. This illustrated talk introduces the preserved mill village of which the

Lee-Pullen House is a part, the reasons for our investigation, our results, and our future goals. This presentation will be held live over Zoom. It will also be recorded and uploaded to the St. Mary's County Library YouTube channel. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Mary's County Library Closed for Thanksgiving

All locations of the St. Mary's County Library will closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 and will remain closed on Thursday and Friday, November 28 – 29 in observance of Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Day. All locations will be open on Saturday, November 30.

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19

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In Remembrance

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

Gale Parmentier, 83



February 11, 1941 –
October 23, 2024

Gale died peacefully in Fort Pierce, Florida, with her husband and son by her side. She is survived by her husband Al Parmentier,

her son John Fretwell, her brother Jack West, her sister Sheila Powell, her stepchildren Peter Parmentier and DeChantel Yates, her nieces Dianne West and Jocelynn July, and her six grandchildren.

Gale was born in Medford, MA, of the late Washington West and Martha Coulter West. She attended Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, VA. She actively advocated for racial integration at her high school, despite facing criticism from many of her peers. While visiting relatives in Philadelphia, she and her brother attended American Bandstand, where Dick Clark invited them to perform a spotlight dance to showcase the differences in dance styles between Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

Gale was a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, where she received a B.A. in history and became a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She was a leader in that organization throughout her life.

After graduating from college, Gale worked as a programmer at AT&T. Following marriage to Jack Fretwell and the birth of her son, John, she taught at Londontowne Elementary School in Fairfax County, VA. In 1980, Gale moved to St. Mary's County, Maryland, and married Albert A. Parmentier, Jr., D.D.S. She worked as a programmer for the Information Management Department at Patuxant Naval Air Station. Both Gale and her husband were active sailors and raced their sailboat in many events sponsored by the Southern Maryland Sailing Association on Chesapeake Bay.

In 1998, Gale and Al boarded their sailboat and headed south for retirement and the Bahamas. After four years of sailing and living in an R.V., the couple settled in Fort Pierce, FL. Gale loved the traveling life, so they continued until 2013, making several circumnavigations of the U.S. and Canada, the purpose of which was to visit as many national parks as possible. They also traveled

elled to Europe with friends and family.

In the early 2000s, Gale participated in two 50-mile walks to raise money for Breast Cancer research.

The couple joined the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach in 2003. Gale's passion for social justice motivated her to co-found a Fair Trade store in the UU building. She operated the store for 18 years, and it is still in operation.

Throughout her life, Gale's motto was: "The meaning of life is to make life meaningful."

A celebration of life will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, 1590 27th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida, on November 25, 2024, at 11 a.m.

Richard White, 62



Richard Anthony White, "Ridds", 62, of Lexington Park, MD, formerly of Clinton, MD, passed away on November 4, 2024, at his home. Born on April 3, 1962, in Clinton, MD,

he was the son of the late Jacqueline Smith and the late Robert Dennison White. Richard was the loving husband of Kimberly White, whom he married in Pomfret, MD, on September 6, 2003. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Michelle Aldrich, Madison White, Anthony White, and Kimberly White, all of Lexington Park, MD, his siblings, Roberta Parks of WV, Bob White of Indian Head, MD, and Annie White of Mechanicsville, MD, and three grandchildren. Richard was preceded in death by his brother, Mike White.

Richard graduated from McDonough High School in 1980. He was a resident of Prince George's County, MD from birth until 1983, when he moved to Mechanicsville, MD, and resided there until 2024 before his move to Lexington Park, MD. Richard worked as a mason for 39 years, retiring in 2018. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, music, and sports.

All services will be private.

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

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

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A View From The BLEACHERS



PLEASE RISE

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Hundreds of spectators shuffled around team tents, food trucks and the course. With a ten-minute warning from the public address announcer, a noticeable concentration of humans began building near the starting line. The opening lane of the cross country course parted in biblical fashion, revealing dozens of athletes going through final preparations. The stretching was complete, pre-run jogs were wrapping up and team chants were echoing across the massive field. Everyone was loose, lathered, hyped and ready to beat feet across the hinterland.

As is tradition at many sporting events, there was one remaining pre-race order of business. The PA announcer's voice boomed with familiar instructions: "Please rise and remove your hats for the singing of our national anthem."

Many visions pass through the mind in such moments – Francis Scott Key penning the words, the Fort McHenry flag at the Smithsonian, the brave souls signing the Declaration of Independence (literally putting their lives on the line), the veterans who have preserved our freedom (some of whom gave their lives), those serving today, our very complicated history (both extraordinary and disgraceful) and our nation's present status. The dominant feelings, down to the bone, created by any rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" are pride, gratitude and responsibility – to maintain our great American experiment and advance it closer to the nation contemplated in our Declaration.

This version, landing just two days after a presidential election, was complicated. Anyone that's been in the presidential election game for several decades will tell you this: your candidate will prevail about half of the time. That's the nature of whipsaw American politics. Until very recent history, the unsuccessful candidate and his/her supporters were disappointed in, but respectful of, the losses and the sanctity of our democratic process; winners felt tremendous satisfaction, but also the heavy responsibility of governing this great nation. The overall feeling was relief...that it was over, that annoying commercials would stop, signs would be taken down and mailings would cease, and that we could collectively get back to our universal American cause. Losing recent elections, though, has resulted in genuine despair at best, violence at worst; winning, meanwhile has left some seeking retribution for past failings and emboldened to dominate, not serve within, the newly elected executive and congressional branches.

It is, in a couple words, deeply troubling, and, to add a phrase, unprecedented in my lifetime.

As our anthem played at that cross country meet last week, I wondered what everyone was thinking. I assume the crowd was, politically, basically split down the middle; that's just where we are. How many people were thinking of our shared American cause? Conversely, how many were fearful of the future or, for good or ill, excited about the prospect of ruling the next few years? My suspicion is there were greater feelings of fear and glee, than reflections on the great, joint responsibility we all carry at this moment – for those who handed us the reins of this great country and those who will inherit our work in the future.

The daydreams ended as "...and the home of the brave" boomed from the speakers and the song concluded. This allowed for a natural transition back to sports. Soon thereafter, a gun sounded and young athletes were off, traversing fields and hills in a thunderous herd of humanity. The competition, welcomed tonic that it was, immediately extinguished political thought. Whatever anyone was thinking when Key's song played was now a faded memory. Athletes were competing and fans were lost in the moment – scrambling to and from various points on the track, snapping photos and offering spirited support.

The last 50 yards before the finish line were electric – streams of unrestrained excitement, random names being called out at full throat, and strained faces of exhausted runners sprinting in one final dash to glory. For most, winning seemed a secondary concern; exerting maximum effort and representing oneself well for their team and their school was the greater cause. Pushing the "me" to best serve the "we": Key certainly witnessed that when gazing upon Fort McHenry in 1814. Whether it's present and contagious today remains to be seen.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

There are rockfish still in the shallows and on the edges of drop offs and points in the Bay. Lure casters using a variety of swimming plugs, jig heads dressed with plastics, and metal jigs did well on calm days last week. The salt islands off Hooper Straights and into the Honga River found plenty of action. There were stripers caught from the piers off Solomons Island, and off the shore at Piney Point.

The Potomac and Patuxent found trollers scoring on rockfish all up and down on the edges of oyster bars. Single lures, tandems, and small umbrellas all caught fish. Rockfish love a good-sized spoon.

To be fair, the fish are not jumping into the boat. Time, expertise, and patience are required.

There are fish coming up to feed on bait in the mornings and evenings. The surface activity is brief, and can draw birds that show hot location for a moment.

Big catfish are now in the holes of the lower Potomac from Ragged Point to the 301 Bridge. There are catfish at the Bushwood wharf. Cut alewife and prepared baits will attract them.

Red drum are schooled up in the rivers. The mouth of the Patuxent is holding redfish on the bottom. The fish appear as a thin red line on the very bottom of your electronics and can be easily overlooked. Some savvy anglers have found them and made very good catches of puppy drum and slot reds, and oversize bull reds all mixed together. Metal jigs ranging up to two ounces are lures to use. An occasional good-sized striper is in the mix.

Potomac river fishermen have reported bottom hugging schools of reds also.

The bay water temperature remains at a record setting height. Sunday the temperature was 63.9 degrees, nearly two degrees higher than the warmest of the last 10 years in 2012.



Alan Meadows jigged up schooled redfish in the mouth of the Patuxent.

As long as the temperature stays above 50 degrees, the red drum will feel no urgency to go south. If the abundance of bait fish remains, the drum may stay put. It is up to us to find them.

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Volunteer Drivers Needed for WARM

With colder weather settling in, St. Mary's County Government's Department of Aging & Human Services (DAHS) is seeking volunteer drivers for Wrapping Arms 'Round Many (WARM), an emergency shelter program for people experiencing homelessness in St. Mary's County, Maryland. This year's WARM season begins Sunday, November 10, 2024, and runs through Monday, March 27, 2025.

"Our community often asks how they can support those experiencing homelessness, and volunteering as a driver for the WARM program is one meaningful way to help," said Lori Jennings-Harris, DAHS Director. "Volunteer drivers are essential to ensure that WARM participants have safe transportation to and from shelter locations. By giving just a few hours of your time, you can provide stability and compassion to individuals in need during the coldest months of the year."

DAHS coordinates transportation for the WARM program, including the recruitment and scheduling volunteer drivers. Drivers must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license. Volunteers will be given access to a county-owned van. Volunteer slots are open seven days per week while WARM is operational. Volunteer drivers are divided into evening

and morning shifts. Evening drivers pick up WARM guests at the Church of Ascension at 5:30 p.m. for transportation to the appropriate host site for the evening. Morning drivers arrive at the host site by 7 a.m. the next morning to transport guests back to the Church of Ascension.

The WARM program is a partnership between the faith community, local human service organizations, and residents to provide safe shelter and hot meals to those experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year. The first WARM season took place in October 2009 and has become very successful over the years, with over 50 churches currently working together to provide food and shelter. WARM operates in close partnership with St. Mary's County Government, including the Department of Aging & Human Services, the Department of Public Works & Transportation, and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, as well as other key partners, such as the St. Mary's County Department of Social Services, Pyramid Walden, the Three Oaks Center, and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital.

To volunteer, please contact Ursula Harris with DAHS at (301) 475-4200, ext. 1658, or via email to Ursula.Harris@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Hurricane Relief Groups Collecting Christmas Toys



The local Knights of Columbus and Southern Maryland PACERS — a new non-profit group coalition to help survivors of Hurricanes Helene and Milton are collecting donations for a toy drive.

Donations of new and gently used toys are being taken for children of all ages at three donation stations around St. Mary's County; at Dean Lumber in Hollywood,

Bank of America in Mechanicsville and Tom Hodges Auto Sales in Hollywood.

Donations will be accepted until December 13 Monday through Saturday during normal business hours at each of the three collection sites.

For more information call Mearl Rusaw at 240-434-3492 or Steve Vallandingham at 240-380-9322.



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Leonardtown Hosts Annual Veterans Day Parade



'Evening Tides' Brings Candlelight Christmas to Piney Point

St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, which oversees Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park, is excited to present a brand-new event this holiday season, Evening Tides: Candlelight Christmas at Piney Point.

On Saturday, November 30, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., visitors are invited to a festive holiday evening on the grounds of the beautiful historic park at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum featuring candlelight, carolers, hot chocolate bar, Buddy the Elf,

and the 2024 Building Bricks Lighthouse Challenge competition. Admission is free; a \$5 per person donation is suggested.

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

For more information, please visit www.Facebook.com/1836Light and look under Events.

Maryland Reports 2024 Early Deer Season Results



Photo by Mary Pat Bozel, submitted to the Maryland DNR Photo Contest.

Deer hunters enjoy successful early season with increased harvest compared to 2023.

Maryland hunters harvested 20,592 deer during the early portion of the 2024 archery and muzzleloader seasons. The harvest was a 24% increase from last year's official harvest of 16,631 deer for the same period.

The annual deer harvest fluctuates from year to year for a number of reasons, including hunter effort, weather conditions, availability of natural foods like acorns, and current population size of the herd. Good weather conditions and increased hunter effort were primarily responsible for the increased harvest this year, according to Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service Associate Director Brian Eyler.

Along with the annual deer firearm sea-

son, archery and muzzleloader deer hunting are essential components of the state's deer management program and assist with controlling abundant deer populations across Maryland.

The two-month harvest included 12,281 deer taken during the archery season and 8,144 harvested during the October muzzleloader season. An additional 167 deer were reported during managed hunts. The archery harvest increased 21% while the muzzleloader harvest increased 29% compared to the previous year. The sika deer harvest increased 19% from 1,477 deer to 1,764 deer.

Hunters harvested 984 deer on Sundays that were open to archery hunting, accounting for 8% of the total archery harvest.

Leonardtown Rotary Club Honors Heroes



Photo from left to right front row: Tripp Gauner, Dan Burris, Kelly Ostrow, Scott Ostrow, Lynn Fitrell, Melissa Rodriguez, Beth Dodson, Ashleigh Sanford, Kathy Perlick, Cathy Askey, Heidi Askey, Bob Askey. Left to right back row: Robin Finnacom, Billy Higgs, Michael Blackwell, Ray Dodson, Mike Thompson, Chris Perlick

The Leonardtown Rotary Club held its annual Flags For Heroes celebration on November 10. Flags For Heroes recognize personal heroes both past and present with American flags displayed at the College of Southern Maryland, Leonardtown Campus. The flags will remain in place throughout November.

This year, 76 heroes' names were recognized during the roll call.

"Each year we honor individuals who exemplify Rotary's motto, Service Above Self," said Scott Ostrow, president, Leonardtown Rotary Club. "A hero is anyone who's made a lasting and positive impression on you, your family or the community," he explained. Kelly Ostrow, Scott's daughter, lead attendees in signing The Star-Spangled Banner during the ceremony.

Leonardtown Rotary thanks its Silver

Flags For Heroes Sponsors including Cathy and Bob Askey, Robin Finnacom, American Electric Warfare Associates, and the Cedar Point Federal Credit Union. Bronze Sponsors include Dan and Donna Burris, Alison Robinson, Lisa and Michael Blackwell, Chris Perlick, Cedar Lane Senior Living Community, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, and WPJM Higgs, LLC. And a special note of gratitude goes to Ye Olde Towne Café for supporting Flags For Heroes by allowing the Club to display its marketing banners for the event year after year.

Funds raised from Flags For Heroes sponsorships finance CSM scholarships as well as other Leonardtown Rotary Club charitable causes. For more information, go to leonardtownrotary.org.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER *News*

EP-3E ARIES II Aircraft Makes Final Visit to Patuxent River

Two EP-3E Airborne Reconnaissance Integrated Electronic System (ARIES) II aircraft stopped at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River while making their return journey from final detachments. Upon arrival of the second aircraft, current and former Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft Program Office (PMA-290) personnel gathered to commemorate the aircraft flown by a crew from Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1. NAS Patuxent River was the first stateside stop before both aircraft flew home to NAS Whidbey Island.

Since 1969, when the U.S. Navy first introduced the EP-3E, PMA-290 personnel have supported the acquisition and sustainment activities surrounding the aircraft including development and test, training systems and life cycle support. The last production EP-3E ARIES II aircraft was delivered in 1997 followed by four P-3 Orion to EP-3E conversion aircraft deliveries in the early 2000s. VQ-1 has flown the aircraft since its introduction into the U.S. Navy as an aerial reconnaissance and signals intelligence (SIGINT) aircraft.



"Thousands of people had a role in this platform's prolonged success throughout the last five decades, including many team members from Pax River," said Capt. Erik Thomas, program manager of PMA-290. "As the EP-3E completes its dutiful service to the nation, PMA-290 is proud of the community's achievements and dedication.

The VQ-1 World Watchers truly earned the respect of friend and foe alike and we here at PMA-290 congratulate them on a successful final deployment of this invaluable asset."

The Lockheed EP-3E ARIES II is a land-based multi-intelligence reconnaissance aircraft based on the P-3 Orion airframe. During missions, the aircraft provided

fleet and theater commanders worldwide with near real-time tactical SIGINT and full motion video intelligence. With sensitive receivers and high-gain dish antennas, the aircraft exploited a wide range of electronic emissions from deep within targeted territory. The crew fused the collected intelligence along with off-board data and disseminated the information for direct threat warning, information dominance, battle space situational awareness, suppression and destruction of enemy air defenses, anti-air warfare and anti-submarine warfare applications.

Remaining EP-3E aircraft will be decommissioned and transferred to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG) for future destruction. The process will continue through March 2025. Other platforms including the P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4C Triton assumed portions of the EP-3 ARIES II mission set and responsibilities.

PMA-290 manages the acquisition, development, support and delivery of the U.S. Navy's maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft.

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Sheriff's Office Seizes Extensive Arsenal

Suspect in Custody

On November 7, at approximately 9:23 p.m., Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division responded to a reported domestic assault at a residence in the 20000 block of Goddard Road in Lexington Park. The suspect, identified as Jerod Adam Taylor, fled the scene before law enforcement arrived but was later apprehended.

During the subsequent investigation, deputies learned Taylor was reported to possess multiple firearms, which were found in plain view within the residence. Taylor is legally prohibited from owning firearms due to prior convictions and is wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant for theft.

On November 8, 2024, Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division executed search warrants for the residence and nearby vehicles. The search yielded an extensive collection of weapons, including multiple 3D-printed "ghost guns" without serial numbers, semi-automatic rifles, handguns, shotguns, an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle, and an assortment of firearm components. Additionally, deputies recovered numerous large-capacity magazines, 18 suppressors, 74 auto sears (devices that convert semi-automatic firearms to fully automatic), over 1,300 rounds of ammunition, body armor, a 3D-printed, fully automatic rifle equipped with an auto sear, a short-barreled rifle, 3D printers, and various gun manufacturing tools. In total, 80 firearms were recovered from the premises.

Detectives have applied for the following charges:

- illegal possession of ammunition
- unlawful possession of an assault weapon with intent to sell
- unlawful possession of a detached magazine over ten rounds
- rapid fire trigger activator violation
- machinegun: failure to keep registered
- possession of a machine gun for an



Jerod Adam Taylor

aggressive purpose

- illegal possession of a regulated firearm
- possession of a rifle/shotgun by a disqualified person
- possession of an unregistered rifle/shotgun
- second-degree assault

Detective First Class David Lawrence is the lead investigator in this case. If anyone has information regarding this incident, please contact him at 301-475-4200, ext. 8130, or by email at David.Lawrence@stmaryscountymd.gov.

In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

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

Deputies Investigating Saturday Shooting in Lexington Park

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the Lexington Park Rescue Squad at approximately 5:40 a.m. on Saturday for a report of a man with gunshot wounds. Upon arrival, deputies were informed that a 36-year-old male had walked in and reported being shot. The victim was subsequently flown to a nearby hospital for treatment of injuries believed to be non-life-threatening.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Division have identified the 21000 block of Great Mills Road as the area where the victim reported the shooting occurred. Law enforcement personnel are currently canvassing the scene for evidence and witnesses.

This is an ongoing investigation; additional

details will be provided when available.

Detective Tyler Payne is the lead investigator, and anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact him at 301-475-4200, ext. 8010, or by email at Tyler.Payne@stmaryscountymd.gov.

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

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



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If the Pax River Naval Air Museum parking lot is full, then there is alternate parking nearby (walking distance) at JF Taylor and Exploration Park which is located on the Left when driving Three Notch Road, just before the Museum at Gate 1.

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- Resource Management Concepts
- SimVentions
- St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
- Tekla Research, Inc.
- The MIL Corporation
- The Re\$ume Xpert (RESUME REVIEWS)
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Clock Starts on YMCA Construction



By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

After years of negotiations, surveys and planning, the county finally broke ground in partnership with the YMCA of the Chesapeake this week to build one of their community recreation and learning centers in Lexington Park right on Great Mills Road.

A cold, blustery day did little to dim the spirits of the dozens of project supporters who turned up to celebrate the ground breaking ceremony that kicks off the construction of the first YMCA in St. Mary's County and in Southern Maryland as well.

Janice Walthour, chair of the education committee for the local NAACP chapter and a local activist, said the pending YMCA was a long-awaited counter to the argument oft repeated here that "there's nothing to do here." "This started nine years ago when we tried to get the funding for a community center," Walthour told the assembled crowd on land next to the county-owned Great Mills

Swimming Pool. "We are uplifted to bring this YMCA to our community."

The facility will be two stories, about 65,000 square feet and take about 17 to 18 months to complete; the total cost of the project is \$22 million, of which the county has already footed \$16 million in tax payer funding.

U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer, who just weeks ago helped deliver federal funding for the project as a result of an earmark, the community's desire for the project would be the driving force behind its success.

"It takes a community to build a community center," Hoyer said. "And for those of you who have some money... left in your pockets, we still have \$2 million to go."

The YMCA is currently engaged in a fundraising campaign to fully fund the construction project; the county will retain ownership of the building and the YMCA will be responsible for the daily operations.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Routine Maintenance Scheduled for Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will perform maintenance work on the MD 4 Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge at the Calvert and St. Mary's County line on Thursday night, Nov. 14. Work will begin at 9 p.m. and the two travel lanes are expected to reopen by 5 a.m. the following morning, weather permitting.

State Highway Administration crews will be on-site installing navigational lighting on the bridge. One of the two lanes will be closed while work is underway. A flagging operation will safely guide drivers through the work zone. Portable variable message

signs will be in place along area state routes to alert drivers of the upcoming work.

Drivers are asked to slow down in the work zone for the safety of all drivers and for the crews working to improve our roadways. Customers may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603 for additional information.

For a list of all major State Highway Administration projects, visit Project Portal or the homepage at roads.maryland.gov. For a look at real-time traffic conditions, go to md511.maryland.gov.

St. Mary's Gets Highest Bond Rating

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Fitch Ratings, a New York-based bond rating agency, has upgraded the status of St. Mary's County's rating to AAA, up from its previous rating of AA+, citing the county's living up to the agency's highest criteria for high median household income and low unemployment rates.

The ratings agency also noted another factor in the county's favor was its longterm debt liability burden, described in the report released this week as "strong" in comparison to local government ratings.

The county's bond rating is important as a sign of its overall fiscal health and its ability to borrow money on the bond market for capital construction projects at the lowest favorable rates.

"The county's financial resilience assessment of AAA is supported by 'ample' bud-

getary flexibility underpinned by broad revenue-raising powers," Fitch's latest report states, noting the county keeps its general fund reserves above Fitch's own recommendation of 7.5 percent of spending.

"The county has historically maintained unrestricted reserves compliant with its 15 percent fund balance policy, and fiscal year-end 2023 unrestricted general fund reserves equaled 25.4 percent of spending."

But the report seemed to warn that some of the county's seeming greatest strengths could also be counted as among its weaknesses.

"These strengths are tempered by a 'weak' population trend and high economic concentration due to the presence of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, which is the county's largest employer with approximately 25,000 employees," the report states.

guyleonard@countytimes.net

Town Goes Back to Drawing Board on Wharf Project



The original rendering to be replaced by a different design

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Town of Leonardtown has long desired to include a food hall at the wharf property at the end of Washington Street to bring even more people into the downtown district but the first and only proposal for a concept they have received is apparently too pricey.

The town council voted this week to have a local architect redraw the concept for the food hall project to make the private portion — which would house the food vendors — smaller and able to be joined with the public pavilion which is expected to handle about 200 people, said Town Administrator Laschelle McKay. This would make the project likely more feasible to build, she said.

"The one proposal we have received hasn't gone forward yet because we haven't worked through the details," she told the town council at their Nov. 12 business meeting.

The original drawings had the food hall three stories high, with an 18,640-square foot footprint at 14 food stalls for individual vendors.

"Construction estimates after the fact were over \$5 million... that's not really a manageable project," McKay said. "It wasn't economically feasible to build."

The town spoke to a consultant — FireTen Hospitality — to seek guidance, McKay said, and they advised cutting the number of food stalls in half.

The town council voted to give the work to Spence Bowling of the Wicomico Development Corporation to redraw the concept art for \$15,000.

McKay said the work usually cost twice that but Bowling agreed to do the work for half that price. "He really wants to see the project come to fruition," McKay said.

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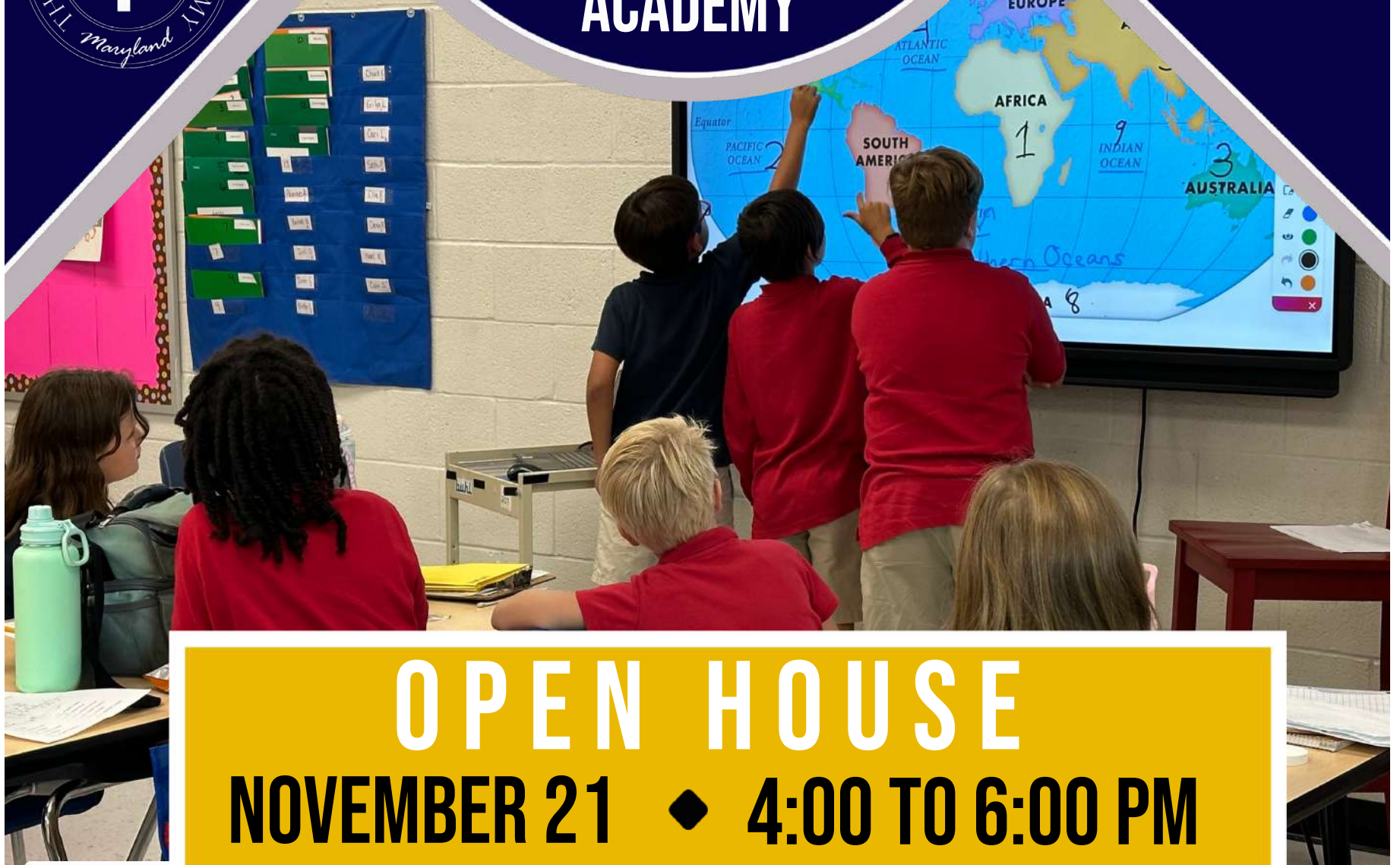
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Firefighters Rush to Fight Multiple Brush Blazes

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Despite a recent burn ban enacted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources statewide, local firefighters are being called out repeatedly to fight brush fires all over St. Mary's, several of them due to residents continuing to burn leaves, according to reports from volunteer companies.

Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department has used their social media accounts to report many calls to fight brush fires just in the past few days.

This week St. Mary's had its first substantial rains in more than a month, but the U.S. Drought Monitor, an on-line weather service that monitors moisture levels across the country, shows that St. Mary's is now in a state of severe drought.

Much of Southern Maryland is also in the same situation, according to the monitoring site.

The statewide burn ban was put in place Nov. 1 and will remain in place, natural resources officials have said, until rainfall conditions improve enough to rescind it.

The ban includes outdoor campfires, the



Photo courtesy of MVFD

burning of leaves as well as the use of charcoal grills.

Mechanicsville volunteer Fire Chief Mark Trowbridge said over the weekend his firefighters were called out to 10 such brush fires, with eight of them being directly

attributable to "unauthorized burns."

"A lot of people we're encountering [say] they just don't know there's a burn ban," Trowbridge told The County Times. "We haven't had anyone try to fight us on it."

After 37 days of no rain, Trowbridge said,

recent precipitation had him worried most. "People will think we're good to go," Trowbridge said. "But it's going to dry out as it came down."

High winds continue to persist, he said, aiding to moisture quickly evaporating from the ground and surrounding vegetation.

He said his firefighters have assisted in putting out two significant brush fires in the past week, one in the 7th District and on in Hughesville in neighboring Charles County.

The 7th District fire, which was first found along Abell Road, burned for days, said Trowbridge, and spanned over about five acres.

"It was well into the ground," Trowbridge said, noting its severity. "There was fire coming out of holes, the fire was actually burning underground."

The Hughesville fire spanned between six to seven acres, he said.

He warned even the simplest home maintenance tasks could cause a brush fire; in one recent instance a man using his gas-powered lawn mower produced enough heat to start a small fire in his own yard.

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Duane Nicholas Carroll, 29, Clements, MD

Luna Valle Barrera, 27, Mechanicsville, MD
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Amy Kristin Mattingly, 46, Callaway, MD
Andre Gustaf Francois, Jr., 49, Leonardtown, MD

Whitney Paige Fouch, 31, Lusby, MD
Jonathan Corry Fender, 32, Lusby, MD

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Madison Storm White, 21, Lexington Park, MD

Benjamin Arthur Scheideman, 41, Leonardtown, MD
Sarah Elizabeth Stephenson, 39, Leonardtown, MD

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Sydney Michelle Serena, 22, Prince Frederick, MD

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Advisory Group Talk of Expanding Animal Shelter

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Last week long-time member of the Animal Control Advisory Board, Rita Weaver, ended her last term with the group after years of working there to oversee the construction and operation of the county's Animal Adoptions and Resource Center in California.

As part of her farewell remarks, Weaver said the shelter needed to get bigger as it was frequently filled to capacity despite being a relatively new facility.

"To the new board members, start planning for expansion," said Weaver. "That takes a while, start looking at that."

The county's top animal control officer, Joy Wilson, thanked Weaver for bringing up the subject as the activity report from just the last two months of operations there told the tale.

"It has been hectic," Wilson said. "It's been busy."

"We've been packed, truly."

There have been 109 animals surrendered to the shelter by their owners for September and October, Wilson said.

"There have been 162 strays that have walked through our doors and for some reason, animal control seized 84 animals during those two months," Wilson told advisory board members.

There have been 153 adoptions from the shelter for the same period of time and 39 animals have been returned to their owners, Wilson said, while 38 animals at the shelter have been given to other rescue and fostering organizations in private hands.

"Unfortunately, there have been 109 euthanasias," Wilson said.

That number was later corrected to 99, said Department of Emergency Services Director Jennifer Utz.

"The number was alarming," Utz told *The County Times*, but explained that it was essentially an aberration as more than half of those 99 euthanasias were due to two animal cruelty cases in which 53 feral cats that were

living in homes were in such a state that they had to be put down.

"It was really the humane thing to do," Utz said, explaining that residents had allowed feral cats into their home and that after breeding their litters were not appropriately socialized, even to use litter boxes.

Many of the cats seized were either too ill or were so wild that they could not be rehomed, she said.

Such a phenomenon was more common in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Utz said.

"They're being rebred indoors," she said. "These are more prevalent cases now and it's a significant problem animal control officers are dealing with."

The remaining euthanasias, 46, were either from an owners request because the animal was dangerous or too ill, Utz said, or other animals who might have been stray or found in similar conditions.

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Chief Animal Control Warden Joy Wilson

A Mission for Veterans to Help Veterans

By Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Last week The County Times featured The Mission in our Veterans Day issue but wanted to reprint the article with additional information regarding the services and aid it provides to homeless people — including veterans in need.

For years The Mission, first located on Great Mills Road and then on Sheriff Miedzinski Way in Lexington Park has taken in whoever has come to them in need, whether they are homeless, addicted, abused or any combination of problems that have laid them low.

In that time, they have come across and aided their fair share of veterans who have fallen on hard time or brought those times upon themselves, said Richard Myers, its current executive director.

Helping veterans often has its own unique set of challenges and obstacles, Myers told *The County Times*.

He and his brother, Robert Myers, both veterans of the U.S. Marine Corps, founded the private non-profit with a simple goal in mind, to help the less fortunate whoever they may be.

"I handled the business end of things and he handled the ministry portion," Myers said of his brother who died during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Whoever came to our doors we would do whatever we could to help them."

"We've had many veterans come our way."

Myers said veterans who are homeless come to The Mission and get food, clothing, a place to stay and help getting back on their feet.

The Mission offers help in getting them cleaned up from either drugs or alcohol by sending them to rehabilitation services as well.



Richard Myers, founder and Executive Director of The Mission

They have served veterans in the past and even have one now that they are helping to take their life back.

Jean Carter, the intake coordinator of Mission clients, and the only paid employee there, said it can take years to help a veteran get services since — once homeless — they often no longer have a copy of their military records, their separation papers or even their birth certificate.

Carter works with contacts she has throughout the county in various public services administrations to help veterans find

their way, but it's difficult.

Veterans are entitled to services, but often do not know about them or how to access them, she said.

"It's often just a matter of pointing them in the right direction," Carter said. "But it takes a long time and they often want to give up."

"We piece by piece help them get the identification, the DD-214 and the birth certificate."

The Mission stays with the veteran in the process so they don't become discouraged

and give up the time-consuming process, she said.

The Mission operates a Christian based Vocational Program which can accommodate 24 guests.

Despite worries that the program will attract other homeless or addicted people outside St. Mary's County, that hasn't been the case, Myers said. In the first three years of operation the vocational center has only averaged 14 people in the program at any given time, he said.

What sets The Mission apart, he said, from other organizations that operate off of government grants, which are tax-payer dollars, is that they can do away with bureaucracy and act immediately to help a veteran or anyone who is homeless.

"We've never filled all 24 beds," Myers said, noting that The Mission is almost entirely funded by community donations. "Because we're private we can act quickly; we take someone in immediately."

Those dollars they get from the community are used wisely, Myers said.

"About 98 percent of the Mission funds come from the local community," Myers said. "This means that the funds that come from the community are closely guarded, and we do the best we can to be good stewards with this funding. This means that we are very attentive to our clients' needs and do everything we can to help, and we also do everything we can to guide them to other community services that are offered throughout the county."

"We have even at times given a car away, donated by the community supporters to help get folks back on the road."

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“THERE WAS FIRE COMING OUT OF HOLES, THE FIRE WAS ACTUALLY BURNING UNDERGROUND.”

MVFD CHIEF MARK TROWBRIDGE ON FIGHTING A RECENT BRUSH FIRE DURING THE BURN BAN



LOCAL 5
Animal shelter euthanasias spike



LOCAL 10
Ground broken for YMCA



ON THE COVER
Residents ignore state's burn ban

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