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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

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**Budget Balanced  
with \$17M Cut**

**Human Trafficking  
a Growing Concern**

**Personnel Changes  
Go to Public Hearing**

**MARITIME HERITAGE  
ON DISPLAY**





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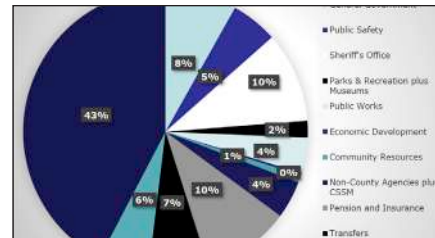
# THANK YOU.

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## “IT’S REALLY FOR US, A RESTART.”

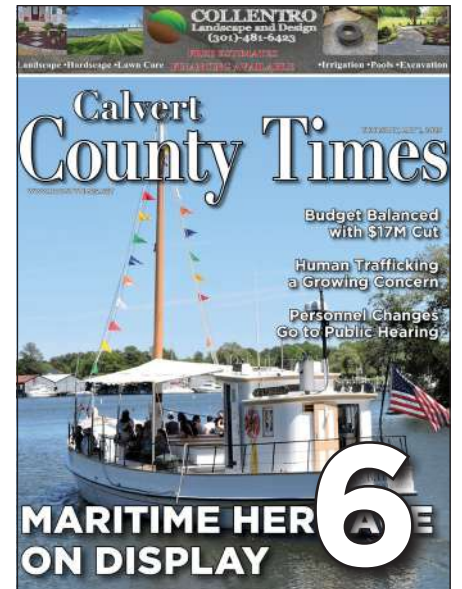
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR MARK WILLIS ON THE NEW STAFF BUDGET



**LOCAL**  
Calvert's budget is balanced after large cuts



**LOCAL**  
Commissioners struggle to fill volunteer board positions



**ON THE COVER**  
Festival celebrates Calvert's maritime heritage

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 1	FRI, MAY 2	SAT, MAY 3	SUN, MAY 4
Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 66°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 67°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 84° Lo: 60°	Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 58°
MON, MAY 5	TUE, MAY 6	WED, MAY 7	THU, MAY 8
Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 59°	Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 57°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 60°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 58°



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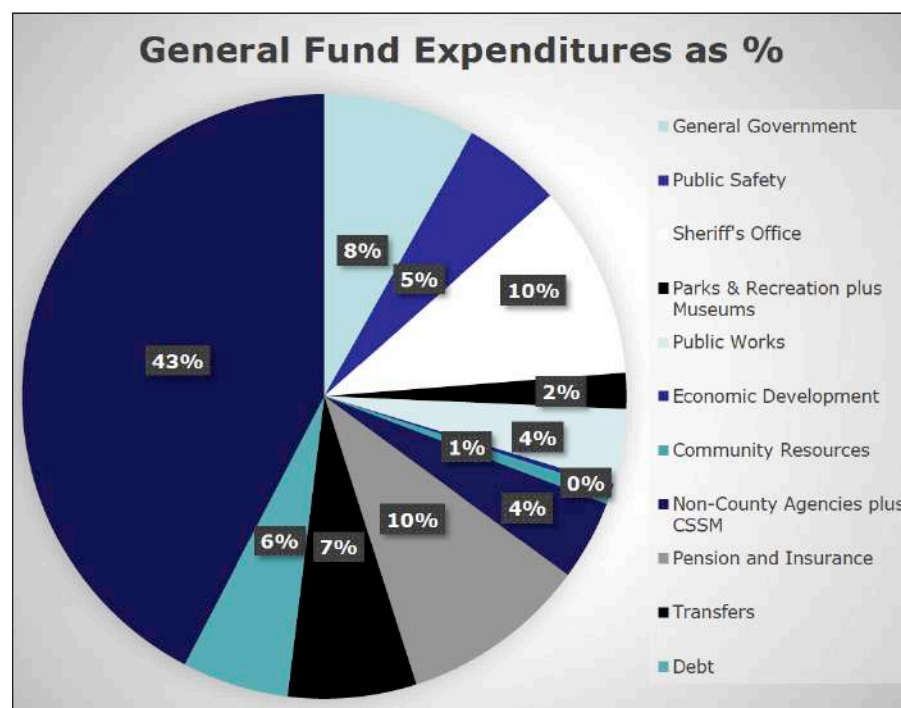
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# Budget Balanced After Large Cut

*Public Hearing Will Be May 6*



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The public will be seeing a balanced budget when they attend the public hearing on May 6. Staff presented to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on April 29 a proposed budget which cut more than \$17 million from the previous iteration.

County Administrator Mark Willis said, "It's really for us, a restart. We're going through...a zero-based budget where you literally build your budget from a \$0 amount up to the amount that is needed for critical mission responsibilities within each department, and therefore the overall county."

Willis added, "The one thing I will point out is that when preparing this budget for Fiscal Year '26, when you talk about financial sustainability, we didn't look at just what was responsible for Fiscal Year '26, which will be the next 18 months, from July 1 to June 30 of next season, but also for Fiscal Year '27. We realize that there's a lot at stake here. There's a lot the Board of County Commissioners would like to do on behalf of the public, and this is an attempt to not just give you that leverage for Fiscal Year '26, but to bleed into Fiscal Year '27."

Deputy County Administrator Linda Turner said, "We implemented the zero-based budgeting practices, all agencies submitting from zero-based and providing justification for each account. It builds a budget from zero identifying expenditure requests from every single control account. We aligned our valuable resources to your commissioner priorities. As a reminder for the public, the top five are fiscal responsibility, public safety and safe neighborhoods,

education and youth development, land preservation and maintaining rural character, and economic development. In building this budget, it was the desire to strengthen the county's investment in its employees through salary enhancements and prioritizing competitive compensation. There is a desire to also preserve the county's fund balance."

County Finance Director Bruce Miller said, "There were some uncertainties within the budget from the state and the federal, potentially."

Although the presentation from Miller did not detail the \$17 million in cuts from the previous budget, it did provide a comparison between the current year's budget and the proposed next year's one. It appears that the Department of Public Works is taking a big hit, with a \$2.5 million reduction.

The budget was also balanced with an almost \$7 million cut in Pay-Go, the amount of the general fund that is dedicated to paying for capital projects, as opposed to bonding.

The total budget that will be presented to the May 6 hearing is \$385,072,458, of which 59 percent is from property taxes and 32 percent from income taxes.

The proposal has the county funding education at the state-mandated maintenance of effort (MOE).

Turner said, "Copies of this budget will be available in the libraries today by close of business as well as being online. So, residents can either go to the website or they can visit one of our libraries to view a hard copy of the budget books."

She said the commissioners are expected to adopt the budget on June 10.

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

# Calvert County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications *is hiring!*



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# Human Trafficking Cases on the Rise in Calvert

## Child Abuse Prevention Month Recognized

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

"In the last year, we've seen an increase in the number of human trafficking cases," says Calvert County Department of Social Services Supervisor of Child Protective Services Brenda Carr. That was just one of the statistics she presented during the issuance of a proclamation by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on April 29 for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Carr said, "In 2024, we at the department investigated 315 allegations of child abuse and neglect, which amounts to 77 cases of physical abuse, 44 cases of sexual abuse and 194 allegations of neglect. We additionally conducted six courtesy interviews, specifically requested to be done at the CAC (Calvert County Child Advocacy Center)."

She added, "Additionally, since 2018, an average of 63 children a year have come through the CAC doors. Those children are offered a place to tell their stories, which is audio and videotaped, regardless if it is about an abuse that is occurring in their home, in the home of a relative, in school, online, or if it's about something they witnessed in the last year."

There have been nine cases of human trafficking, Carr said, "We have had cases involving both NCIS and the FBI. The FBI as recently as February of 2025, used the CAC to interview three children involved with a human trafficking case that were victims here in Calvert County."

Carr explained that the CAC was formed

in 2018. She said, "The CAC helps to promote and support mandatory reporting, training and other community events promoting on child abuse prevention. This is just a small sampling of the good work that this Calvert County team is doing to help ensure those who are most vulnerable and ensure that they receive the care and justice that they deserve."

She insisted, "CAC would not continue to exist if it wasn't for the ongoing support of the Department of Social Services, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police, the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, Calvert County Behavioral Health, as well as you guys, the county commissioners. These community agencies provide staff to help ensure that the Calvert County children can tell their stories one time to help minimize their trauma. We all work jointly to ensure that the children and the families receive the support they need, either through victim advocacy, case management, or linkages to therapists and other community resources."

Commissioner Todd Ireland asked, "Can you talk about what type of cases you guys have seen under human trafficking?"

Carr said, "We've seen a lot of kids being paid monetary items on like Roblox (a social media site). So, they'll meet a stranger on Roblox and they'll say, 'Hey, if you send me a picture of your privates, I'll give you money on Roblox.' We've had a couple of those. We've had a couple of, 'Hey, if you send me naked pictures of yourself, I'll give you money.' We've had several of those in

our teenage girls specifically."

Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack Commander Lieutenant Jimmie D. Meurrens, III said at the meeting, "You can tell a lot about a community by the way their most vulnerable citizens are treated. And overwhelmingly we should be proud of this Calvert County community. All of our community partners in this initiative are impressive, their drive, their passion for it. They cannot be matched, and I'm proud to be a part of this Child Advocacy Center here in this county."

Ireland asked about the impact on the troopers from what they witness.

He said, "Like with most professions in the emergency services world, you have to be able to separate your personal from professional beliefs, opinions, and feelings. And I think it's impossible to say that you're not affected by the interviews that are conducted and the things that you hear or things that you see. But these professionals before you here today are amazing in what they do."

For the month, according to a press release from the county, "Residents are invited to 'Chalk the Walk' at participating public locations throughout Calvert County to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health.

"The Calvert County Family Network (CCFN) and Department of Parks & Recreation, in partnership with Calvert County Public Schools, Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Calvert Library, CalvertHealth, Calvert County Behavioral Health, the Local Behavioral Health Advisory Council, and Calvert County local

businesses, will host the fourth annual 'Chalk the Walk' event, happening May 4-10.

During the week, families, schools, businesses and community groups are encouraged to decorate sidewalks, driveways and pavements with chalk messages and artwork that promote hope, support and well-being for children and youth.

"How to participate:

- Use sidewalk chalk to write encouraging messages or draw uplifting images
- Chalk your walk at home, school or workplace
- Share your creations on social media using the hashtag #CalvertMentalHealthMatters to show support and spread awareness

"Mental health affects how children think, feel and act. It plays a key role in how they handle stress, relate to others and overcome challenges. Talking openly about mental health helps reduce stigma and can make it easier for children and families to seek the help they need.

"Calvert County offers a variety of resources for youth struggling with mental health needs and their families. Find local resources at [www.OurCalvert.org](http://www.OurCalvert.org) or contact the Local Care Team at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LocalCareTeam](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LocalCareTeam). For more information about children's mental health, visit [www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org/find-help/parents-families/](http://www.ChildrensMentalHealthMatters.org/find-help/parents-families/).

For more information about Chalk the Walk, contact the CCFN at 410-414-5997.

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

# Maritime Festival Celebrates Local Traditions

Celebrate Southern Maryland traditions on Saturday, May 3 at the Calvert Marine Museum's 19th annual Solomons Maritime Festival. Antique boats and marine engines, cooking demonstrations, traditional music, toy boat building, a kid-friendly obstacle course, and boat rides offer something for every member of the family.

The festival includes free 30-minute cruises on the Wm. B. Tennison and more. Admission to the festival and museum is FREE; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The museum's waterfront comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of Southern Maryland. Traditional food demonstrations will teach guests how to make crab cakes, fry softshell crabs, shuck oysters, and stuff a ham like the pros! See Chesapeake Bay retrievers in action, watch model boats skim the waters of the boat basin, hear waterfowl calling, and talk with traditional craftspeople as they demonstrate their skills.

Children of all ages will especially enjoy toy boat building! The Patuxent Small Craft Guild will offer rides to the public on multiple small crafts, including sailboats, power boats, and row and pedal boats. The museum's skipjack, Dee of St. Mary's, will offer dockside tours.

Traditional crafts are also celebrated! Visitors can examine how crab and eel pots are constructed. Inside the museum, demonstrations of quilting and other textile crafts will be on-going through the day.

Local food vendors will be on-site throughout the festival!

The Antique Boat and Marine Engine Show, now in its 24th year, is a popular component of the festival. Enthusiasts from across the country will set-up camp to show off their vintage boats and engines. The unofficial engine swap is a great way to expand your collection. The Patuxent Small Craft Guild will also host a Nautical Flea Market, with all proceeds supporting the Guild.

Enjoy music all day long at the Motto Mortgage Preferred and Re/Max One Waterside Pavilion.

- 10 to 11 a.m. - The Bushmill Band
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. - Jane Meneely
- 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Neverland Band

The Solomons Maritime Festival is sponsored by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, Calvert County Watermen's Association, Calvert Marina, LLC, and the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. For more information, please call Sherry Reid, Volunteer & Events Coordinator, at 410-326-2042 ext. 8085, or visit the Calvert Marine Museum Facebook page or website at [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com).

For more information about the museum, upcoming events, or membership, visit the website at [www.calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://www.calvertmarinemuseum.com) or call 410-326-2042. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X.



# Personnel Policy Changes Headed for Public Hearing

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has finalized proposed changes to the county's personnel manual hammered out over the past year and they are now ready to present them at a public hearing.

As summarized by Personnel Director Melany Woodson at the April 29 BOCC meeting, the changes have both a positive and negative budget impact, but in the end appear to be "a wash," according to Commissioner President Buddy Hance.

The greatest discussion at the meeting was over the change from counting overtime on a daily basis and instead switching to a weekly determination. And medical or vacation leave is not allowed to be calculated in determining what is the 40 hours, or 35 hours for those in that category.

That led Commissioner Todd Ireland to say, "Time on paid leave would not count towards overtime. If a person called in sick on Monday because they had a doctor's appointment and they worked the rest of that week, yet they got called out Saturday and Sunday. That's my concern, that the eight hours from that doctor's appointment (isn't) included."

He further explained, "I was supposed to get off at four, but I got hung up on an accident and had four hours of overtime. Well, it wouldn't be four hours of overtime, it would be four more hours of straight time."

Woodson said, "That would be emergency callback and emergency call-in pay. It's not considered overtime. It's a different category of pay."

Commissioner Mike Hart said, "I agree with Commissioner Ireland. Because if that's part of your benefits where you have that paid day and then, say, Friday is a major accident, you are there five or six hours and you weren't physically in the building, but I did burn my day. So, that should be on overtime."

Ireland said the situation he used as an example wasn't emergency call-in. "That's part of your job."

Woodson said, "We have language drafted to adjust the definition of that time to be emergency pay that would qualify for a holdover or for an emergency call-in." But she said that was suggested by the detention center, and not the deputies, which was Ireland's example.

In the end it was decided to keep Woodson's proposal as is and see what shakes out at the public hearing.

Another new initiative in the proposal is standby pay. Woodson said, "This is compensation for non-exempt and partially exempt employees who must remain available to be called back to work. The standby pay rate would be determined in the budget each year. And the finance and budget director recommends a daily stipend for standby pay of \$22.50. The fiscal impact of this program would be approximately \$206,000 per year based on 19 daily employees and an occasional 10 to 15 deputies on standby." Currently there is no compensation for being on standby.

No date has yet been announced for the public hearing.

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

# County Plagued with Volunteer Board Vacancies

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has been having trouble recently filling some positions on the many volunteer boards and commissions throughout county government. Some boards have numerous vacancies, making it difficult for them to function. Many of the boards provide vital advisory roles for the commissioners.

The problem of filling slots and then those people in the slots failing to attend meetings led the commissioners to propose eliminating the various architectural review committees for each town center. Instead that role will be filled by paid staff.

At the April 29 BOCC meeting, a public hearing was held to remove term limits for two committees in hopes of helping to keep positions filled on those two committees.

Economic Development Director Julie Oberg, in a memo to the commissioners, explained, "The BOCC adopted Chapter 11 of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances by Ordinance No. 40-16 on November 29, 2016, to address certain term limits and administrative and policy matters pertaining to volunteer boards and committees appointed by the Board."

She added, "The Director of Economic Development and the Director of Planning & Zoning recommend amending Chapter 11

of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances to exempt the Economic Development Authority and Historic District Commission from term limits."

Commissioner President Buddy Hance said, "I think we understand just what you're trying to do. And just for the public out there, you've heard us say before, we are struggling to get people to serve on various boards and commissions. We've had to eliminate some because we couldn't get participation. So, I think this is just a move trying to maintain membership on certain commissions by retaining those members beyond what we had determined as term limits."

Hance added, "So, to further that, one of the boards we put people on this morning, we have 11 vacancies, so that's pretty significant. If you want to volunteer for a board, please do so. If you have some free time, you have an expertise, just look at our list. We have a long list. We could definitely use your help because what happens is at the end of the day, you have to eliminate the advisory boards and commissions because they are built into the process. They hold up the process because you don't have participation."

"And so, we really need citizens involved."

As required by law, the commissioners kept the record open for 10 days before making the decision to eliminate the term limits.

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

# Deputy Captures Slippery Home Invader



On April 26th in the evening hours, Cpl. Gilmore reported to a home invasion. A thin individual wearing black and white was reported to have broken into a private residence.

The suspect was located snuggled under a chair cushion trying to stay warm. The suspect was taken into custody with no issue and relocated to greener pastures. The homeowner did not wish to pursue charges.

# FFA Students Shine at Region 3 Events



Pictured from left to right: Lola Brito, Lilly Payne, Raleigh Sterling, Angelina Perez

On March 21, 2025, four students from Calvert County Public Schools' Future Farmers of America (FFA) demonstrated exceptional leadership and career readiness during the Region 3 Leadership Development Events.

Angelina Perez earned a gold medal in the Senior Prepared Speech competition and will advance to the state convention in June.

Raleigh Sterling received a silver medal in Employment Skills and will also compete at the state level.

Lilly Payne and Lola Brito both earned bronze medals in Employment Skills.

In addition to their success in leadership events, a team of four Calvert County FFA students competed in the Farm Business

Management Career Development Event during Spring Judging on April 4.

Individual placements were:

- 2nd place – Lilly Payne
- 5th place – Raleigh Sterling
- 12th place – Angelina Perez
- 16th place – Penelope Pugner

The team placed fourth overall in the competition.

The Maryland FFA Association also announced this year's recipients of the Gift of Blue Jacket program, which recognizes student dedication, service and leadership potential. Honorees from Calvert County include Elijah Mason, Penelope Pugner and Lilly Payne.

# CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of April 14, 2025 – April 20, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,184 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 60
- Disorderly: 19
- Domestic: 22
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 47
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 967
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 49
- Traffic Complaints: 79
- Traffic Stops: 558
- 911 Hang Ups: 54
- ARRESTS: 37



Jeremiah Phillip Long

## **Burglary: 25-30609**

On April 14, 2025, DFC Shoemaker responded to the 5200 block of Knights Bridge Ct. in St. Leonard for the report of a burglary. The investigation revealed that an unknown male had entered a neighbor's residence through the front door while the homeowner was out of town and no one was authorized to be there. The suspect was identified as **Jeremiah Phillip Long**, 26, of St. Leonard. Long's personal belongings were found inside the residence. He was taken into custody and charged with Burglary - 4th Degree.

**Burglary: 25-31235** On April 16, 2025, members of the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded to 12530 Perrywood Drive in Dunkirk for a reported theft. The investigation revealed that an unknown suspect broke into the victim's garage, entered their vehicle, and stole several items, including a wallet containing credit cards. The suspect later made fraudulent purchases totaling \$2,153.03 using the stolen credit cards. Detectives continue to investigate.



Keith Mikel Miller

## **Burglary: 25-32031**

On April 19, at approximately 12:26 a.m., Deputy Gadwill responded to the 9300 block of Atlantic Avenue in North Beach for the report of a disorderly male attempting to gain entry into a vehicle. Upon arrival, Deputy Gadwill located a male matching the suspect description, actively swinging and shoving a metal pole while attempting to pry open the victim's garage door. The individual

was identified as **Keith Mikel Miller**, 34, of Round Rock, TX. Deputies observed visible damage to the garage door, stair railing, and fence, with the total estimated damage valued at \$8,000. Miller was taken into custody and charged with Burglary – 4th Degree, Malicious Destruction of Property, and Willfully Damaging/Tampering with a Motor Vehicle Without the Owner's Consent.



Meghan Carroll Spalding

staying motionless in a vehicle for over 20 minutes and appeared to be under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance. Upon arrival, deputies located a female slumped over the steering wheel. The individual was identified as **Meghan Carroll Spalding**, 36, of Mechanicsville. A preliminary investigation revealed Spalding was in possession of two empty bottles of Methadone. A subsequent search of the vehicle uncovered two cut straws, a plastic bag containing suspected Fentanyl, and three half-pills of Xanax. Spalding was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where she was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and two counts of CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.



Isaiah Future Andrews



Miles Frederick Warrick

## **CDS Violation: 25-30918**

On April 15, 2025, Deputy Deinert responded to the 400 block of N Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick, for a welfare check. The caller reported that a female had been sitting

## **CDS Violation: 25-30995**

On April 15, 2025, at approximately 5:41 p.m., Cpl. Kelly initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for an equipment and moving violation in the area of Dares Beach and Double Oak Road in Prince Frederick. The driver failed to stop, accelerated, and fled, entering the oncoming lane of traffic. A vehicle pursuit was initiated, during which the suspect vehicle operated in a reckless manner, including speeding, passing vehicles in the opposing lane and on the shoulder, and disregarding posted stop signs. The pursuit

continued onto Rt. 2 North, where the suspect vehicle lost control and crashed into a wooded area in front of 7125 N Solomons Island Road in Sunderland. Two male occupants fled on foot. A perimeter was established and K-9 teams with drone support were deployed. **Isaiah Future Andrews**, 20 of Prince Frederick, was located laying in a ditch. Over 465 grams of Cannabis, a digital scale, a THS vape pen, cannabis paraphernalia, and accessories were located on Andrews. Andrews was placed into custody and was charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Cannabis Over Civil Use. A second suspect **Miles Frederick Warrick**, 21 of Bowie, was located in the nearby woods during a K-9 track. Deputies recovered 114.6 grams of Psilocybin along with a digital scale, multiple containers and baggies of cannabis residue, a 9mm Luger shell casing, two Apple iPhones, cannabis paraphernalia, and vape additives from Warrick's person and backpack. Warrick was placed into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession with Intent to Distribute: PCP/LSD/HALLUCINOGEN, CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia, Fleeing and Eluding, and multiple related traffic offenses.



Nicholas Edward Large

## **CDS Violation: 25-31667**

On April 18, 2025, at approximately 3:26 a.m., DFC Huy responded to the 11200 block of Southern Maryland Boulevard in Dunkirk for the report of a suspicious vehicle with

two individuals sleeping inside. Upon contacting the occupants, deputies observed a syringe in plain view on the vehicle's floorboard. The passenger, identified as **Nicholas Edward Large**, 44 of Dunkirk, informed deputies that he had drugs in his pockets. A subsequent search revealed two pills containing Fentanyl, burnt copper wiring, a smoking device with white powdery residue, and a burnt copper filter. A search of the vehicle uncovered additional items, including three capsules containing Fentanyl, a syringe with white powdery residue, multiple unopened syringes, three metal push rods with residue, and a glass vial containing an unknown liquid. Large was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia.

**Property Destruction: 25-30905** On April 15, 2025, DFC Plant responded to the 900 block of Sixes Rd in Prince Frederick for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported sometime between 5 p.m. on April 14 and 9 a.m. on April 15, an unknown suspect damaged the front and rear windows of a L90F Volvo front loader. The estimated value of damaged property is \$2,000.

**Property Destruction: 25-31450** On April 17, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 5300 block of Williams Wharf Road in St. Leonard for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported sometime between 11 p.m. on April 16 and 9 a.m. on April 17, an unknown suspect(s) busted out the rear window to the victim's vehicle parked outside the residence. The estimated value of damaged property is \$1,000.

**Theft: 25-30908** On April 15, 2025, DFC Sylver responded to the 10100 block of Mackall Road in St. Leonard, for the reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between April 10 – April 12, an unknown suspect(s) stole the victim's trailer tag off a trailer parked outside the residence. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.



James Andrew Marsh

## **Weapons Violation: 25-30961**

On April 15, 2025, Deputy Hill conducted a traffic stop near Dares Beach Road and Wilson Road in Prince Frederick for an equipment violation. During the stop, further investigation

revealed that the driver, **James Andrew Marsh**, 32, of Chesapeake Beach, was carrying five concealed knives on his person. A sixth knife, measuring 18 inches in length, was found on the vehicle's floorboard within arm's reach of Marsh. He was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Concealing a Dangerous Weapon.

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

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

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# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Fri, May 2

### First Fossil Friday!

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

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

### Pins and Needles

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
1-4 p.m.

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

### Homeless Service Board Community Resource Fair

College of Southern Maryland  
Prince Frederick Campus  
115 J. W. Williams Road  
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 50 local agencies and service providers will be there to help. Attendees can connect to resources related to housing, utilities, employment, family needs, veteran resources, transportation, food, medical and personal care, legal services and vital records. Attendees can also win giveaways. For transportation arrangements, call 301-609-9900, ext. 602.

### Therapeutic Recreation Golf Tournament

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course  
9 a.m.

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation (CCPR), Therapeutic Recreation Services, invites the community to this fun-filled event that raises funds to help individuals with special needs participate in life-enriching programs offered through CCPR. The \$90 per person entry fee includes green fees, a cart, lunch and prizes. Participants of all skill levels are

welcome, and the tournament is open to the public. Community members, businesses and organizations are encouraged to register individually or as a team. Register online at [calvertcounty.perfectmind.com](http://calvertcounty.perfectmind.com) using activity #25-470660.

## Sat, May 3

### Open House & Tack Sale

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue  
7940 Flint Hill Road, Owings  
3-4 p.m.

Open Houses and Tack Sales are free to the public so come on by and meet our horses, have a tour of the barn, and learn more about Freedom Hill Horse Rescue and our mission to help horses in need. There will be interactive horse activities for children where they can lead horses around the arena, groom them, and more. We do not have horseback rides at our Open Houses. All proceeds from tack sales and any donations made during the Open House directly benefit the horses at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue.

## Sun, May 4

### Yappy Hour

The Wheelhouse  
4109 7th St., North Beach  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Yappy hour is a great family event sponsored by Tito's benefiting the Humane Society of Calvert County. We will have a silent auction with great items and a 50/50 raffle. Bring your dog and enter them in the pet trick contest or enter the best dressed dog contest. There will be give aways, face painting, food and alcohol available for purchase and music by John Luskey from 2-3.

### Beyond the Displays: Artifact Stories

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

Join Lori for an insightful exploration of the museum's artifacts, uncovering their origins and significance. Discover the history behind the eagle emblem, learn about

the name and source for the pig iron, and explore the significance of 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. Included with museum admission.

### Rescue Dogs Day Out

Dusk and Willow  
9132 Bay Ave., North Beach  
3-7 p.m.

Join us in loving memory of our dear friend Christian. Celebrate his legacy & help shine a light on the love & loyalty of bully breeds at this all-ages, family-friendly event! Sponsored by Christian's mom, Alice & Friends of Brewer, we'll be spending the afternoon with sweet, adorable rescue dogs and each one is looking for their forever home. Our goal is to raise funds to cover adoption fee & give these deserving pups a fresh start all while honoring Christian's compassion & big heart.

## Wed, May 7

### On Pins & Needles

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

Bring your quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting or other project for an afternoon of conversation and shared creativity. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Thu, May 8

### Sea Squirts

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

This month's theme is Hungry Caterpillar/ Butterfly. Children 18 months to three years, with an adult, are invited to discover the museum together through music, stories, and special activities. Join us for story time and a craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25-40 minutes. Cost is free with museum admission. Sign up at the

Admissions Desk when you arrive.

## Ongoing

### Jewelry Trunk Show

Calvert Marine Museum Store  
Friday-Sunday, May 2-4  
10:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

This special event offers a chance to explore unique, handcrafted jewelry from talented designers.

### Lore Oyster House

Select days in the month of May

Join us at the newly refurbished Lore Oyster House. Located six-tenths of a mile south of the main museum campus on Solomons Island Road, this 1934 seafood packing house offers exhibits that explore all aspects of oyster processing. No admission required. Visit our website for all summer dates!

### Wm. B. Tennison Public Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum  
Every Wed-Sun in the month of May  
2 p.m.

Relax and enjoy a leisurely one-hour sight-seeing cruise on the river aboard a log-built bugeye. Capacity allows for 40 guests. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children, infant through 12 years. \*Please note: May 3 will follow the event schedule for the Solomons Maritime Festival.

### Cove Point Lighthouse

Grounds and Visitors Center  
Wed, Sat, and Sun in the month of May  
1- 4 p.m.

The Cove Point Lighthouse grounds are open to the public during the summer months to enjoy a view of the Calvert Cliffs, explore the base of the lighthouse tower, and learn about the history of the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Chesapeake Bay. No admission required. NOTE: *The beach is not open to the public.*

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

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

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



# County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Herring-like fish  
5. Perform on stage  
8. Soda  
11. Small growth  
13. In support of  
14. Step taken when walking  
15. Hollyhocks  
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)  
17. Feel pain  
18. San Diego ballplayer  
20. Inches per minute (abbr.)  
21. Fat from a pig's abdomen  
22. Create again  
25. Honors once more  
30. Thin coating of gold  
31. Welsh river  
32. Japanese novelist Mizumura  
33. Husks of corn  
38. Green vegetable  
41. Showing guilt  
43. Soldier  
45. Photographers  
48. Language spoken in Nigeria  
49. Mimic  
50. Expressed pleasure  
55. Ancient Greek sophist  
56. Beverage container  
57. Night monkey genus  
59. Lace bugs  
60. Hoghead (abbr.)  
61. Frameworks  
62. Keyboard key  
63. Greek goddess of the dawn  
64. Influential Korean independence figure
- CLUES DOWN
1. A place to unwind  
2. Helped (archaic)  
3. Razorbill genus  
4. Bleached  
5. Continent  
6. Fruit preserved in syrup  
7. Impediment to one's freedom  
8. Nocturnal rodents  
9. Earthy pigment  
10. Relieved oneself  
12. Golf score  
14. Tech hub \_\_ Alto  
19. Sportscaster Andrews  
23. Records electric currents  
24. Popular Hitchcock film  
25. Revolutions per minute  
26. NY Giants legend  
27. Sports radio host Patrick  
28. When you hope to get somewhere  
29. French seaport  
34. Thai river  
35. Rocker's accessory  
36. Extra charge  
37. Influential American president  
39. Pain in the head  
40. Great Plains people  
41. Consumed  
42. Soluble ribonucleic acid  
44. Improves  
45. Secret clique  
46. Behind the stern of a ship  
47. Dough made from corn flour  
48. Fallow deer  
51. Swiss river  
52. Grayish white  
53. Engrave  
54. College's Blue Devils  
58. Midway between south and southeast

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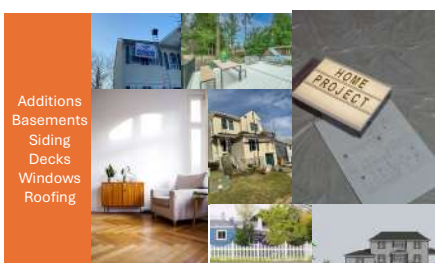


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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Fri, May 2

**Flower Sale**  
Faith Bible Church  
26325 Three Notch Rd Mechanicsville  
7 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Discount Flowers of all kinds. Annuals-Perennials! Small pots. Medium Pots. Large pots. Hanging baskets. Best prices in St Marys county. Proceeds go to mission trip to Kentucky to help with Home Improvement repairs for those in need. Call Jim at 240-917-8110 for info or question!!

**Run For The Kids 5K**  
18281 Rosecroft Rd, St Marys City  
8 a.m.  
Great Mills High School MiniTHON is proud to host our second 5K run/walk! All proceeds from the event will go towards MiniTHON's efforts of raising money for pediatric cancer research and family assistance. Registration: [runsignup.com/Race/MD/SaintMarysCity/RunForTheKids2025](https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/SaintMarysCity/RunForTheKids2025)  
This event is hosted at Historic St. Mary's City. The race will start and end at The Visitor's Center Parking Lot.

**Open House**  
Drayden African American Schoolhouse

11 a.m.- 2 p.m.  
Visit one of the nation's best-preserved, one-room African American schoolhouses the first and third Saturday of each month from April to October and on Juneteenth. Check out the restored schoolhouse and learn about its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Staff will be available at the school during this time to answer any questions and provide information.  
This is a FREE EVENT co-hosted by Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC) and the St. Mary's County Museum Division. INFO: [www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205](http://www.facebook.com/events/1304609537658205)

**Annual Gospel Extravaganza**  
Loffler Center  
21905 Chancellors Run Rd., Great Mills  
4-11 p.m.  
Sponsored by Bethesda United Methodist Church benefiting our building fund. Featuring The Harmonies of Faith, Traveling Angels, Keep In Touch Brothers and Several Guest Groups. For ticket and Information contact Nat Lawrence 301-481-0992, Herb Hardy 240-434-6690, Alma Jordon 240-298-2536 or Sarah Bushell 240-298-1284.

## Sun, May 4

**Bands Fundraiser for Great Mills and Chopticon**  
Chopticon High School  
25390 Colton Point Rd, Morganza  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Come support both school bands at the Battle of the Bands! Buy new mattresses and other bed accessories like pillows and sheets directly! We depend on fundraisers to buy instruments, uniforms, and other equipment!

**Designer Purse Bingo**  
Mechanicsville VFD  
28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville  
12:30-4:30 p.m.  
Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses,- cash, raffles, door prizes and more! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association and All Faith Episcoal Church

**Ongoing**  
**Online Auction of Previously Loved Designer Handbags**  
Seventh District Rescue Squad

21530 Colton Point Road  
In-person preview May 2, 5-7 p.m.  
Bidding on Facebook May 3-5  
Bidding starts on Saturday, May 3, on Facebook and ends at 3 p.m. Monday May 5. Winners can pick up handbags at Rescue Squad Building from 5-7 p.m. on May 5. For information, call Marcy at 240-925-0736.

**Upcoming**  
**Federal Employee Benefits Expo**  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church,  
27108 Mt. Zion Church Road,  
Mechanicsville  
May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter #969 of St. Mary's County us hosting this annual event. There is no cost to attend. Experts will be on hand to answer questions on such matters as retirement, Social Security, the Thrift Savings Plan, health insurance, and estate planning. Representatives of several Federal employee health care providers will also be on site. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit NARFE 969's website.

★

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



**Movie Screening of Free for All: The Public Library**  
This film explores the history and impact of public libraries in shaping our lives. Join us for an engaging discussion about the incredible ways the library helps us learn, connect, and grow together. Lexington Park Library, Friday, May 2, 2 - 4 p.m. We are delighted to have the Literacy Council of St. Mary's County joining us to explore the connections between literacy, citizenship, critical thinking, and the role libraries play in providing access to diverse stories, perspectives, and educational resources. The film, Free for All: The Public Library, tells the story of the quiet revolutionaries who made a simple idea happen - to create a place where anyone can enter and encounter a universe of ideas, free of charge. From the pioneering women behind the "Free Library Movement" to today's librarians who serve the public while navigating a world experiencing library

closures and book bans, meet those who created a civic institution where everything is free and the doors are open to all. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

**Project Butterfly & Bumblebee**  
Susan Polsky, from the Association of Southern Maryland Beekeepers, will teach us how to help the state increase pollinator habitats. Lexington Park Library on Saturday, May 3 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org), Walk-In's welcome! Through Project Butterfly & Bumblebee, the Maryland Park Service is committed to increasing pollinator habitat on public lands, educating the public about pollinators, and supporting programs and events that highlight the important role pollinators play in maintaining the nation's food supply and healthy and diverse ecosystems.

**Plant Swap & Share at the Community Garden**  
This free event offers both experienced

and new gardeners a chance to start a robust garden - with both native plants and veggies! Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden on Sunday, May 4 from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org). If you're new to gardening, this event is the place to get started! Meet other garden enthusiasts, tour the LMPP Community Garden's varied planting beds, and take home free plants and seeds!

**Selling Your First Home Q&A**  
Ask the simple and difficult questions about selling a home. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org). Walk-in's welcome! Lexington Park Library on Tuesday, May 6 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. With over a decade of real estate experience in three States as well as two decades of business ownership and community volunteerism, your host Amy Scott, Broker/Owner with OE Realty, is proud to announce a panel filled with knowledgeable experts in the fields that will directly impact the sale of your

home. Each panelist brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will help you navigate common pitfalls, and give tips on how to make your home more appealing to buyers. Amy Scott and team will teach you how to get top dollar for your home.

**Everything to Know about Alpha Gal Syndrome**  
Join us virtually to hear about this tick-borne disease currently affecting our community. We'll discuss everything from how the disease is spread and prevention to symptoms and living with AGS. Virtual event, Thursday, May 8 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. We will first hear from Dr. David Crum, DVM, MPH, the State Public Health Veterinarian of the Maryland Department of Health and then from Sheri Dean, FNP-BC, from the Grove Family Health medical clinic, located in Leonardtown, Maryland. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

# In Remembrance

Mary Catherine will be remembered for her kindness, her enduring faith, her tireless spirit, and the deep love she poured into her family and her community. Her legacy of hard work, devotion, and generosity will live on in all who knew and loved her.

She lived a life full of love and grace and now rests in eternal peace.

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.

## Nancy Mattingly, 85



Nancy Xavier Mattingly, a cherished wife, devoted mother, much-loved grandmother and heart of her family, passed away peacefully on April 23, 2025, with her husband Joe by her side, after a courageous six-year journey. Nancy was born on August 13, 1939, to the late Gladys Loretta Anderson and Bernard Gill McDonald in Washington, DC.

Nancy leaves behind her devoted husband, Joseph Clement Mattingly, whom she married on December 2, 1967, at Holy Angels Church in Avenue, MD. Her children Tammy Marie Wilkerson (David) of Great Mills, MD and Rebecca Ann Redding (Gabriel) of Chaptico, MD. Her grandchildren Brittany Goddard (Clarence), David Wilkerson, Casey Wilkerson and Abigail Redding. Her great-grandchildren Andrew, Benjamin, Colton, Haisley and Brooke. Nancy was predeceased by her parents, Gladys and George, her brothers, George, Thomas, James, and Francis McDonald.

Nancy graduated Anacostia High School in 1954. She worked for the Building and Savings Loan Bank, C&P Phone Company and Holy Angels Rectory before embracing her most important role as a full-time mother and wife of 57 years. For over four decades, her love filled their home on Cabbage Alley in Avenue, where she and Joe created a lifetime of memories with their family.

Nancy's life revolved around her family. Her children and grandchildren were the center of her world, and she found her greatest joy in being present for every milestone, every holiday, and the quiet, everyday moments in between. Nancy shared 57 beautiful years of marriage with Joe, building a home filled with laughter, love and lasting memories. She leaves behind a family forever touched by her kindness and unconditional love.

Nancy, a wife, mother, and Nana, will be deeply missed, but her memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved her.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Holy Angels Catholic Church, Avenue, MD. Interment will follow at Our Lady's Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be her grandchildren, David and Casey, her great-grandchildren, Andrew, Ben, and Abigail, along with Clarence Goddard. Serving as pallbearers will be her grandchildren, David, Casey, and Abigail, her great-grandchildren, Andrew and Ben, along with Clarence Goddard. Honorary pallbearer will be Colton Goddard.

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.

## Charlie Pilkerton, 68



Charles "Charlie" William Pilkerton, 68, of Clements, MD, passed away on April 15, 2025, surrounded by his loving family after courageously battling a brief illness. Born on November 7, 1956, in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late William Melvin Pilkerton Jr. and Agnes Cecelia Quade Pilkerton.

A lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD, Charlie graduated from Ryken High School in 1975 and married his high school sweetheart, Tammy, in 1978. He served in the Air Force as a Fuel Systems Specialist from 1975 to 1979, earning several commendations, including the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

Charlie's career spanned decades in the fuel industry, earning recognition like the Million Mile Safety Award. He was also a mechanic and driver for Guy Brothers Marine, where he was known for his dedication and expertise. A devout Catholic, he actively served at Sacred Heart Church in Bushwood, MD, and volunteered with Christmas in April, Inc.

Charlie cherished his time with his family, especially his six grandchildren. He

was known for his humor, generosity, and unwavering work ethic which will remain an inspiration for others.

Charlie is survived by his wife Tammy, children, Laura Ward (Brent) and Kevin Pilkerton (Mandy), grandchildren, Caelan, Claire, Kali, Adelyn, Braelyn, and Lexi, his mother, Agnes Pilkerton, and sisters, Janet Williams, Judy Willey (David), and Joanne Namyst (Joe). He was preceded in death by his father, his brother, William "Billy" Pilkerton III, and two children lost to miscarriage.

Charlie will forever be remembered as a devoted family man and role model, deeply loved and missed by all.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Thursday, May 1, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, May 2, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bushwood, MD, officiated by Father Anthony Lickteig. Interment will follow at Charles Memorial Gardens in Leonardtown, MD.

The Pallbearers will include Francis Guy, Mike Guy, Tim Bennett, Jacob Namyst, Josh Namyst, and Steve Williams.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Charles Pilkerton Memorial Scholarship Fund at the College of Southern Maryland which supports students pursuing their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or to the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED), which focuses on preventing and curing eosinophil-associated diseases by promoting education, awareness, research, advocacy, and support initiatives for those affected.

To donate to CSM, Online donations may be made at <https://tinyurl.com/Charles-Pilkerton>. Please designate the gift for the Charles Pilkerton Memorial Scholarship Fund in the donation form.

To donate to the American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED), Online donations can be made at <https://secure.everyaction.com/F-Sq7dtglk6QR4pIR-TAdgQ2>. Please designate the gift in honor of Charles Pilkerton, with acknowledgments sent to: PO Box 136, Clements, MD 20624, [TambreyPilkerton@Outlook.com](mailto:TambreyPilkerton@Outlook.com).

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.

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## A Tribute to the Loved One Whose Memory Lives On Forever in Your Heart

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.

For details and to place your notice of remembrance, call 301-373-4125



**REMEMBRANCES**  
IN PRINT & ONLINE

**County Times**  
St. Mary's County • Southern Maryland



In Remembrance

Queen's" have become a close-knit and beautiful group as well that help run and 'make the fun' at the annual High Summer Mardi Gra Party annually in June. He also adored Southern Maryland Softball and maintaining & tractor-riding on the pre-eminent ballfield in St. Mary's County, Cryer's Field, made possible by Loretta and Joseph Vallandingham. He took great pride in the many teams he sponsored that hit the field with his name on their uniforms. He was also proud of the teams of bar staff he put together over the years, some becoming like family, especially our own Donna Breeden. He was inducted into the Washington Metro and MD State Softball Halls of Fame and garnered many sponsorship & other awards over a lifetime of giving. He was active in civic organizations as well including the Leonardtown Lions, Hollywood Moose Lodge and the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department. He truly relished being 'Cap'n Jim' of his fleet of boats over the years including 'Frank's Folly/ Mardi Gras' and the 'Bacchus' and taking friends & family out for 'cruisin & fishin' trips, especially on beautiful Potomac River Sundays to Coles Point Tavern & other stops. He took great pleasure in driving his '77 Corvette with the top off, eating oysters, crabs and Popeye's fried chicken & red beans. He specially loved hearing some good brass band music and attending the annual Mardi Gras

in New Orleans where he hosted his 'Cryer's Balcony' for parades there for nearly 25 years, his only real vacations.

A Celebration of Life gathering for Jim will take place on the morning of the 85th anniversary of his birth at a spot he held dear, Leonardtown Wharf, on Thursday, May 8th, 2025, beginning at 9am. This will be followed by a traditional, New Orleans style Brass Band/Jazz Funeral procession through the town square to St Aloysius Cemetery for a Christian burial. The procession will return to the Wharf post-burial as well. Parking will be available at the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department's Carnival Lot and shuttle Trolleys will also be provided to and from the Wharf area and cemetery as there will be no personal vehicles permitted in the procession.

Serving as pallbearers will be Brian Klear, Michael Klear, Buddy Tippet, John Tyler, Willie Watts, Leo Cecchini, Dale Wince and Raymond Michael Digulimio, Jr

Honorary pallbearers are Charlie Breck, Ricky Rice, Lou Morgan, Lance Pierce, Michael Brynteson, Harry Pool and Jimmy Fletcher.

Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to the Clements Cuties Foundation, Second Hope Rescue Inc and LVFD Auxiliary.

His celebration of life will be continued at Cryer's Back Road Inn at 12:30pm. Please

join us for a toast to a life well lived.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

Mary Catherine Clarke, 87



Mary Catherine Clarke, 87, of Hollywood, Maryland, passed away with her family at her side on April 25, 2025, in Leonardtown, Maryland. Born on August 27, 1937, in Hughesville, Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Lilian Estelle Cross and Joseph Mitchell Cross.

Mary was the beloved wife of the late Melvin A. Wathen Sr., with whom she shared many cherished years. She later married the late John Romanus Clarke, and they were together for 21 years.

A lifelong resident of Southern Maryland, Mary Catherine graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1955. She devoted her life to her family, her faith, and her community. She was known for her strong work ethic, her resilience, and her unwavering devotion to those she loved. Whether in her career, at home, or in her community, Mary Catherine

approached every task with determination, grace, and a giving heart. She found great joy in spending time with her family, gardening, painting, studying the Bible, and playing Bingo.

Mary Catherine is survived by her children: Bonnie (Ben) Weiland of Lexington Park, MD; Linda Abell of Hinesville, GA; Jeannie (Charles) Sherrill of Hickory, NC; Dale (Lorie) Wathen of Hollywood, MD; Veronica Alvey-Butler of Hollywood, MD; and Deborah (Steve) Abell Leonardtown, MD. She is also survived by her son-in-law, Jimmy Clarke of Mechanicsville, MD, husband of her late daughter, Elizabeth Clarke. In addition to Elizabeth, she was preceded in death by her son, Melvin A. Wathen, Jr.

She was the proud grandmother of 18 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mary Catherine was also preceded in death by her siblings: Joseph M. Cross, Estelle Burch, Robert McKay, Theodore Cross, and Frankie Connelly, all of whom she loved dearly.

The family will receive friends on Monday, May 5, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, in St. John's Catholic Church, Hollywood, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 AM with Father Ray Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Steve Abell, Matt Bahnsen, Todd Walter, Stephen Abell, Evan Currie, and Willie Johnson.



Elder abuse comes in many forms.

Physical, emotional or psychological, financial, sexual, neglect or abandonment.

Any form is unacceptable.

Report suspected abuse to authorities.



WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?



# 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.

## Guy Leonard, 49



Guy Joseph Leonard, Jr., 49 of Great Mills, MD died suddenly April 24, 2025. He was known affectionately by his family as Joey, and Guy to his friends and community.

He was born January 10, 1976, at Patuxent River Naval Hospital, MD, to Jane (nee: Bridges) Leonard of North Little Rock, AR and the late Guy Joseph Leonard, Sr. He grew up in St. Mary's County and is a 1994 graduate of St. Mary's Ryken High School.

After graduating high school, Guy attended York College in York, PA where he met the love of his life. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1998, majoring in International Studies with minors in government studies and French. He quickly landed a job with Interact Nova Group as a teacher, taking him to Fukushima, Japan, where he taught conversational English to groups of students from beginner to advanced and business level conversational English to the more advanced students. After one year, he returned to the United States, and began his career in journalism as a staff writer for The Gazette Newspapers in Laurel, MD.

He was a contributing writer for the team that was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for their superior coverage on the "Beltway Sniper" story. He was also responsible for covering over 200 public schools within the Prince George's County educational system for two years, exposing the severe truancy problems plaguing the County; with truancy court established soon thereafter.

On October 7, 2006, he married his college sweetheart, Tegan Christine Buckley in Minersville, PA. The couple moved to St. Mary's County, and into Guy's family home. In 2007, he began the second leg of his career as a staff writer with The County Times Newspaper, working diligently to make the start-up newspaper one of the most trusted and reliable sources of news locally in St. Mary's County. Guy was a detail-oriented writer, always protecting his sources, upholding the highest level of ethics in fairness, accuracy and integrity, in all his publications. He was highly respected among his colleagues, politicians, and community members alike for his dedication to breaking numerous stories with precision and impartiality.

Guy was an avid reader, enjoying most genres, with his favorite author being Stephen King. He had an extensive Star Wars and Lego collection. He was an excellent cook, and started cooking early in his childhood,

helping his mother shop for groceries and prepare meals. A favorite specialty he made was Ratatouille. He was a history buff and was well-studied on wars and the weaponry used. He was fascinated with learning all the intricate details of the guns and knives, including precise measurements, improvements, abilities, etc. He also enjoyed action movies, camp-outs with the Church, and vacations to see family members. He had a huge soft spot for his many beloved cats, whom he took excellent care of.

He is a 20-year active, faithful member of Patuxent Baptist Church in Great Mills, MD where he participated in worship services and bible study. He was a member of Sanner's Gun Club and a current member of Flat Broke Shooters Club, where he enjoyed shooting with his friends.

Guy is survived by his beloved mother, Jane, loving wife, Tegan, uncles, James "Jim" Bridges (Diann) of Sherwood, AR whom he had a close bond with, and Douglas "Doug" Bridges (Kate) of Pensacola, FL; his step-mother, Sandra Leonard of LaCrosse, WI; his in-laws, Peter and Joyce Buckley of Pottsville, PA; sister-in-law's, Tara Wheeler (Alfie) of Manteo, NC and Dr. Cali Buckley of New York, NY; many beloved fur babies; and extended friends and family. In addition to his father, he is also preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Arthur and Mary Jane Bridges.

Family will receive friends on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a Funeral Service celebrated by Pastor Rick Connor at 1:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Feral Cat Rescue, Inc. <http://www.feralcatrescuemd.org/>; St. Mary's Animal Welfare League (SMAWL) <https://smawl.org/>; Patuxent Baptist Church building fund in memory of Guy Leonard Jr. <https://www.patuxent-baptistchurch.org/give>.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

## Jim Cryer, 84



James Baron Cryer, 84, of Leonardtown, MD, died on Monday, March 17, 2025, at St. Mary's Nursing Center in Leonardtown, MD.

Jim Cryer was born on May 8, 1940 in Leonardtown, MD. Except for a brief Army deployment to New Orleans, LA where he met and married Betty Jane Brou, he lived the entirety of his life in the Leonardtown area. He was the son of Alice B Brown and Oscar M. Cryer, brother to Mary Alice and Oscar M. 'Skip' Cryer as well as half-brother to Leo P. Klear and Michael Klear. He was father to James Kenneth (Ken) Cryer and partner to Kathy McCullough, as well as dad to the best Bar Dog ever, Bacchus and his successor Trouble. He was also Uncle Jim to Susan Fielders, Jaime Klear, Brian Klear, Leo Klear III, Michael Klear, Marlene Klear, Brenda Faye Bennett, Johnny Harden, Mark Brynteson and Mike Brynteson. He was also godfather to Raymond Michael Digulimio, Jr.

After returning to Leonardtown, Jim worked initially as a car salesman at Fenwick Ford before his foray into tavern ownership with the purchase of the Friendly Bar on the square in Leonardtown which would, going forward, become his lifelong business passion. He later opened and ran the legendary Leonardtown Wharf at the water's edge of downtown Leonardtown and would go on to also own and operate Dock of the Bay (now Fizzie's Marina) and Cryer's Back Road Inn in Compton, MD, which continues to operate to this day. He clearly was meant to be a bar owner, combining a stoic strength of character with a genuinely caring and engaged ear, all the while maintaining a knack for knowing how to decipher fact from BS in relatively short order.

Jim's most cherished endeavor was bringing together and entertaining the multitude of customers and friends at his well-run establishments, serving up live music and tasty libations which brought so much joy to so many. His "Cryer's Mardi Gras

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*Thank you Lord for  
Doug Delahay Woodburn  
5/12/2000 - 8/3/2019  
"love you pumpkin"*



*Words cannot say  
We miss you everyday  
Through the month of May  
We remember your Birthday*

## A View From The BLEACHERS



### Off-Putting

By Ronald N. Guy  
Contributing Writer

"The Lakers just traded Anthony Davis for Luka Doncic."

My son burst into our sports loft one night earlier this year and spoke those words. I was skeptical. My bull-stinky-stuff meter registered "likely". The boy, this dear offspring of mine, has an ability to deadpan some nugget of marginally believable news and make you buy it. It's annoying, but he's good. I feel no shame admitting he has fooled me several times, enough where I've debated continuing to provide food and shelter.

I wasn't taking the trickster's bait this time. Nice try, kiddo, but you went too big. There is no way the Mavericks traded Luka to the Lakers. Then defiant dad met the telling screen of his humored son's cell phone. The Mavericks had in fact shipped Doncic to the City of Angels.

The trade made no sense on paper. The Mavericks received Davis, 32, an older, inferior player to Doncic on an expensive, multiyear contract. The Lakers welcomed Doncic, a 26-year-old franchise anchor and one of the best ballers in the world. There were other players, teams and draft assets involved, but none of consequence. This was, for all intents and purposes, a dubious one-for-one that justified this gray-bearded dad's doubt of his prankster offspring. So, what was Dallas thinking? Former Notre Dame head football coach Lou Holtz might have captured the Maverick's mentality when he said, "Don't tell people your problems: 80% don't care and 20% are glad you have them."

Prior to the trade, I was aware of the book on Doncic: elite scorer, defensively challenged and a bit fussy. Meh: That's the story with most modern stars. But a move from Dallas to Los Angeles, from the Mavs to the 17-time NBA champion Lakers, brings more than a jersey change: a much, much bigger stage awaits. After being just an occasional video acquaintance for years, it felt like Laker Luka was screen-side every other night. It offered a different view from the bleachers - more thorough, more nuanced, more complete. The familiarity of full Luka exposure bred contempt. My conclusion after just a few months: Watching this guy regularly for extended periods is intolerable.

In arriving at this place of total judgment, I acknowledge that I am the old sports fan screaming from the porch with a snarl on my face, a can of beer grasped tightly in my hand and an ever-present ache in my back. I don't care; my conviction is unwavering. Much like what a dying Capt. Miller (Tom Hanks) urged Private Ryan (Matt Damon) to do in "Saving Private Ryan", Doncic has earned this. Doncic is a great scorer and a challenged defender, but these words define him: whiney brat. My beef with Doncic: He complains about every call. Not some. Not only during timeouts. Every call. Often while the game is still being played. As if he is the center of the universe and the world should stop while he airs his grievances. Doncic's whining is in a class by itself, even in a league where officiating complaints are routine. Doncic's behavior, and sense of entitlement to everything, is so off-putting that it completely overshadows his game. A two-year-old fit follows every time he possesses the ball and a defender makes the slightest contact. If Amazon sold emotional intelligence, I'd ship him some.

Seeing Doncic flail, flip his arms in the air and fire verbal barbs at officials sends the mind on rewind, back to players like Art Monk, Cal Ripken and Barry Sanders - consummate professionals who carried themselves with class and dignity. Did they get every call? Did the game always go their way? Of course not. Juxtaposing how Doncic and these three greats handled adversity, unfairness or even the unjust, offers a teaching moment. Is it about you? What you want? What you deserve? In the moment and always? Or is it about staying focused, overcoming resistance and propelling a group to victory? Putting appearances aside, it's unclear how Doncic would answer those questions as he obnoxiously announces his problems to all. That said, one can begin to understand why Dallas made the deal. Lou Holtz certainly would.

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

## FINANCIAL FOCUS®

### Three stops on the road to financial stability

Achieving financial stability doesn't happen overnight — it takes a journey. And, as with every journey, you'll need to make some stops along the way. These stops, or milestones, can tell you how far you've gone — and where you need to go next.

#### Milestone 1: Build a foundation

When you're first starting on your financial journey — typically, when you are beginning your career — you'll want to build a foundation by acting on key issues, such as saving, paying down debts and investing for the future. Here are some suggestions:

- *Start your emergency fund.* Eventually, you'd like to have several months' worth of living expenses kept in a liquid, low-risk account to deal with unexpected costs, such as large medical bills or a major car repair. For now, though, at least try to put away a few hundred dollars or a month's worth of expenses. To make it easier, have some money moved automatically each month from a checking or savings account into your emergency fund.
- *Take your employer's match.* Contribute enough to your 401(k) and health savings account (HSA) to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.
- *Pay down your higher-rate debt.* Try to pay down as much high-interest, non-deductible debt as you can afford. If possible, refinance debt at lower interest rates.

#### Milestone 2: Gain a better foothold

Once you've got your financial foundation in place, and you're established in your career, consider these steps to gain an even better foothold:

- *Continue building your emergency fund.* Try to get at least a couple of months' expenses in this fund.
- *Put away more into your retirement accounts.* If you can, try to put anywhere from 10% to 15% of your gross income into your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan.
- *Check your debt-to-income ratio.* Divide your monthly debt payments by your monthly gross income to calculate your debt-to-income ratio. If you're paying a mortgage, try to keep this ratio to 35% or less. Without a mortgage, try for 20% or less.

#### Milestone 3: Keep moving forward

As you move into your middle years — and beyond — it's time to further solidify your financial situation and keep making progress toward a comfortable retirement. These moves can help:

- *Maintain your emergency fund.* By now, you should be able to keep up to six months' worth of expenses in your emergency fund. A sizable emergency fund can help you if you need to switch jobs, and enable you to meet larger expenses without dipping into your long-term investments.
- *Review your retirement goals.* At this stage of your life, you should review your retirement goals regularly to determine whether you're still on track toward meeting them. If you aren't, you may need to adjust your investment strategies. Of course, your goals may have changed over time, and this, too, may require adjustments on your part. You may want to work with a financial professional who can suggest appropriate moves to help you on your way.

Reaching all these milestones will take diligence and commitment — but it will be worth the effort in helping you on your journey toward financial stability.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

*Contributed by David McDonough, Financial Advisor at Edward Jones  
Office located at 41680 Miss Bessie Dr. Suite 302, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
301 997 1707*

# Edward Jones®

# Southern Maryland's 30<sup>th</sup> Spring Festival

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown, MD

**May 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Family fun for everyone!*

## Spring Festival Gate Hours

Thursday May 1	5 pm - 10 pm
Friday May 2	5 pm - 10 pm
Saturday May 3	10 am - 10 pm
Sunday May 4	10 am - 6 pm

## ADMISSION

Thursday Night FREE

Friday Saturday Sunday:

Adults	\$6
6-12 years	\$3
Under 6	FREE

**Bring a non-perishable canned food item and receive \$1 off admission**



## **Festival Ride Bracelets**

**Thursday 5-10pm**

**Saturday 11am-3pm**

Carnival Ride Tickets costs are posted at the ticket booth

## ATTRACTIONS

- Amusement Rides and Games
- Chainsaw Artist - Joe Wenal
- Tractor Pull (Sat & Sun)
- Car Show (Sat)
- Live Entertainment
- Jay Mattioli Electrifying Magic (Sat)
- SOMD Laser Tag
- Kid's Games Area
- Raffle and Pull Tabs
- Artists & Crafters
- Indoor Yard Sale
- Hay Ride
- Face Painting
- Flower Sale
- Great Food



[www.southernmdspringfestival.org](http://www.southernmdspringfestival.org)

Southern Maryland Spring Festival is Presented by: Holy Face Church, Great Mills, MD

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**MAY 2 • 8AM**

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**MAY 3 • 8AM**

Antiques • Flowers • Tools • Vintage Cars  
Building Materials • Lawn Equipment • and More

**PREVIEW MAY 1 • 8:30AM**

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SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Live Entertainment, Demonstrations, Vendors,  
Contests, Fun for the Kids, Food, Drinks & More!

**May 24<sup>th</sup> - May 25<sup>th</sup> 10 AM - 8 PM**  
Brüdergarten Beer Garden, Leonardtown

**Get tickets and details  
at [RenFestSOMD.com](https://RenFestSOMD.com)**



RenFest Southern Maryland



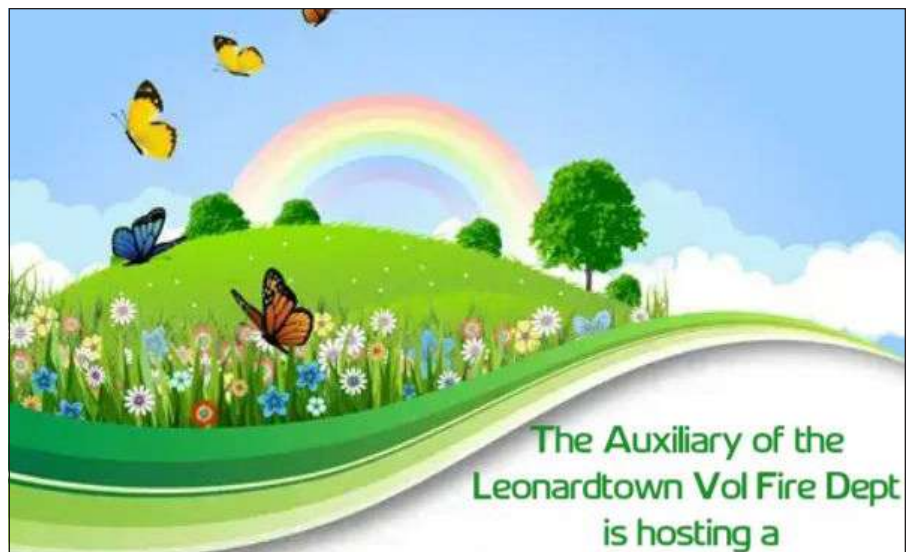
**SPRING FLING XXXVIII CAR SHOW  
ON THE SQUARE IN LEONARDTOWN**

**Presented by Saint Mary's Rod &  
Classic Car Club**

**SUNDAY May 4th, 2025**

22735 Washington Street  
Leonardtown MD

SPECTATORS: \$5.00 DONATION  
TO HOSPICE OF ST. MARY'S



The Auxiliary of the  
Leonardtown Vol Fire Dept  
is hosting a

**Spring Craft & Vendor Event**

Space is available! Email: [lvfdcraftvendor@gmail.com](mailto:lvfdcraftvendor@gmail.com)

**May 3rd 9am-3pm**

**Leonardtown Vol Fire Dept**

22733 Lawrence Ave, Leonardtown, MD 20650  
(inside the truck bays)

**Variety of local crafts and direct sales vendors!**

**Food for sale by the Auxiliary!**

**Don't get scammed - The email is the only POC for this event!**

Take up to 12 photos in a 24 hour period during the contest days.

**May 16 - 18, 2025**

*Springtime*  
in Leonardtown!



Participants must submit a photo in at least one of the 12 categories to join the scavenger hunt. Each category will have two winners (adult & youth) crowned "Best Of." Those who enter all 12 categories will qualify for a grand prize drawing.

### *What to shoot!*

- ★ Board Games
- ★ Brick
- ★ Brunch
- ★ Butterfly
- ★ Fabrics
- ★ Flowers
- ★ Fresh Air
- ★ Ice Cream
- ★ Love
- ★ Selfie with favorite Leonardtown Business
- ★ Sunrise/Sunset
- ★ Yellow, the color of Spring



➤ For contest rules and details, please visit:  
[www.visitleonardtownmd.com/photohunt](http://www.visitleonardtownmd.com/photohunt)

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**LEONARDTOWN arts entertainment DISTRICT**

# ***"Spring into Spring" Variety Auction***

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

**Home, Lawn & Garden Items – Handcrafted Quilts – Tools – Toys – Food/Snacks & More**

**Saturday - May 10, 2025 - 4 pm**

**Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn**

**26689 Laurel Grove Rd. - Mechanicsville, MD**



**FLOWERS, PLANTERS, HANGING BASKETS, & RELATED ITEMS:** Variety of Flowers from local growers/producers that may include: Dahlias, Vinca, Coleus, Petunias, Begonias, Geraniums; Combo Planters (various sizes & types); Hanging Baskets (various varieties); Iron Flag Holders & Plant Hooks; Nostalgic Thermometers & Signs; Insecticide; Garden Work Gloves; More.

**HOME, LAWN, MISC. ITEMS:** Poly Furniture (Rockers, Glider Rockers, Etc.), Bad Boy String Trimmer, Camping Chairs, Travel Cases, Brawny Paper Towels, Water Hoses, Camping Lantern Sets, Cast Iron Pans, Cleaning Items, Armor All Kits, Wrangler Bags, Igloo Cooler Bag, Meat Grinder, Vacuum Seal Bags, Drone, Amazon Commercial Coolers (nice!), Propane Firepit, Air Fryer, Patio Set, Outdoor Mats, Stanley Travel Cups, Bird Baths, Concrete Items (Benches, Bird Baths, Variety of Animals/Statues, Baking Pans, More

**TOOLS AND MISC. ITEMS:** Garden Hoses (various types/lengths), Razerback Shovels, Galvanized Chicken Feeders, Battery-Op Mini Chainsaws, Tool Belts/ HOLDERS, Garden Hose Nozzles, Trash Bags, CAT Work Gloves, Tape Measures, Pole Saw, Inverter Portable Welders (Wire & Stick Type), Craftsmen Tool Sets, Ratchet Straps, Air Hose Kits, Tack Hooks, More

**HANDCRAFTED QUILTS:** Mariner's Compass, Broken Twinkling Star, Star Medallion, Star Spin, Cathedral Window, Kaleidoscope, Double Wedding Ring, Hexagon Star Fan, Stars Over the Cabin, More

**FOOD/SNACKS:** Baked Goods (Pies, Cakes, Cookies, Snacks), UTZ Snacks including: Chips, Cheese Puffs, Pretzels, Party Mix, Honey BBQ Chips, Pork Skins, Crackers), Ketchup, Variety of Chocolate Candies, Oreo & Chips Ahoy Cookies, Cheerios, Nabisco Snacks, Reese's Candy, Beef Jerky, More

**TOYS/YOUTH ITEMS:** Bubble Machine, Nerf Toy, Inflatable Pool Items, Airsoft Target Set, Camping Lanterns, Pickleball Game Set, Tonka Trucks/Toys, Drone, More

***Good Food and Refreshments by Anna Stoltzfus & Family***

*(Note: If all goes well, we hope to have her famous Soft Pretzels!)*

***Thanks for supporting our local Growers!***



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**301.904.3402**



# SPRING EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S MUSEUMS

## DISCOVER HISTORY AND HERITAGE FOR ALL AGES



### St. Clement's Island Heritage Day

Experience a day of history, wildlife, art, games, family activities, and more as guest presenters and interpreters showcase the history, culture, heritage, and ecology of St. Clement's Island.

**Saturday • June 7 • 10AM–3PM**

For more info: 301-769-2222 • [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)



### Drayden African American Schoolhouse

Learn more about one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses and its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County.



**Open Houses May 3 & 17 • June 7 & 19–21 • 11AM–2PM**

For more info: 301-994-1471 • [Facebook.com/DraydenSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DraydenSchool)



### SUMMER SOLSTICE AT PINEY POINT

Come enjoy the longest day of the year with after-hour tours of the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park.

**Friday • June 20 • 10AM–8PM**

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

### 2025 Dinner & A Cruise Series

Enjoy a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi, including presentations by experts on local history, followed by a delicious seafood dinner catered at Potomac Gardens.



**May 4 • May 25 • June 8 • 3pm–6pm**

For more info: 301-769-2222 • [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)



### St. Clement's Island Art Kids

Students age 7–17 will explore fine arts through a variety of artistic styles and reflect on how making art can affect society in positive, impactful ways.

**June 24–26 • July 8–10 • July 22–24 • August 5–7**

For more info: 301-769-2222 • [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)

### DID YOU KNOW?

**St. Mary's County Museums offer free admission on select days of the year:**

Free admission for moms (others in party must pay regular admission) on **Mother's Day, May 11**

Free admission for all active & retired military (with valid ID) on **Armed Forces Day, May 17**

Free admission for dads (others in party must pay regular admission) on **Father's Day, June 15**



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY MUSEUMS,  
VISIT [MUSEUMS.STMARYSMD.COM](https://www.museums.stmarysmd.com)



# SoMD May Events

## Southern Maryland Spring Festival

**Thursday, May 1 – Sunday, May 4**  
**St. Mary's County Fairgrounds**  
**42455 Fairgrounds Rd., Leonardtown**  
**Admission: \$6 for General Admission**

For over 25 years, the Southern Maryland Spring Festival has enjoyed bringing people together for a weekend of family fun with carnival rides, entertainment, food, yard sale, crafters and much more! This fun-filled, family-oriented event is a popular local event for the community and visitors alike as the festival showcases many St. Mary's County local talents and businesses. Along with the usual carnival attractions, check out a local tractor pull, a comedy show, a vehicle exhibition or local dancers and singers if you're seeking amusement. There's also a massive indoor yard sale and see farm animals and a John Deere toy collection.

Holy Face Church in Great Mills, MD is the proud sponsor of the Southern Maryland Spring Festival.

The following are the festival days and hours:

5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st  
(Carnival Only Night)

5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, May 2nd  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 3rd  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 4th

## Solomons Small Craft Gathering

**Through Sunday, May 4**  
**Calvert Marine Museum**  
**14200 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons**  
**Admission: Free**

Join the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, in association with the Calvert Marine Museum, Shallow Water Sailors, Traditional Small Craft Association, and Dinghy Cruising Association, for a week of informal small boat adventures. All wind, paddle, oar, pedal, and motor-powered craft are welcome. The event includes three days of cruising and camping on the St. Mary's River, followed by a boat show and activities at CMM during the Solomons Maritime Festival on May 3. Attendees can enjoy free museum admission, boat rides, exhibits, music, and more. Those wishing to display their boats onshore during the festival are encouraged to participate.

## Solomons Maritime Festival

**Saturday, May 3, 10 AM to 4 PM**  
**Calvert Marine Museum**  
**14200 Solomons Island Rd S, Solomons**  
**Admission: Free**

Celebrate Southern Maryland traditions at this FREE festival! Visitors of all ages are invited to join us for exciting activities including cooking demonstrations, traditional LIVE music, toy boat building, Quilts of Valor display, Chesapeake Bay Retriever demonstrations, antique boats and

motors, plus 30-minute cruises on the *Wm. B. Tennison*! Food vendors will be on-site. Admission to the festival and the museum is FREE thanks to Calvert Marina, the Patuxent Small Craft Guild, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, and the Calvert County Waterman's Association.

## MarylandFest

**Saturday, May 3, 12 PM to 6 PM**  
**Historic St. Mary's City**  
**18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City**  
**Admission: Free**

MarylandFest will replace the former Beerfest, but this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, with the added bonus of celebrating Maryland spring in the beautiful outdoors.

Admission to MarylandFest is free, with some ticketed activities available. Along with returning beer vendors, there will be wine and spirits vendors to satisfy all tastes, making this an expanded celebration of local beverages.

Special highlights include:

- Photos with Pinch, the mascot of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, in the sports zone!
- Maypole dance & Morris dance
- Live music with Andrew Bell and the 8 Ohms Band
- Delicious food & drinks
- A bounce house zone, natural crafts, and other kid-friendly activities will ensure a fun experience for all ages.

## Spring Fling Car Show

**Sunday, May 4, 8 AM to 4 PM**  
**Leonardtown Square**  
**22670 Washington St., Leonardtown**  
**Admission: \$5 spectator fee**

St. Mary's Rod & Classic Car Club presents its Spring Fling Car Show! Spend the day admiring hot rods, vintage cars, and antique vehicles in the center of Downtown Leonardtown. Dash plaques will be awarded to the first 250 registered cars, trucks, or motorcycles, while trophies will be given to the top 60 and 15 specialized honors. There will be a selection of food and drinks, music, door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, shopping, and Annual Running of the Balls, among other activities. Proceeds benefit Hospice of St. Mary's and other non-profits. Rain date: May 18, 2025.

## Dinner & A Cruise Series

**Sunday, May 4, 3 PM to 6 PM**  
**St. Clements Island Museum**  
**38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point**  
**Admission: \$85 per person,**  
**\$160 per couple**

Enjoy cool breezes during a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi and delicious seafood dinner and beverage service catered at Potomac Gardens.

The water tour will include a guided presentation about an environmental topic. The event will begin and end at St. Clement's Island Museum where the water taxi will pick up guests. Dinner and dessert reception will be served at Potomac Gardens.

May 4th: World War II & the Potomac, hosted by Vince Turner. Cruise the Potomac River around St. Clement's Island with WWII historian Vince Turner and learn how World War II influenced life on the Potomac River and Southern Maryland.

Book in advance on Eventbrite. Cruises are capped at 20 people and tend to sell out! Ages 21+ only.

## Spring Shine Festival

**Saturday, May 10, 10 PM to 5 PM**  
**Southern Trail Distillery**  
**27227 Morganza Turner Rd.,**  
**Mechanicsville**  
**Admission: Free**

Sip on a specialty cocktail, indulge in regional snacks & cuisine, peruse the stalls of local artisans and vendors, and listen to live music. The 6th Annual Spring Shine Festival at Southern Trail Distillery is shaping up to be the best one yet! This year's musical guest is Pork Donut.

## Southern Maryland Heritage Festival

**Saturday, May 17 – Sunday, May 18**  
**Historic Sotterley**  
**44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood**  
**Admission: One-day entrance \$10 in advance, \$15 at the gate; Two-day entrance \$18 in advance, \$25 at the gate; Children 12 & Under: FREE**  
**11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Southern Maryland Heritage Festival returns for its 2nd year, celebrating local food, culture, and history. The 2-day festival offers opportunities to explore regional heritage through food sampling, artisanal shopping, historical exhibits, and diverse musical performances, with family-friendly activities including a dedicated kids' area.

New this year: Boondocking at Southern Maryland Heritage Festival! For the first time this year, the Southern Maryland Heritage Festival will allow 2 nights of on-site RV camping (May 16 & 17). Guests will be able to fully immerse themselves in the beauty of Sotterley and the festival experience.

Camping Registration costs \$100 and includes 2 adult two-day tickets to the festival. To reserve your spot, contact Sotterleyfest@gmail.com.

## RenFest Southern Maryland

**Saturday, May 24 – Sunday, May 25**  
**Brüdergarten**  
**22725 Duke St., Leonardtown**  
**Admission: \$15 – \$30**

An enchanted weekend of live entertainment, food, laughter, and lore, where everyone is welcome to escape reality and celebrate play!

RenFest Southern Maryland, the region's premiere renaissance faire where fantasy, history, and humor transcend both time and realm, welcoming all people and creatures to escape reality and celebrate play.

With three stages full of music, mischief, and magic, a village of vendors, and feastable food fit for a king, we invite you to spend a weekend immersed in fellowship and fun in the better world of our dreams!

## Dinner & A Cruise Series

**Sunday, May 25, 3 PM to 6 PM**  
**St. Clements Island Museum**  
**38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point**  
**Admission: \$85 per person,**  
**\$160 per couple**

Enjoy cool breezes during a fun evening of cruising on the St. Clement's Island Water Taxi and delicious seafood dinner and beverage service catered at Potomac Gardens.

The water tour will include a guided presentation about an environmental topic. The event will begin and end at St. Clement's Island Museum where the water taxi will pick up guests. Dinner and dessert reception will be served at Potomac Gardens.

May 25th: Blackistone Lighthouse, hosted by John Houser of the St. Clement's Hundred. Learn the history of the Blackistone Lighthouse, located on St. Clement's Island as you cruise the river in our water taxi. Tour the island and the lighthouse with a small group.

Book in advance on Eventbrite. Cruises are capped at 20 people and tend to sell out! Ages 21+ only.

## Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

**Saturday, May 31, 10 AM to 5 PM**  
**Historic St. Mary's City**  
**18751 Hogaboom Ln., St. Mary's City**  
**Admission: \$41.75**

Experience springtime in Southern Maryland on this self-guided tour of four private and historic waterfront homes, two historic churches, a living museum of archeology and stops at the scenic campus of SMCM with inspiring landscapes and stunning floral designs. In addition to the house and garden tours there will be a special performance by the St. Peter Claver Men's Choir, wine tastings and Bourbon samplings scheduled at various tour stops throughout the day. Proceeds benefit The Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church. Visit [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org) or [www.stmaryscountygardenclub.com](http://www.stmaryscountygardenclub.com) for complete information and/or tickets or contact Tour Chair, Beth Bonifant 301-861-6112

# KICK-OFF *to* SUMMER

FREE EVENTS

Townhouse Green

## MULBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE 20, 2025 @ 6 P.M.

Join us in the celebration of Juneteenth with incredible performances of blues, R&B, funk and jazz! Featuring Dumpstaphunk, Carly Harvey and Kelly Bell Band. Plus food trucks and vendors from across Southern Maryland. **FIREWORKS FOLLOWING THE SHOW!**

Learn more: [www.smcm.edu/mmfnf](http://www.smcm.edu/mmfnf)

## RIVER CONCERT SERIES @ 7 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY STARTING JUNE 27 UNTIL JULY 25

Featuring the Chesapeake Orchestra, directed by Jeff Silberschlag. Experience a mixture of genres like classical, jazz, baroque and more! Bring your folding chairs and blankets and enjoy the finest food trucks.



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# SoMD May Events



# Pets of the Week

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## MEET LEIA

Hi there, I'm a 1 year old, calico cutie, and full-time Jedi of the laser pointer galaxy! I'm just great with other cats, cool with kids 7+, and I can leap for wand toys like I'm training for the Cat Olympics. When not practicing my moves, I really enjoy ruling my kingdom from the top of a cat tower. Adopt Me Today, and may the purrs be with you! Adoption hours are Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm. To see more of my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



## MEET KUROMI

Kuromi is a sweet 6yo Shitzu mix with a lot of personality dashed with a sprinkle of sass. When we rescued her from the shelter we were told she needed to be an only dog. She's currently being foster in a home with other dogs of many sizes and personalities and is doing great. We would say she's dog "selective". Kuromi would do best in a home with no small children.

Are you interested in giving Kuromi her Furever home? Go to [www.animalrelieffund.org](http://www.animalrelieffund.org) to fill out an application, Call 301-866-0303 or stop by Saturdays at the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park between 11am-2pm for our adoption days.



# One Weekend, Thousands of Books



The St. Mary's County Friends of the Library (FOL) will hold its annual used book sale May 16, 17 and 18, 2025, at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown.

Friday, May 16, is reserved for FOL members only from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Members have the opportunity to shop first on this special preview day and members can join or renew online or at the door.

Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, are open to the general public, with Saturday hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday offering "bag day" bargains from 12 noon to 4 p.m. when shoppers can fill an entire recyclable tote bag for only \$10.

The FOL has raised more than \$924,000 to support all three St. Mary's County libraries and this funding is used to provide many library functions and activities including new furniture and the mobile library.

"The used book sale provides a unique opportunity for book lovers to fill their private libraries on a budget or donate their time to assist in making the event a success,"

said FOL board president Lloyd Timberlake. "With thousands of books available – from fiction, nonfiction and mixed media to children's, young adults, cookbooks and even puzzles – there is truly something for everyone. And we certainly couldn't do it without the energy and dedication of our many volunteers."

The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library is a 501c3 organization of persons interested in libraries who advocate for and support the library as a group and individually. The FOL has raised over \$924,000 for St. Mary's County since 1992.

Members receive FOL newsletters and early buying privileges at the spring and winter book sales before the general public. Membership runs from January through December and family/individual member options start at \$15 per year.

For more information about FOL activities and book sales, including all-year online sales, or to join or renew a membership, visit online at [folstmarys.com](http://folstmarys.com).

# Museums Offer Free Admission for Moms on Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, May 11, St. Clement's Island Museum in Colton's Point and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum in Piney Point, will offer free museum admission for moms during normal operating hours, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note regular admission prices apply to others with the party:

St. Clement's Island Museum: \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children (6-18), \$2 for seniors and military, and free for those 5 and under. St. Clement's Island Water Taxi rides are not included in this promotion. Water taxi rides are \$7 per person (all ages) and this price includes museum admission.

Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children (6-18), seniors and military, and free for those 5 and under.

Old Jail Museum & Leonardtown Visitor Center: always free admission for all!

The Museum Stores at all three locations are open daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and showcase a broad assortment of unique items – from books to jewelry, to children's products, home accessories, and offerings from local artisans and authors, there is something for everyone.

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

- St. Clement's Island Museum: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum)

Spring into Spring Auction

May 4 | 9am - 3pm  
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## All Weekend Long

**First Friday Specials and Sales** at Shepherd's Old Field Market, May 2nd - Sunday May 4th

Try the Good Earth Natural Food Stores's **smoothie of the month**, the "Ring of Fire." It has a smokey spice in a combination of organic mango and pineapple, agave nectar, coconut water and a dash of chipotle powder.

## Friday, May 2nd

**10 a.m. - 7 p.m.** Visit the Old Jail Museum for FREE tours with extended hours for First Friday

**12:30 - 5:30** Join us for glass blowing at Port of Leonardtown Winery

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Opening reception North End Gallery for Clay Show

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Opening Reception for Dreamscapes at St. Mary's Arts Council

**5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Audience participation drum circle at St. Mary's Arts Council

**5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.** Youth Drumline event at St. Mary's Arts Circle

**6 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Live Music with Mike Trujillo in Leonardtown Square

**5:30 p.m. - 8:30** Live music with Joe Parsons at Port of Leonardtown Winery and Heidi's Eats and Sage's Treats Korean BBQ food truck.

**8 p.m.** The Rex presents a tribute to Halestorm, Evanescence and Flyleaf. This is a 21+ show

## Saturday, May 3rd

**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Spring Craft & Vendor Show at Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** First Saturday of the Month Market at Town Market, LLC. Shop from a variety of visiting vendors

**9 p.m.** The Rex presents Nascar DJ Night. This is a 21+ show

## Sunday, May 4th

**8 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Don't miss the annual Spring Fling Car Show in Leonardtown Square




**Drayden African American Schoolhouse Open Houses**  
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Leonardtoun Square

The Copper Pennies

**JULY 4, 2025**

3pm to 7pm  
Leonardtoun Wharf



HydraFx  
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# St. Mary's College Names Eighth President

Rhonda G. Phillips, PhD, was selected by the St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) Board of Trustees to become the college's eighth president, effective July 1, 2025.

"I'm thrilled that after a rigorous national search, the board has voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Phillips as the eighth President of SMCM," said John J. Bell '95, chair of the SMCM Board of Trustees. "Her passion for the public liberal arts, distinguished service building honors programs, and hands-on approach to leadership are but a few of the qualities that made her the clear choice for this moment. I, along with my fellow trustees, are excited to welcome Dr. Phillips when she officially joins us on July 1st."

Dr. Phillips was chosen after a four-month national search, guided by a 14-member search committee led by Trustee Ray Wernecke and composed of trustee, faculty, staff, student, alumni and community members. A national search firm was engaged to assist with the selection of candidates, and the entire Board of Trustees had a role in the final selection process.

"As the National Public Honors College, St. Mary's College of Maryland is an exemplar in liberal arts and sciences education, combining learning, discovery and engagement opportunities in a transformative environment. I'm eager to work with the trustees, faculty, students, staff and community partners to further elevate SMCM's excellence and recognition for its exceptional value-added educational experience," Dr. Phillips said.

Dr. Phillips succeeds Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD, who announced her intention to retire in June 2025 after a distinguished 11-year tenure as president. President Jordan led SMCM to prominence in liberal arts

education as the National Public Honors College, oversaw the construction of four major campus facilities and steered the College through COVID. She also increased accessibility through targeted programs and a real-dollar tuition reduction over her tenure and gave heightened visibility to historical inequities through the creation of the award-winning Commemorative to Enslaved Peoples of Southern Maryland.

Dr. Phillips, who currently serves as president of Chatham University in Pittsburgh, is a visionary leader whose career spans academia and community economic development. Her higher education leadership roles have been concentrated on honors education, enriched by a wide variety of interdisciplinary teaching, research, mentoring, editorial and service contributions in the public and private sectors.

At Chatham University, Dr. Phillips led an intensive effort at restructuring the university to achieve long-term financial stability. This was implemented while simultaneously building new community partnerships and expanding NCAA Division III athletic offerings. Improved alumni engagement, successful fundraising and major reductions in structural operating deficits have positioned Chatham for a prosperous future.

She joined Chatham following completion of her decade-long role as the inaugural dean of the John Martinson Honors College at Purdue University, an innovative 3,000+ student residential honors college that under her leadership was named one of the Top 20 Honors Colleges in the U.S. Prior to Purdue, she was associate dean of Barrett, The Honors College of Arizona State University – often cited as the top honors college in the U.S. Dr. Phillips also served ASU as a professor in

the School of Community Resources and Development, and senior sustainability scientist at the Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability. At the start of her academic career, she returned home to the University of Southern Mississippi, serving as director of the planning program in the Geography and Economic Development Department.

Dr. Phillips earned a PhD in city and regional planning from Georgia Tech – the first woman to do so – as well as master's degrees in economics (Georgia Tech) and economic development (University of Southern Mississippi). She completed her undergraduate education with a B.S. in geography from Southern Mississippi. She is widely published in the areas of higher education leadership, sustainable development, community economic development, quality of life and community well-being. She is founding co-editor of two key journals in her areas of study and is author or editor of over 30 academic books, including the textbook, "Introduction to Community Development."

Her awards and honors include: American Council on Education Fellow; College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners; Core International Faculty for the UNESCO Chair for Global Citizenship Education; Rhonda G. Phillips Endowed Track for the Promotion of Community Development and Community Well-Being for the International Society of Quality-of-Life Studies; three-time Fulbright recipient including serving as a UK Scholar in Northern Ireland; and the 2024 Duane L. Gibson Distinguished Service Award, Community Development Society.

She is married to Dr. Mark M. Miller, PhD; they are parents of adult children and grandchildren who live across the US and



Dr. Rhonda Phillips

New Zealand. Dr. Miller is professor emeritus of geography and economic development at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds degrees from the University of Maryland, the Thunderbird School of Global Management and the University of Arizona. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Belize and a development and relief administrator for Catholic Relief Services in Guatemala before joining the faculty of Southern Miss.

Dr. Phillips and Dr. Miller are looking forward to making Southern Maryland their new home this summer and becoming engaged members of the St. Mary's College of Maryland community.



## Letters to the Editor

### Elections Have Consequences

Having been a former Republican County Commissioner, I know the importance of supporting and electing true conservative candidates to oversee and protect the future of our county.

Often times candidates proclaim to be Republican and conservative, yet after being elected, their voting record proves that they are anything but conservative. We call these individuals Rhinos (republicans in name only). We have had our share of these county commissioners over the years and it needs to end with this next election.

This past session in Annapolis, the Democrats with their liberal agenda, passed legislation that will negatively affect our county and be felt by every citizen and local business. It is more important than ever that we elect future candidates in our county that are fiscally responsible and will not fall prey to all of the "I want and I need" requests or approve wasteful spending on projects that are not needed in our county.

As it stands right now, our county will probably never experience the full effect

of Trump's legislation lowering gas, food prices, and the general cost of living in our county because of the legislation passed in Annapolis that has added taxes to these items to cover the cost of their budget.

I have been discussing the importance of this next election with some of my fiscal conservative friends and we have decided to seek out and find trusted Republican fiscal conservative candidates to fill the upcoming vacant seats of the County Commissioners. If you are interested in running for one of the seats, contact me at dmorris.republican@gmail.com. Our group will request an interview to determine if you share our concerns and are tired of voting for candidates that do not vote favorably for our fiscal conservative beliefs and if so, will openly support you during the next election period. Remember, we are looking for a "few good Republicans." Could that be you?

Dan Morris  
Callaway, MD

## Legal Notice

### TOWN OF LEONARDTOWN Wastewater Technician/Operator Trainee Opportunity Available

The Town of Leonardtown is accepting applications for the position of Wastewater Technician/Operator for a waterfront community with a growing population, currently 5,000 residents.

This position involves operations and maintenance work in the Town's newly expanded Wastewater Treatment facility, as well as, Water System and Public Works Department.

WWTP Operator 5A and Water 1 License preferred. A valid driver's license and availability for rotating on-call work evenings, weekends and holidays is required. Salary depending on experience. Full-time from \$59k/year for licensed individuals and from \$45k/yr for non-licensed individuals. Excellent benefits. Education opportunities provided.

Mail resume and salary requirements to:

Laschelle McKay  
Commissioners of Leonardtown  
PO Box 1  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Or email to [Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov](mailto:Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.gov)

Application deadline is May 5, 2025

# St. Mary's College Has 'Persisted' Despite Tests of 'Dexterity'

By Rick Thompson  
Contributing Writer

"These past few years have certainly tested our dexterity, but nonetheless we have persisted. We have maintained our high student retention and completion rates."

That was the statement by St. Mary's College President Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan at Tuesday's St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on Tuesday. Jordan was making her final "State of the College" report to the commissioners before her retirement. She will be succeeded by Dr. Rhonda Phillips effective July 1.

According to Dr. Jordan, "Ninety-six percent of our students find employment, continue their education or join public service programs within six months of graduation. Regardless of how students arrive at St. Mary's College, they leave prepared with the necessary skills to survive in today's world." She added, "We provide these outcomes at an immense value to our students. To this day tuition remains lower than it was 13 years ago and our graduates remain two-thirds less likely than the national average

to default on their loans."

She said of the college's status as an "honors college," "We are indeed rigorous, but we are also aware that, although we operate in a unique space, we are first and foremost public servants. Therefore, we seek to engage and be engaged by the communities in which we live, learn and work, and we are proud to see that our efforts to serve as a cultural, intellectual, and entertainment hub have yielded positive results."

While enrollment figures had declined in the first decade of this century, "Total enrollment continues to grow, and is up 13 percent since 2020, meaning we continue to outpace our public and private in-state peers."

In response to a question, she said the college now has 1,750 students, with 85 percent living on-campus. "If our footprint stays the same, future enrollment should not be over 2,000."

She added, "Southern Maryland and St. Mary's County in particular have retained their position as a primary source of students, meaning our local high school graduates see academic, personal, and professional value right here at home."

Dr. Jordan said the college is now "the second largest non-military employer in St. Mary's County, with more than 500 employees and an economic footprint of more than \$55 million in direct wages and business activity per year."

There are, however, challenges. "The stellar demand from students for our Marine Science and Business Administration majors has required us to think creatively about how we can more efficiently utilize our limited academic space and resources each year," Dr. Jordan said. "We have partnered with several organizations to assist in evaluating existing programming and identifying future growth opportunities, but expansion will require additional space and resources."

Dr. Jordan concluded, "Our biggest challenge remains the execution of our mission: to balance excellence, affordability and accessibility for all students. We are truly a one-of-a kind asset for students when compared to our peers, and we remain immensely grateful for your support as we navigate the unique pressures of that position."



Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan

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## Public Hearings Prove Non-Controversial

By Dick Myers  
 Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County held two public hearings on April 29. Both proved non-controversial. One amended the county's animal control ordinance and the other added a road to the list of those approved for golf carts.

Director of Emergency Services Jennifer Utz explained the first. She said, "Last year on July 30, 2024, this commissioner body approved the animal control ordinance update. That was a multi-year work in progress, from our animal control advisory board, our animal control officers, and some other constituents. Part of that process was the same public hearing format. We heard a lot of public comments, and took the feedback. One thing that came up during that comment period was some concern from our community about the commercial animal establishment, the definition where five or more dogs are kept. Concerns were from private citizens who had dogs in their homes and how that might impact them."

She added, "And, since that time, we've heard some additional comments and concerns from the public. I think some commissioners may have heard some feedback from their constituents in their respective districts."

She said the public hearing comment period will close on May 6 at 5 p.m.

Utz said, "This is a very narrowly-defined proposed amendment, in response to that concern," adding, "The Commercial Animal establishment has four criteria that it meets. And within that criteria is where the definition says five or more dogs are kept. We propose striking that from the definition to satisfy the concerns of the members of the community."

Utz said, "It would not impact the way that the animal control officers are able to enforce the code as far as commercial breeding establishments. It would not impact their ability to enforce any animal cruelty cases, any hoarding conditions."

No one spoke at that hearing.

County Attorney Buffy Giddens explained the second. She said, "Before I started here, there was legislation passed at the state that allowed local governments to ask that certain



County Attorney Buffy Giddens

roads be designated as authorized to have golf carts driven on them. And as a result of that legislation in 2017, there was an ordinance passed locally that added to the list of roads which golf carts could be driven on a number of roads in Golden Beach."

She noted, "In the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly said we're not going to do...this road-by-road thing anymore. Instead, we're going to give to the counties the power to designate yourselves which roads golf carts should be driven on."

So, the proposal before the hearing reaffirmed the roads in Golden Beach already selected and added one more, Old Horse Landing Road in Mechanicsville.

Giddens said a driver's license is required to drive a golf cart on a designated road and the vehicle has to be properly lighted.

At the hearing, a number of residents who live along the road or use it, spoke in support of adding it to the list.

Karen Butler said, "We don't have anybody in the neighborhood that says they don't want it."

More than 40 people signed a petition in favor. The road is about a mile long.

The record will be open until May 6 for the golf cart proposal as well.

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# Rezoning Hearing Draws Small Turnout

By Rick Thompson  
Contributing Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday held a public hearing on a proposed rezoning of the Robert and Robin Goddard property on Point Lookout Road (Route 5) near its intersection with Great Mills Road.

Only one member of the public testified at the hearing, and he opposed the rezoning. Jesse Grumbles told the commissioners that the rezoning would mean more traffic. "It would be a mistake to proceed with this development," Grumbles said. It would hurt the value of my property and that of eight to 10 others."

Prior to Grumbles, the board heard from Chris Longmore, the attorney for the Goddards, who said the proposed rezoning would change the zoning from Rural Preservation to Mixed-Use Medium Intensity Mixed-Use. The rezoning was recently approved by the county planning board on a 5-2 vote.

State law requires an applicant to prove there has been a substantial change in the neighborhood, or that the local legislative body made a mistake when the property was zoned.

"This was considered in 2010, and the neighborhood has changed substantially since then," said Longmore. "My clients are not claiming the county made a mistake in 2010. There has been a population increase of more than nine percent, and there has been construction of the Sheetz station and

construction of the Great Mills Post Office."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt questioned the residential density that could come if the rezoning is granted, noting that the 8.27 acres would only allow one or two homes as currently zoned, but up to 25 per acre are allowed in the zoning sought. "It can go up to 200 units through use of TDRs (Transfer of Development Rights)."

Longmore said, "You almost never get that kind of density, and as of now my clients have no plans for any residential development." Instead, they plan contractor and other light offices in a "more rural" design. "This plan is in anticipation of the Route 5 expansion."

In any event, Longmore continued, "This is just a rezoning. It is not approving the project. Once the plans are made they would need to go before the Planning Board."

In other action, the commissioners:

- Set a June 3 public hearing on a resolution to ban parking on Willows Road at Lancaster Park. "There is sufficient parking in the park, even at transition times when teams are both arriving and leaving," said St. Mary's County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation Director James Gotsch. "It also causes problems for emergency vehicles getting in and out." In addition, he continued, the county has signed an agreement with the Navy requiring a ban on Willows Road parking.
- Approved proclamations recognizing Law Day, Hurricane Preparedness Week, Maryland Flood Awareness Month and Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

# House & Garden Pilgrimage Returns to St. Mary's

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Mark May 31 on your calendar. That's when the annual Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage, which rotates among the Southern Maryland counties, returns to St. Mary's County.

According to a press release, "Experience springtime in beautiful Southern Maryland on this self-guided tour of four private and historic waterfront homes, two historic churches, a living museum of archeology and stops on the scenic campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) with inspiring landscapes and stunning floral designs.

"In addition to the house and garden tours, there will be a special performance by the St. Peter Claver Men's Choir, and wine tastings and Bourbon samplings scheduled at various tour stops throughout the day. The tour jogs along the Routes 5 and 235 corridors with sites in St. Mary's City,

St. Inigoes, Ridge and Dameron.

"The tour is arranged in numerical sequence, but may be visited in any order; participants receive a tour book with map and complete addresses at any first stop. Proceeds benefit The Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church, a local community group established in 1952 for the purpose of conserving this 18th century National Register of Historic Places landmark.

"The tour is sponsored by St. Mary's County Garden Club. For questions, contact Tour Chair Beth Bonifant at 301-861-6112, Lbethbonifant@gmail.com.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are available online for \$40 plus a service fee, and \$45 at the door, available at all locations. Cash and checks only are accepted at the door. For more information or tickets visit [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org)

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# FDR Boulevard Has 'Huge' Impact on Route 235 Traffic

By Rick Thompson  
Contributing Writer

Traffic along Route 235 in Lexington Park has returned to pre-COVID levels, and it would be even higher without the impact of FDR Boulevard.

St. Mary's County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation James Gotsch, speaking at Tuesday's joint meeting of NAS Patuxent River commanding officers and the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners, said Phase 3B of the FDR Boulevard construction is currently underway and will extend FDR Boulevard from Buck Hewitt Road to Pegg Road, which leads directly into Gate 1 of the base.

While FDR Boulevard will eventually extend to Great Mills Road, that phase of the project is not currently funded, said Gotsch.

Even now, with Phase 3B not completed, FDR Boulevard has had a significant impact on Route 235 traffic, Gotsch stated, and, "We are back to pre-COVID levels on Route 235."

There were an average of 63,000 trips daily on Route 235 in Lexington Park in 2019, according to Gotsch. That dropped to 52,000 trips daily in 2020, rebounded to 60,000 in 2021 and then dropped again to 57,000. "That was when the impact of FDR Boulevard began to show." Today there are 82,000 trips daily, split between Route 235 and FDR Boulevard.



James Gotsch

"We're seeing more and more use of FDR Boulevard," Gotsch said. "It's having a huge impact."

In response to a question concerning Thomas Johnson Bridge traffic, Gotsch said the bridge is used for 30,000 trips a day, more than the Governor Harry Nice Memorial/Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge connecting Charles County and Virginia on Route 301.

# Mechanicsville Man Dies in Two-Car Crash

Maryland State Police are investigating a fatal two-vehicle crash that occurred the evening of April 24 in Mechanicsville.

The driver of a GMC Envoy, identified as Jean Gagnon, 59, of Mechanicsville, was pronounced deceased on the scene.

The driver and passenger of a GMC Canyon, identified as Casper Bradbury Sr., 92, and Norma Bradbury, 90, both of Mechanicsville, were transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center by Maryland State Police Aviation Command for treatment of their injuries.

At approximately 5:58 p.m., troopers from the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack responded to the area of Maryland Route 235 (Three Notch Road) at Mt. Zion Church Road for a crash involving two vehicles. The preliminary investigation indicates

that the GMC Canyon, driven by Bradbury, was attempting to make a left turn from southbound Rt. 235 onto Mt. Zion Church Road and failed to yield to the GMC Envoy, driven by Gagnon, traveling northbound on Rt. 235, subsequently causing the GMC Envoy to strike the passenger side of the GMC Canyon.

Personnel from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration assisted with road closures, which lasted approximately three hours.

The Maryland State Police Crash Team is leading the investigation. Once their investigation is complete, they will submit their findings to the St. Mary's County State's Attorney's Office, who will decide whether charges will be filed in this case. The investigation is active and ongoing

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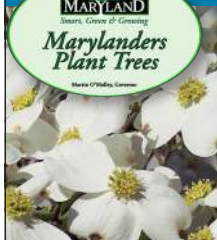
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# NAS Pax River Staff Cuts Announced at Joint Meeting

By Rick Thompson  
Contributing Writer

There will be staff reductions at NAS Patuxent River, but they won't be the extensive cuts that many in St. Mary's have feared.

Contrary to those fears, many spread by the rumor mill, the overall downsizing in the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) is expected to have a downsizing of approximately 9.5 percent, according to Stephen Cricchi, executive director of NAWCAD.

Cricchi made the estimate at Tuesday's joint meeting of NAS Patuxent River commanding officers and the St. Mary's County Board of Commissioners. In addition, he noted, this percentage is across all NAVAIR and NAWCAD installations. It isn't all coming from Pax River.

"This is happening in a fairly compressed timeline," he said, noting that a significant part of the 9.5 percent is via the Deferred Resignation Program. At the same time, there is a hiring freeze and a workplace freeze, where approval is required to move people within the organization. "There is a budget uncertainty, and it doesn't feel great to be a federal employee right now, but I'll play the game with the squad I get," said Cricchi.

He continued, "I predict we'll have a leaner and productive organization and we'll come out in a good place. There are no predictions of any more reductions that are administration-driven."

Cricchi stated, "Our mission is not under attack, unlike some other departments that may not survive. The Department of Defense has said they are against any more reduction in force."

The focus now, according to Cricchi, is "finding out the skill sets of those who have left or are leaving and adapting. The consequences near-term will be that some programs will slow down."

Even with the reductions, Cricchi said the college summer intern program is being retained, "to keep open the pipeline to talent."

Board of Commissioners President James Guy questioned the effect of the changes on employees outside the base, particularly those employed by contractors. "This affects our people," said Guy, "and also the revenues that fund our county government."

"A lot of people don't like uncertainty, and that's where we are now," Cricchi said. "We know we're going to be smaller, so we're going to reallocate resources."

The primary contracts that will be affected, he believes, will involve consulting. "There are 46 specific contracts involved, but they don't involve operations and they aren't all here," he stated. "It didn't affect our ecosystem. We've got to deliver the outcomes for naval aviation."



Stephen Cricchi

Another concern is the "return to work" policy instituted by the Trump Administration. "We are trying to offer as many flexibilities as we can," Cricchi said. "We are complying with the executive order."

NAS Patuxent River Commanding Officer Capt. Douglas Burfield noted that the base has added more people to check identifications in order to relieve traffic congestion and get employees onto the base more quickly.

In response to a question about expanding child care services on the base, Capt. Burfield said there are already three child care centers, and no more are planned.

The joint session also included:

- A report on the Hogpoint Shoreline Restoration Project, which is nearing completion on the base. The aim is to mitigate land loss from erosion, which has totaled two acres. "We estimate that without this project we would lose the helicopter landing zones within 20-30 years," said Jackie Smith of the Naval Facilities Command. "Those are unique training areas for military personnel. This shoreline is also a nesting habitat for Eastern Diamondback Terrapin turtles." The turtles have been studied by the Department of Defense and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory for over 10 years. She reported that the breakwaters are all completed, and with sand replacement the project will be completed this year.
- The sidewalk project on Route 235 has been completed, and it is now possible to walk from Gate 2 all the way to the Patuxent River Naval Air Museum, according to James Gotsch, Director of the St. Mary's County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation.

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# County Times Journalist Guy Leonard Passes Away

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Long-time County Times reporter and staff writer Guy Leonard, Jr. passed away April 24. He was 49.

Leonard joined The County Times 17 years ago and exclusively covered St. Mary's County for the paper. He was hired by the paper's founder James Manning McKay, a former county commissioner and state delegate.

When McKay passed away, his son Tommy took over the role as publisher. McKay said, "While we mourn the death of Guy Leonard, a long-time important member of our team, and the person thousands in our community trusted, we show grief of course, but the higher tribute to Guy is gratitude.

"Nearly every interview Guy Leonard did would leave the interviewee concerned about what would be written, yet not one felt unjustified after reading the published story."

Leonard was a dedicated journalist who loved his native St. Mary's County. He was born on the base and attended Greenview Knolls Elementary School and Esperanza Middle School. After a year at Great Mills High School, he switched to Ryken, where he graduated.

The many people who commented on The County Times Facebook announcement of his passing said he was a great person and a great journalist. The burly Leonard, known for his gruff personality, also had a soft side seen by his family and close friends. And he was known for his ever-present pen and note pad.

Leonard covered Todd Morgan for 12 years as county commissioner and then as a delegate for the last two years. Morgan wrote, "What a tremendous loss for our community. He was always a friend. May he RIP"

Tony-Joe StClair wrote, "Told it like it was. RIP."

Roy Alvey said, "Great man, great reporter."

Commissioner Scott Ostrow wrote, "Terrible loss! He was a true and honest person."

After graduating from Ryken, Leonard attended York College in Pennsylvania, where he met his wife Tegan. "He was definitely unique. There's no question about it," she said, echoing the assessment of many who came in contact with him.

She explained that they met in the college cafeteria. "I went in and I got my food, and I was just looking around to find somewhere to sit. I saw a guy with a black bandana sitting there with a black shirt, with cutoff sleeves looking all gruff. And I went up to him and I said, may I sit here with you? And his jaw kind of dropped open. I think a little egg may have fallen out of his

mouth. He said, 'yeah.' He just didn't expect anybody to come up and say, 'Hey, can I sit with you?'"

After graduation Leonard took a job teaching conversational English in Japan, a country he loved. Upon his return to the U.S., he began his journalism career at the Gazette newspapers in Prince George's County. But he later decided he wanted to come back home to St. Mary's, hence his decision to join the County Times.

"He always has loved St. Mary's County," Tegan Leonard said. "He's always wanted a supportive community. He wanted to be part of the community."

Of his sliding into journalism, Tegan Leonard said, "He always had a fondness for English. And I think he really enjoyed when he was in Japan teaching the students conversational English and helping some of them with writing as well and kind of coaching them with that," adding, "He always loved research as well."

On living with a journalist and his not-too-normal hours, Tegan Leonard said, "Guy's not normal. I mean that in a good way. It fit him really well. Guy was a unique character. But it worked out just fine," adding, "He just wanted to hide in the house, and get away from the world."

"We're just a couple of unique birds, I guess you could say."

Guy's passion for cats was part of his softer side. "Cats melted his heart," she said. "I think he absolutely had an absolute love for cats. And actually, two of the options for memorials, if people wanted to donate their money instead of flowers are... Feral Cat Rescue and SMAWL (St. Mary's Animal Welfare League)." The couple rescued numerous cats over time.

Leonard was also deeply religious. He was a member of Patuxent Baptist Church. "He was a born-again Christian, an independent fundamental Baptist. And he loved the Lord, even though you don't always tell that with his character."

As a journalist, his wife said, "He really wanted to defend democracy, make sure that if things weren't right, the truth was revealed and that things were at least made right or available for people to understand. Things needed to be made right. He wanted to make sure that there was information out there, and not only things that aligned with what he believed, or thought was good. He wanted to make sure people had factual information so that they could form their own opinions and move on those opinions if they felt compelled to do so."

Leonard's mother lives now in Arkansas and she returned to the county upon hearing of her son's death. She said, "When he was born, he was very small. He was a six-pound, 12-ounce baby. He was a small baby,



Guy Leonard

and he was just a normal size growing up. But during his teenage years, he started to sprout up and out. And of course, as you well know, he was a large, large man."

She said, "He was able to walk to school and a very responsible child, he did really well. [I] worked, [I] was a single mom by that point, and he did very well in terms of taking care of himself until mom got home. So, he grew up a very responsible individual."

Leonard and his mother were close. "Whenever he was home, we would spend a lot of time together doing things, taking trips together."

She said they didn't talk a lot about his career. "We didn't spend a lot of time talking on things like that. We would talk about different kinds of subjects. History, he and I both liked historical things. We shared similar interests in books and movies, and we would talk about those kinds of things. And we talked about family too. He was always interested in what the family was doing down in Arkansas."

Leonard was particularly close to his uncle Jim. "They are cut out of the same mold in terms of loving guns and ammunition and those kinds of things," she said. He will be unable to attend the funeral due to his health.

Tegan Leonard said, "It was a surprise. He's been struggling with congestive heart failure for years. In the last couple of weeks we were concerned about some stuff, but fortunately for him, it appears that he passed away in his sleep."

The funeral will be Saturday, May 3 at the Brinsfield Funeral Home in Leonardtown. The viewing will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the service to follow.

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

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## “THIS IS HAPPENING IN A FAIRLY COMPRESSED TIMELINE.”

STEPHEN CRICCHI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NAWCAD, ON BASE DOWNSIZING



**LOCAL 3**  
Long-time journalist passes away



**LOCAL 7**  
FDR Boulevard is reducing Route 235 traffic



**ON THE COVER**  
County commissioners meet with base leaders

## WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, MAY 1	FRI, MAY 2	SAT, MAY 3	SUN, MAY 4
Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 66°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 66°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 84° Lo: 60°	Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 58°
MON, MAY 5	TUE, MAY 6	WED, MAY 7	THU, MAY 8
Partly Cloudy Hi: 74° Lo: 59°	Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 57°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 75° Lo: 59°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 58°

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MAY 2-4

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Trolley Rides (Fri. 5-10pm)

Activities & Events

Specials & Sales

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# St. Mary's County Times

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

WWW.COUNTYTIMES.NET

**St. Mary's Mourns  
Journalist Guy Leonard**

**FDR Boulevard Improves  
Route 235 Traffic**

**Golf Cart Ordinance  
Draws Support**

## STAFF CUTS COMING TO PAX RIVER

Photo by Rick Thompson