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Plan Approved**

**Hearing Set for
Ethics Ordinance**

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WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, JUN 26	FRI, JUN 27	SAT, JUN 28	SUN, JUN 29
PM Thunderstorms Hi: 93° Lo: 72°	Scattered Storms Hi: 79° Lo: 73°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 74°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 89° Lo: 73°
MON, JUN 30	TUE, JUL 1	WED, JUL 2	THU, JUL 3
Scattered Storms Hi: 91° Lo: 76°	PM Thunderstorms Hi: 90° Lo: 72°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 71°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 90° Lo: 73°

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Health Departments Discusses Dangers of Cannabis Use

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora on June 17 briefed the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, sitting as the Board of Health, on dangers of marijuana, its health and enforcement implications.

Dr. Teneza-Mora reported, "In July 2023, licensed dispensaries were authorized to sell regulated cannabis products to adults age 21 or older and to certified medical patients. So, the Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) regulates various aspects of the cannabis industry, including cultivation, manufacturing, testing, packaging, labeling, sales, as well as distribution of medical and adult use. Cannabis within the state is a regulated product. What meets the MCA standards bears a symbol."

She added, "And there are products that are unregulated that are being sold at various places, either online, at convenience stores, gas stations, some vape or smoke shops. Now, only adults age 21 or older can legally purchase, possess, and use cannabis. And there are limits in the amount that they can possess, depending on the type of product that they have. Driving under the influence of cannabis is illegal and smoking cannabis in public indoor spaces such as restaurants, bars, and schools is illegal. Cannabis also cannot be smoked in public outdoor spaces, including streets, sidewalks, and parks."

She noted, "It's important for us to emphasize that youth under 21, it's not allowed for them to buy it, to possess it, to use it. And if they are caught, they can be charged. They can be fined, depending on the amount that they have."

After some discussion it was decided to bring in Sheriff Ricky Cox at a later date to discuss under-age enforcement.

Commissioner Mike Hart observed that enforcement of impaired driving is difficult because there are no roadside sobriety tests as there are for alcohol.

The health officer said, "Currently there's a test called the DRE or a driver recognition evaluation. But they require experts. And I did consult with our sheriff's office. Since legalization, they have conducted four of those, and none of them indicated use of cannabis. And they did admit that it's quite challenging because you can't really tell whether that person being evaluated used cannabis alone or cannabis plus other substances. So, it's challenging."

Dogs can't be used, noted Hart. Dr. Teneza-Mora said, "They would make an



arrest or a charge or a citation based on odor of cannabis in the car. They would have to be able to show impairment. And that's where the challenge is, because it's a specialized type of evaluation that takes several hours to execute. So, by the time they get to the station where a test could occur, the levels would've waned, and you wouldn't see the effects anymore."

What are the dangers of cannabis use? Dr. Teneza-Mora said, "So the short-term effects are great. So, it includes difficulty focusing, slower reaction time, decreased ability to concentrate and make decisions. Then there's a reduced awareness of time and distance. And so all of these factors contribute to the risks associated with driving under the influence. And that is really the case."

"If a person drives within six hours of consuming the product, and sometimes taking either moderate or high doses, can cause individuals to have other symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, panic attacks, anxiety, and sometimes those will require visits to an emergency room or emergency department."

She said, "For adolescents, it is important for them to understand that consuming cannabis can really harm the development of their brain. This really has been shown mostly in animal studies, but also there are studies that show this behavior among the teens and the adolescents, so regular exposure can impair brain development and making them difficult to carry out all of their responsibilities at school."

She added, "Their ability to achieve further becomes lessened. And that's a big disadvantage. There are also studies that have shown that cannabis users have higher rates of depression compared to those who are not

using the product."

Dr. Teneza-Mora observed, "I think the biggest risk is really addiction. So, adults who use cannabis have a one in 10 risk of becoming addicted to the product while an adolescent becomes addicted one in six (times). So, they're more likely to also get addicted to it because of the effects of the cannabis product on the brain receptors."

The health officer said the Maryland

Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Tobacco Survey showed that cannabis use among high school students has decreased over time since 2013 to now. And (for) middle school and high school students in the past three years, "that trend seems to appear to also decline, except in 2023 when there was a bit of an increase, both in the middle school use and high school students."

But she said, "It's important to note though, that the data here does not really reflect the what's happening after legalization. And so, we have yet to collect that information and analyze that."

She said, "Overall Calvert County's usage rates tend to be generally lower than the states, with one exception, and that's the rate of high school student use in 2023. So, in 2023, 15.6 percent of Calvert County high school students reported cannabis use, and that's higher than the state average of 14.4 percent."

She said surveys show "teens primarily use cannabis to fit in and to socialize with their friends. That's the top reason among white, Black, and Asian students. Depression and anxiety were also a second common reason, particularly among the Hispanic students."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Public Hearing Set on Proposed Ethics Ordinance Revision

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has set July 15 as the date for a public hearing on proposed changes to the county's ethics code. The changes were mandated by a bill passed by the legislature in 2024 at the behest of advocacy group Calvert Citizens United, after their unsuccessful suit against former commissioner Kelly McConkey went all the way to the Maryland Supreme Court.

Constituent Services Specialist Emily Shrieves explained at the June 17 BOCC meeting, "On April 25, 2024, Governor Wes Moore signed HB 834 into law. The law mandates the Calvert County Ethics Code to be updated to include a regulation which requires the Calvert County Ethics Commission (CCEC) to publicly disclose recommendations to expel a commissioner. The law also mandates that the county adopt a regulation authorizing the governing body to remove county elected officials for local and state conflict of interest violations based on the CCEC's public recommendation. On April 1, 2025, the CCEC presented the draft ordinance in a work session to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The

BOCC requested additional clarification on the scope of the ordinance and voted to direct the County Administrator to assign staff to confer with the CCEC on the grounds for taking action. On April 17, 2025, the CCEC held its monthly meeting and discussed the code update. The CCEC clarified that any recommendation for removal of a County Commissioner due to a conflict of interest must be based on existing ethics rules that already apply to county elected officials."

She said, "The Commission voted to make two minor revisions to better distinguish local and state ethics provisions."

Ethics Commission Chair Timothy Cox said a potential conflict of interest is not a conflict of interest. He explained, "A summary of what the provisions could be by which there would be an allegation of a conflict of interest, that the Ethics Commission would evaluate the circumstances and come up with a determination if any of the provisions are violated. I do recall from seeing the last working session, there was some discussion, or at least questions, concerning the scope of what the conflicts of interest could be. I think there were some examples of speeding tickets and using public office for private gain. My comment here is that while there is a provision under 41-13 (ethics code)

that does say (that) no county employee or elected official is allowed to use their public (office for) private gain. Whether or not that constitutes a conflict-of-interest allegation that would be substantiated by the Ethics Commission. It would be determined based on the facts of what that might be. If that conclusion is, and then a recommendation is made, that's just a permissive requirement (for the Ethics Commission). But what the Board of County Commissioners does is entirely within its discretion."

Cox further clarified, "The Ethics Commission within its scope of authority makes a finding, there is a conflict of interest under 41-3 under provisions that are provided there under, and then we have to make that recommendation public if the recommendation is to expel the member. Now, just because we find a conflict of interest doesn't mean that we would make a recommendation to expel a member, but if we did make the recommendation to expel a member, we have to make that public. But then it's up to the Board of County Commissioners as to what they do with that recommendation. And there are already procedures and processes in place for the Board of County Commissioners to do business in a contested hearing. And that's been incorporated into



Ethics Commission Attorney Todd Pounds

the ordinance that we proposed for today."

Ethics Commission Attorney Todd Pounds said the committee only makes a recommendation. Once the commissioners have it, "At that point, you could easily say, Nope, no further action. It ends there."

If the commissioners decide to proceed with a hearing they would conduct a mini trial. He said, "You'd have to, in essence, be the judge and jury."

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Grant Would Help Combat Youth Depression

Teachers Called Front Line in Recognizing Problems

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Suicidal thoughts among school-age children continue to be a concern of the Calvert County Health Department. Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora, in a June 10 briefing to the county commissioners, said, "There are some elevated rates of feelings of sadness and hopelessness among our high school students and in the middle school students. There were attempts of suicide or consideration of suicide."

The 2022-23 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey, conducted in schools, shows:

- Feelings of sadness or hopelessness — 33.3 percent of high school students and 34.2 percent of middle school students
- Seriously considered suicide in past 12 months — 16.9 percent of high school students and 22.8 percent of middle school students
- Attempted suicide in past 12 months — 7.2 percent of high school students made at least one attempt and 9.4 percent of middle school students made at least one attempt.

She added, "Studies have shown that post-COVID, depression levels in children and adults really were significantly higher than those before the pandemic. There is no

data specific to Calvert County, but this is from papers and studies that are done generally throughout the US. And it is thought that those feelings were linked to social isolation, the lack of exercise, fear of contracting the virus, stress associated with just being inside the home with their parents and then stress that they might be sensing from their parents as well."

Dr. Teneza-Mora noted, "If they are in a low socioeconomic status, then they have even added stress."

She said, "We currently have school-based services that are available...to individuals who are currently suffering from depression. And those services are available at the individual level as well as in the group session level."

They hope to do more. They have submitted a grant proposal "for another new school-based prevention program that's organized into three tiers," adding, "The whole purpose of this is to really expand the services of prevention so that students who are still not at risk have access to some of the prevention programs, and then students who are at increased risk can access the tier two and lower. And then the students who have an active illness, they can access tier three and then the actual services that are being delivered now."

The health officer said teachers are the front-line of defense. Which brought a reaction from Commissioner Mike Hart.

He said, "I'm a hard love guy, don't get me wrong, but it's like, if they don't win the Super Bowl, they fell short. So how do they assess what these risks are?"

She said, "Actually we really will rely on the teachers."

Hart responded, "That's too much pressure on a teacher. If I go to school to be a math teacher, I don't know anything about mental health."

He added, "That's what drives me nuts with Maryland. Maryland has done this like it washes its hands of mental health. It's one of the biggest problems we have out there. We put it on law enforcement. We go, you had a month training to identify somebody who's autistic or not. And then it's put on a teacher."

The health officer mentioned the network of social workers in the schools.

Hart, noting the suicides on the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, said, "I don't want to say Maryland's not taking it seriously, but every year we do these presentations, and I don't see this real focal point on each child. Somebody needs to kick the tires on this kid and say, hey, how are you doing?"

Commissioner President Buddy Hance



Health Officer Dr. Nimfa Teneza-Mora

responded, "The teachers are with these kids every day and they notice changes that sometimes parents miss or sometimes parents ignore. I think what she's trying to say is that when the teachers notice these changes, it's up to them to reach out, to try to help the children and get them the resources that they need."

Later, Hance clarified that the defense for the problem should also be with the support staff in addition to the teachers.

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Planners Ponder Intersection Policies

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission on June 17 received a briefing from the Department of Public Works on intersections in Prince Frederick. The briefing was prompted by the commission's failure to vote on the proposed Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan. Commission member David Bury insisted that the plan did not recognize failing intersections and the impact of development from the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO).

The presentation was led by Public Works Director J.R. Cosgrove and consultant, John Rectanus, from the Wallace Montgomery firm. Rectanus went over the sometimes complicated method of rating intersections, including having them be considered as failing.

A signalized intersection's level of service is determined by the wait time. The county considers "C" to be inadequate and the state uses a "D" level.

Rectanus said, "For a level service D, your threshold for signalized intersections is 35 seconds to 55 seconds. So that's how you sort of calculate that level of service."

But the bulk of the discussion revolved around intersection light timing and what intersections would be considered impacted by a specific development.

The planners were told that was generally within a mile of the development. But commission member Chris Gadway observed "Let's say there's 200 trips per day that are going to be added based on XY development. So, if a residential development XY goes in place, there's going to be an estimated 200 trips per day in your... program that you said analyzes everything all the way out. Are those 200 trips or a portion of those 200 trips also added to, let's say if it's Prince Frederick, are they added to the traffic count as far as away as Dunkirk and Solomon's?"

He was told it would be limited to one or two miles.

Gadway said, "So being a bedroom community, the 200 possible that's added in this particular area, Prince Frederick, most likely is still going through Dunkirk."

Cosgrove said, "When we look at the

study area, our APFO kind of defines what the study area can be, but it is still up to the director of public works to expand. Let's just say the study area for the traffic situation, generally we keep it within a certain distance. So, if we're looking at development in Prince Frederick, generally we don't look at intersections in Dunkirk when we're studying the traffic in the north, because it's so far out. If you look at, let's just say a 200-townhouse community, part of that traffic from that is going to get washed out by the time it gets to Dunkirk, so you're not going to notice the difference in the study itself.

"So we kind of limited to the intersection within sometimes a one-mile radius and sometimes we shrink them down, maybe we could expand it."

He said he thought the area for the last study was extended to Stoakley Road, a point disputed by Bury.

Cosgrove said, "We know how many are going to leave the site, but it doesn't define one hundred percent headed north or it's only 50 percent in the north, 50 percent in the south. So that's where it kind of gets to more of an estimation in a traffic study, which is why I think a lot of us view that maybe the studies aren't the most accurate, but once again, you're looking at an estimate. So, what they actually do in the real world might not be what we estimate, but we don't know what they're going to do in the real world until it's built and they're actually doing the moving."

Bury said, "I've got a recommendation though, and that is, the geographic bound study is really critical, for the Armory Square and the Magnolia Ridge studies. Those studies actually were geographically bounded in a way that excluded looking at the impact of traffic on Stoakley Road. And so, typically, BPW goes out to the first major intersection or so. In the case of those studies, that criteria excluded the intersection really the most problematic in Prince Frederick."

"So, what I'd like to suggest is it makes sense to have a policy where all of the intersections within a town center are studied."

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Planners Approve Armory Pavilion



Artist's rendering of the Armory Pavilion

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Planning Commission has approved the site plan for the Armory Pavilion, the county's redevelopment project at the site of the former National Guard Armory in Prince Frederick.

Principal Planner Christine Finamore told the planning commission at their June 18 meeting, "A sketch concept plan for the project was submitted to Development Review staff in December 2023. This plan was reviewed by several staff who provided comments and feedback. The site plan was submitted and accepted by the Technical Evaluation Group (TEG) at their meeting in December 2024. Plan #2 was submitted for review in April 2025. Plan #3 was submitted in early June."

She said, "The Site Plan Application proposes to redevelop the former location of the Prince Frederick National Guard Armory includes a publicly owned and operated open-air pavilion (13,506 sq. ft.) as well as façade and interior updates to the existing storage building (4,792 sq. ft.) to add bathrooms, for a total of 18,298 sq. ft."

Finamore said, "Parking calculations

have been evaluated for the proposed buildings, with a total requirement of 64 parking spaces."

The site plan includes a memorial on the front of the property that will be constructed from bricks saved during demolition of the armory.

Director of Public Works J.R. Cosgrove said about 600 bricks were saved. "There's a bush in the middle with the concrete band going around it. There are also words inscribed in there that are related to the National Guard."

The pavilion will be used part of the time as an open-air farmers market and some of the parking spaces will be set aside for vendor parking and set up. But the traffic flow through the property will be maintained even during those times.

A traffic light is being constructed on Routes 2/4 at the new shopping center across from the pavilion. Curb and gutter are being constructed along Armory Road in front of the pavilion.

The county has received several grants to help defray the cost of constructing the pavilion.

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Hoyer Leads Roundtable at CalvertHealth

As part of House Democrats' Save Our Hospitals Week of Action, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) hosted a roundtable with doctors, medical professionals, and hospitals to discuss the implications of Trump and House Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and health care services.

Congressman Hoyer and roundtable participants highlighted how nearly 17 million Americans stand to lose their health care coverage and millions more will pay higher premiums, copays, and deductibles under the reconciliation bill that House Republicans passed. Experts predict over 21,000 people in the MD-05 alone will lose

coverage by 2034 because of this bill. That includes over 8,000 people losing ACA coverage and 13,000 losing Medicaid coverage in MD-05.

The discussion took place at the Calvert Health Medical Center. Participants included the CalvertHealth Medical Center, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Hospital Association, MedStar St. Mary's Hospital, MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, and the University of Maryland Medical System.

"Donald Trump and his Republican allies in Congress are laser focused on making

health care unaffordable for millions of Americans in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest 0.1 percent of Americans," Congressman Hoyer said. "As Trump's administration decimates federal health care services and fires the federal employees providing those services, more pain will befall Maryland households. Seniors might have to ration medications; families with disabled children may have to forgo treatment; hospitals will be squeezed; and the number of uninsured Americans will rise. That's why I will not stop working to protect Americans' access to quality, affordable health care."

"The Maryland Department of Health

was proud to join Congressman Hoyer to hear directly from hospitals on how changes at the federal level will impact Maryland's health care delivery system. Maryland has been a national model for innovation and population health improvement, paving the way for other states to learn from our system that has both improved health and reduced overall health care costs," said Ryan Moran, Deputy Secretary of Healthcare Financing and Medicaid Director, Maryland Department of Health.

Press Release from Office of Rep. Steny Hoyer

Cooling Centers Open in Excessive Heat

The National Weather Service has issued an excessive heat warning for this week as temperatures are expected to exceed 90 degrees. The Calvert County Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management reminds citizens there are several places in Calvert County to visit if they need to cool off. These sites will be open during regular hours and safe drinking water is available in each of them.

Residents who need to take refuge in a safe, cool place may go to one of the following locations:

- **Calvert Library, Fairview Branch**
8120 Southern Maryland Blvd, Owings
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
- **Calvert Library, Prince Frederick Branch**
850 Costley Way, Prince Frederick
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
- **Calvert Library, Southern Branch**
13920 H G Trueman Rd., Solomons
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
- **Calvert Library, Twin Beaches Branch**
4100 5th St., North Beach
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, noon to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday
- **Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center**
130 Auto Dr., Prince Frederick
Monday–Friday, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Harriet E. Brown Community Center**
901 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick
Sunday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Mt. Hope Community Center**
104 Pushaw Station Rd., Sunderland
Sunday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Northeast Community Center**
4075 Gordon Stinnett Ave., Chesapeake Beach
Sunday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday–Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

- **Southern Community Center**
20 Appeal Ln., Lusby
Sunday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday–Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Emergency cooling centers open when the need arises. Calvert County Emergency Management staff is closely monitoring the National Weather Service's excessive heat warnings and will make a determination to keep certain cooling centers open past normal business hours if the need arises.

Calvert County residents are urged to take the following precautions to protect themselves and their families when temperatures rise:

- Drink plenty of fluids; water is best.
- Avoid beverages containing alcohol, caffeine or large amounts of sugar as they can dehydrate the body.
- Stay in an air-conditioned room or building during the hottest part of the day.
- Stay out of the sun.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Check on elderly relatives and neighbors.
- Never leave children or pets in parked cars since temperatures can rise to 130 degrees inside vehicles in only a few minutes, even with the windows rolled down.

Heat can affect anyone, but most at risk are the very young, senior citizens and people with underlying health problems. Symptoms of heat illness include heavy sweating, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, nausea, weak but rapid pulse and headaches. People with these symptoms should find shade, drink water slowly and make sure there is good ventilation. Those with severe symptoms should seek medical attention.

Pet owners should provide ample shade and water for their pets or bring pets indoors. Any time a pet is outside, make sure it has protection from heat and sun and plenty of fresh, cold water.

Residents can stay tuned to emergency alerts and information about the location and availability of cooling centers online at www.CalvertCountyMd.gov and through the Calvert Prepare mobile app. Visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/BeAwarePrepare to download the free app and sign up for local emergency alerts.

Press Release from Calvert County government

New Chesapeake Beach Waterpark Still Planned

Exact Path and Timing Remain Unclear

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Town of Chesapeake Beach is moving forward with plans to demolish the existing waterpark and replacing it with a new one. But the exact path to that end and a schedule for it to happen remain unclear.

At the June 12 town council meeting, a decision was delayed on demolition of the existing park. Mark Wilkinson of Paddock Pool Company recommended that be done immediately in order for the town to meet its desired schedule opening the new park next June.

Paddock constructed the existing waterpark 30 years ago and would like to do the new one.

Wilkinson at the June 12 meeting was not able to provide any cost estimates, saying they would be ready in time for the July meeting. He did present two design alternatives. One would be a replacement similar to the current layout with some additional amenities and the second would be substantially different.

Wilkinson presented some preliminary findings of a study that showed the existing foundation by and large can support a new facility.

But some council members are not sure that Paddock would qualify as a sole source provider that would allow them to bypass the normal bid process. Bidding would take several months and delay the schedule.

That reluctance caused several council members to be reluctant to give Paddock the go-ahead to demolish the existing waterpark down to its foundation.

Council member Laura Blackwelder said it made more sense to her for the demolition and construction projects to be awarded at the same time to the same company.

Council member Eric Reinhardt said, "Before we were dumping additional

money into it, I'm not all that concerned with it opening this next summer. I want it to be done right. And I want us to be able to make intelligent decisions about the direction that we're going. And we just don't have the information right now to throw more money at it when we have no idea what it's going to cost. And from a town perspective, this waterpark has, in my knowledge, never been a profitable enterprise or endeavor. So, if we're planning on cutting the capacity, we're talking about additional subsidies from the taxpayers to fund the waterpark for people who may or may not go there. Most of the taxpayers are older people, so if it's not really targeted towards them, they're going to be bearing that cost and it's not really their amenity."

But Council Vice President Jamey Shuls said, "I will counter and challenge your thinking a little bit, in the sense of we know this waterpark is not repairable, so it has to come down no matter what. Whether you build a new waterpark or you do something else with it, the demo does have to occur at some point in time or otherwise, we have zombie land over there and we're going to have this just ugly looking waterpark. That was a part of the DNA that just is rotting in front of our eyes."

He added, "So I think we have to also look at this from a perspective of demo then build. I think you're assuming that when we demo that automatically means we're tied into a build. And I think there's contractual language that could be oriented away from a demo that assumes you have to build, or you have to build with Paddock."

The council did not meet in executive session after the meeting as originally intended and did not vote on anything related to the water park.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Corrections

A story in the June 19 edition of the Calvert County Times entitled "Grasso Explains Her Priorities" mentioned the ribbon cutting for the Ladies of Charity Food Pantry and listed the location as Chesapeake Beach. The pantry actually is in North Beach.

Also, in a June 12 story about the passage of the county budget, it was reported

that Commissioner Hart was seeking an extra STEP for county employees. His motion was actually for an additional one-percent COLA. Also, in the 2-2 vote on Hart's motion, Commissioner President Hance did vote against, and Commissioner Grasso was the one who did not vote.

The County Times apologizes for the errors.

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Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jun 26

Magician Brian Curry
Dunkirk Fire Department
3170 W Ward Rd, Dunkirk
10-11 a.m.

Southern Community Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
2-3 p.m.

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

Join Calvert Library us for a fun-filled Magical Math Tour! Watch as numbers come to life through exciting tricks and mind-blowing puzzles. This interactive show is perfect for elementary-aged kids who love to learn and be amazed. Bring a blanket/towel to sit on. Park at the rear of building. 410-535-0291. MD. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

JobSource Mobile Career Center
Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Stop by for your job search needs! Get job counseling and resume help, search for jobs and connect with Southern Maryland JobSource. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

TACOS Teen Advisory Council of Students
Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
5-6 p.m.

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books, information, and form community. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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

At this event, elementary-aged children will do fun activities and read out loud to

teen volunteers. Teen volunteers can earn one service learning hour for participating. 410-535-0291. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Yoga on the Terrace — All Levels
Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for our summer yoga series with a gentle flow class for all levels on the beautiful Twin Beaches Branch terrace overlooking the Bay. In the case of inclement weather, the class will be canceled. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Golf Tournament
Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
8 a.m.

Leadership Southern Maryland's 12th annual golf classic is teed up for June 26th. All golfers, sip and swing fans, and social spectators are welcome and encouraged to join regional leaders from throughout Southern Maryland to enjoy a day filled with good times and top-tier golfing at one of the region's premier courses. Registration: 8am. Shotgun Start: 9am
• Individual Golfers: \$125
• Foursomes: \$500
• Sip & Swing: \$75
• Spectator's Social Pass (Hang out—includes lunch): \$50
Information: leadershipsomd.org/news-events/annual-golf-tournament/

Frid, Jun 27

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>

Rooftop Car & Truck Show
Rooftop of the Rod N Reel parking garage by the Chesapeake Bay
4165 Mears Ave, Chesapeake Beach
4 to 8 p.m.

FREE, DJ tunes. 866 312 5596

Calvert County Veteran Services Program
Southern Pines Senior Center
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Are you a veteran or close family member looking for assistance? The Calvert County Office on Aging is partnering with ServingTogether to provide support twice a month, every second Wednesday and fourth Friday. Walk-ins are encouraged. No appointment is necessary. Visit servingtogetherproject.org/calvert for more information.

Sun, Jun 29

Humane Society Fin Day
Jefferson Patterson Park
10515 Mackall Rd., St Leonard
12pm-5pm

The Humane Society of Calvert County is celebrating 50 years of second chances. Join us at Jefferson Patterson Park for a day of family fun and dog friendly activities. Enter your dog in the best dressed 70s dog pageant, play some cornhole and other games, there will be food trucks and a DJ spinning 70s jams. So throw on your bell bottoms, leash up your pup and help us celebrate 50 fabulous years

Wed, Jul 2

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, Jul 3

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

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

Upcoming

Darius Rucker Live
Calvert Marine Museum
Thursday, July 10
7 p.m.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. with food and beverage vendors onsite. The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store close at 3 p.m. for concert preparations. Cost of tickets are \$80 – \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

Sharkfest!
Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, July 12
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate all things shark at the CMM! Live sharks will be featured in the Corbin Nature Pavilion, along with a full day of jaw-some fun. Get hands-on with shark-themed crafts and explore education stations with activities like shark skin exploration, a shark fin puzzle, and even a shark parasite investigation. Discover amazing “sharktoids” and examine evidence of prehistoric sharks. Food and drinks will be available for purchase on site. Please note: Strollers and carts are not permitted inside the museum during SHARKFEST. Capacity is limited—advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended for non-members.

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

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



County Times

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St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Thu, Jun 26

Golf Tournament

Chesapeake Hills Golf Course
8 a.m.

Leadership Southern Maryland's 12th annual golf classic is teed up for June 26th. All golfers, sip and swing fans, and social spectators are welcome and encouraged to join regional leaders from throughout Southern Maryland to enjoy a day filled with good times and top-tier golfing at one of the region's premier courses. Registration: 8am. Shotgun Start: 9am

- Individual Golfers: \$125
- Foursomes: \$500
- Sip & Swing: \$75
- Spectator's Social Pass (Hang out—includes lunch): \$50

Information: leadershipsomd.org/news-events/annual-golf-tournament/

Southern Maryland. Open to all members and their guests. \$25 presale \$30 at the door per person. Call (301)863-7800 if interested in purchasing a ticket.

SMTMD Open Mic

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

Southern MD Traditional Music and Dance. Acoustic musicians of all skill levels are welcome to perform their favorite tunes or enjoy a night out listening to some local talent. A keyboard can be made available by prior arrangement. Contact Chris Dudley in advance (ccdudley@rocketmail.com) to sign up as a performer. Admission is \$8; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and performers are admitted free of charge. Info: www.smtmd.org/new-events/

SMCARA Summer Field Day

Historic Sotterley Plantation
Hollywood
2 p.m.

Ham radio operators from the St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise until 3:59pm on Sunday. ww.arrl.org/field-day,

Indoor Yard Sale

Immaculate Conception Church
Parish Hall
28297 Old Village Rd., Mechanicsville

Benefits St. Vincent dePaul Society. A large variety of items will be available. Please come rain or shine to support a worthy cause in helping those in need.

will be 1,2,3 or 4 Quarters! Paddles are \$3 each, 2 for \$5 or 3 for \$7. Concessions (Food and Bar) available. To learn more about this event, including a list of participating sponsors, please visit their Facebook page at Quarter Auctions in SOMD. For info or reservations, please text/call: 240-416-4224

Thu, Jul 3

American Legion Post 221 Meeting

21690 Colton Point Rd., Avenue
7 p.m.

American Legion Post 221 invites all active duty personnel and veterans to join us for our monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month. E-mail us at alpost221@aol.com or call 301-481-6625 for more information.

Fri, Jun 27

Live Music Event

St. Mary's County Elks Lodge #2092
22649 FDR Blvd., California
6 – 10 p.m.

Featuring Mockingjean (as seen on the Voice), a husband and wife duo from the hills and hollers of Appalachia and Wes Ryce, the man, the myth, the legend of

Sat, Jun 28

Drive Thru BBQ Dinner

Hollywood Vol. Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Ln., Hollywood
2 – 6 p.m.

The HVRS Auxiliary is sponsor. The Menu will consist of: BBQ Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, 2 Rolls, Corn on the Cob and Cookies. Cost: \$20

Sun, Jun 29

Quarter Auction

Mechanicsville Moose
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Mechanicsville Women of the Moose along with the Fun Bunch & Friendz Quarter Auction Team are holding event. Doors open at noon. There will be brown bag raffle baskets and 50/50 drawings. Quarter In! Paddles Up! Bring your Quarters! All Bids

Upcoming

Maryland Dove Passenger Sail

Historic St. Mary's City
Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Step aboard the *Maryland Dove* and set sail on the serene waters of the St. Mary's River. Ages 5 and up. Tickets \$60, \$50 for members. Reservations: 301-994-4372 or hsmcc.groups@maryland.gov

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

UPCOMING EVENTS



Summer Reading for All Ages Now through August 23!

Summer Reading is for all ages and runs June 13 – August 23, 2025. Complete activities all summer long to earn badges. Badge 1: Free book! Badge 2: Choice of t-shirt or tote bag! Badges 3-5: treat/food coupons to local businesses! Earn all 5 badges to be entered in the grand prize drawings for gift cards. Grand prize drawings take place after the end of Summer Reading in August. Download the Beanstack Tracker app for Android or iOS, or visit <https://stmalib.beanstack.org> to get started!

Petite Process Art

Art doesn't have to be intimidating, or time consuming. Instead, it can be a chance to explore creativity, the ability to make mistakes, and even an opportunity to engage in meditation. Each session will feature a small watercolor

or paper craft projects that can be completed in an hour to an hour and a half. Lexington Park Library on Monday, June 30 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Wizard of Oz by Bright Star Theatre

Follow Lenny & Mabel, comic duo from Bright Star Theatre, down the yellow brick road, and meet all your favorite Oz characters along the way! Gain courage with the Cowardly Lion, take heart with the Tin Man, and find your wits with the Scarecrow in this fun interactive retelling of the L. Frank Baum classic. Most seating will be on the floor- feel free to bring a blanket! Space may be limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Leonardtown Library: Monday, June 30, 10:30 a.m. Charlotte Hall Library: Monday, June 30, 2 p.m.

Libraries Closed for Independence Day

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

DIY Flower Cloches

Create your own floral décor! A cloche is a round cover made of clear material. In this program, you'll be upcycling a clear candle jar to create a colorful cloche that displays faux flowers! This craft can be customized to your liking. The library will provide all supplies; we just need you to provide the creativity! Charlotte Hall Library on Monday, July 7 from 6 – 7 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

St. Clement's Island Then & Now

Karen Stone, Division Manager of the St. Mary's County Museums, will give

a special seminar on our local history. Maryland's story begins on St. Clement's Island, where the Ark and the Dove landed in March 1634. The Island then changed hands a number of times until its final designation as a state park. This talk will cover the Island's role in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World Wars I & II, and will include highlights of the colorful history of the Blackistone Lighthouse, including its destruction in the 1950's, and its eventual reconstruction in 2008. This event is part of the Southern Maryland 250th Semiquincentennial, Maryland 250th, and America 250th celebration, commemorating Southern Maryland's contributions to our nation's founding. Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, July 8 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

LEONARDTOWN'S GOT TALENT

TALENT SHOW - AUGUST 9TH

**Calling all singers, dancers, comedians,
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**Submit your audition for a chance to
perform in front of a live audience &
open for the band at the Labor Day
Concert at the Wharf!**

ELIGIBILITY

- Must reside in St. Mary's County
- Must be 13 years or older
- All acts must be family-friendly
- Audition video must be at least 30 seconds but no more than 1 minute 30 seconds in length.
- **Deadline to submit entry is July 10th**



For complete rules & details, scan the QR Code
or visit the event page at:
VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar



25th Anniversary

POTOMAC JAZZ & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Four Days of Jazz Fun!

JULY 10-13, 2025

IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MD



JULY
10
THUR



A Jazz Sunset Affair on the Potomac

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Piney Point Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park
This exclusive, elegant affair in the shadow of the lighthouse by the Potomac River features music from Higher Standards and wine from local wineries, seafood Hors d'oeuvres and dancing under the stars. Tickets: \$85 per person/\$160 per couple.

JULY
11
FRI



Jazz in the Neighborhood

Kick Off Concert *fea. U.S. Navy Band: The Commodores*

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum
Kick off the 25th anniversary weekend with a FREE family-friendly concert featuring food trucks, vendors and more along the waterside museum lawn.



Artful Harmonies: A Plein Air Celebration

5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. (All Day) at St. Clement's Island Museum
Attention artists: Bring your art materials and capture the vibrant energy of the festival's setup and the gorgeous riverside landscape. Fee: \$10/artist.

JULY
12
SAT

THE Main EVENT



CASUAL GROOVE



REBECCA JADE



ANDRÉA LISA



CHELSEY GREEN

12 p.m. - 7 p.m. at St. Clement's Island Museum Grounds
Enjoy live jazz performances by **Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green**, as well as a variety of seafood vendors and activities. Tickets: \$75 General Admission/\$95 VIP.

JULY
13
SUN



Jazz Brunch and Golf at Wicomico Shores

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course
Enjoy a delicious jazz brunch with music from The Sweet Potatoes, then head out to the links for a round of golf (optional fee). Brunch Tickets: \$50 per person/\$90 per couple.



Jazz Cruises with Captain Phil and Sax Appeal

Departs from St. Clement's Island Museum dock
Music on board by Sax Appeal Duet. Tickets: \$85.00 per person/\$160 per couple.
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. **Early Bird Jazz Cruise** featuring pastries and mimosas.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. **Seafood Jazz Cruise** featuring seafood or chicken option and wine.
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. **Evening Casual Jazz Cruise** featuring charcuterie and wine.



LEARN MORE ABOUT EVENTS AND ORDER TICKETS AT
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The Potomac Jazz and Seafood Festival is a fundraiser for the Friends of The St. Clements and Piney Point Museums; proceeds support local museums.

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VisitStMarysMD.com/stay
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July 4, 2025

3 PM - 7 PM

Join us at the Leonardtown Wharf for an afternoon of contests, activities, yard games, tasty food, and a FREE live concert featuring The Copper Pennies! This special event is brought to you by the Town of Leonardtown, the Leonardtown Business Association, and with the support of our generous sponsors, **Jimmy Hayden of RE/MAX 100**, **Mattingley Gardiner Funeral Home**, **Edward Jones**, and **Balanced Paws Pet Care**. Tasty eats, treats, and beverages available for purchase.

Concert Sponsor



Edward Jones

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Scheduled Events:

- 3:15 - 3:30** Summer Games
- 3:30 - 4:00** Strut Your Mutt (Dog Parade)
- 4:15 - 4:45** Watermelon Eating Contest
- 5:00 - 7:00** The Copper Pennies Concert

All-Day Games & Vendors

- Summer Games
- Patriotic Paw Painting
- Axe Throwing
- Crafts & Activities
- Food & Drinks

**No firework display at this event*



Leonardtown
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



For more information, please visit: www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/FourthAtTheWharf

SoMD July Events

Fourth at the Wharf

July 4, 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Leonardtown Wharf
22510 Washington St., Leonardtown
Admission: Free

Enjoy a fun afternoon of contests, activities, yard games, tasty food, and a FREE live concert featuring The Copper Pennies! Tasty eats, treats, and beverages will be available for purchase. In addition to the concert, enjoy fun activities including a dog parade, ping pong, chess games, yard games, and more!

Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

July 10-13
St. Clement's Island Museum
38370 Point Breeze Rd., Coltons Point
Admission: \$80 for General Admission

Get ready to groove! The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival is turning the big 2-5, and we're throwing a party you won't want to miss! Join us for four days of jazz, fun and waterfront vibes in beautiful Southern Maryland's scenic St. Mary's County. This isn't just a festival; it's a silver jubilee celebration of music, community and the stunning beauty of the Potomac River.

Judged: Stories of Colonial Justice (and Injustice)

July 11 & 12, 5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation
47755 Old Cove Rd., Lexington Park
Admission: \$20; \$15 for HSMC members

What does justice look like—and who gets to define it? Join us for this immersive, adults-only evening tour based on true 17th-century court cases from Maryland's first capital. As you walk through the plantation, you'll meet characters whose lives were entangled in the legal system—people navigating interracial relationships, enslavement, adultery, abuse, and public scandal. Their stories are complex, raw, and very real.

The tour ends with a dramatic outdoor court hearing, where you'll see how the colonial justice system delivered its verdicts—sometimes fair, often not. Come ready to question, reflect, and walk in the footsteps of the past.

This program is intended for adult audiences (18+). The stories presented are based on real 17th-century court cases and include sensitive topics such as enslavement, interracial relationships, abuse, adultery, and substance use. These themes are presented with care and historical context, but may be distressing for some visitors. We encourage thoughtful engagement and reflection.

SHARKFEST!

July 12, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons
Admission: Adults \$11; seniors & military

\$9; ages 5-12 \$6; ages 4 & under free; members free

Celebrate all things shark, all day, at CMM! Sharks are one of the world's most riveting creatures and SHARKFEST is a chance to learn more about them. Guests will be able to view sharks up close while outside at the Corbin Nature Pavilion. While the Discovery Room will be closed to allow the focus to be on the sharks for the day, our younger visitors will still have the opportunity to search for a fossil outside. The museum and grounds will offer opportunities to explore the diversity of sharks and their remarkable history on planet Earth. Learn fascinating 'sharktoids,' examine evidence of prehistoric sharks, and make a shark-themed craft. Food, drink, and face painting will be for sale on-site.

Complimentary museum passes will not be honored and strollers are not allowed in the museum for SHARKFEST.

Pursuit of Freedom Specialty Tour

July 18, 5:30 p.m.
Historic Sotterley
44300 Sotterley Ln., Hollywood

Historic Sotterley is offering a guided tour with a special focus on The Pursuit of Freedom at Historic Sotterley. Take a guided tour with our Interpretive Programs Manager for an in-depth look at how freedom evolved through the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, the Civil War, and post-emancipation into the 20th century.

Recommended for ages 16 & older. Walking and standing required. The historic house is not ADA compliant. Advance reservations required – ticket sales coming soon. Visit sotterley.org/events for more information.

Insectival

July 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
13470 Dowell Rd., Solomons
Admission: \$8/person online (\$11/person at the gate, if not sold out); ages 2 & under free; members free

What's an INSECTIVAL? It's an insect festival! Join us for a day of buggy fun as we explore and get creative with the world of insects. Enjoy activities for all ages, meet community groups who love bugs, and have fun roaming the garden as you explore and have fun with insects!

Kids Day

July 19, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Summerseat Farm
26655 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville
Admission: Free, donations encouraged

Let's all be kids for a day. Summerseat is once again gearing up for a day of family fun. Join us for games and activities for all

ages on the lawn, and cooling off on the slip-n-slide or our other water stations. Make sure you take time to walk down to the barn area and feed the animals (they really enjoy your visits)! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

There is no gate fee but we do encourage a \$10 per family donation. Your donations are what help us maintain the farm and make events like this possible. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your interest in Summerseat Farm!

Gayme Night

July 19, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Swords and Spoons
22599 MacArthur Blvd. Ste. 126, California
Admission: Free

Join PFLAG Southern Maryland for an evening of fun, games, and community at Swords & Spoons in California, MD on Saturday, July 19th, from 5 PM to 10 PM! With 120+ games to choose from, there's something for everyone, whether you're a seasoned gamer or a beginner. Food, including pizza, hot dogs, and light snacks, will be available for purchase until 8 PM.

LGBTQ+ individuals and allies welcome; all skill levels are encouraged to attend—novices and experienced gamers alike! Come solo or bring your friends. It's the perfect chance to meet new people, make connections, and have a blast in a fun, inclusive environment. We can't wait to see you there!

Wine in White – SoMD Speakeasy

July 26, 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
The Fenwick Inn
41685 Fenwick St., Leonardtown
Admission: \$82

SoMD Wine In White 2025 is back and better than ever! Join us for a fabulous evening of wine tasting and mingling at the historic Fenwick Inn in Leonardtown. Get ready to sip on some of the finest wines Southern Maryland has to offer, all while enjoying the company of fellow wine enthusiasts. Whether you're a wine connoisseur or just looking for a fun night out, this speak-easy-themed event is the perfect blend of elegance and excitement for everyone.

Ticket price includes mouthwatering cuisine by The Real Food Studio and lavish libations to keep the party flowing.

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- July 25:** Rhapsody in Blue!



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All concerts are free and open to the public. No pets allowed.
Food trucks on site for cash and card sales.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE of MARYLAND
The National Public Honors College

Continued from page 15

of his passing. After retiring from full-time farming, Jackson worked for many years at True Value/ACE Hardware in Leonardtown, MD. He retired from ACE at age 87.

Jackson was an avid outdoorsman, hunting right up until his passing. He loved to dance, play cards, and celebrate with family and friends. He instilled hard work, honesty, and integrity in his children. Jackson was a man of strong faith and a devout Catholic.

Jackson cherished his family and took great pride in his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Seeing his grandchildren always brought a huge smile to his face. All of Jackson's children live beside him on the farm to which he dedicated his life. He could often be found riding his four-wheeler or lawnmower around the property.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, June 26, 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 Friday, June 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD, with Father Kevin Fields officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be David Hall, Jr., Matthew Hall, Jackson Alderman, Wayne Hall, Dennis Hall, and John Hall, Jr. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Seventh District Volunteer Fire Department and/or the Seventh District Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Condolences may be made to the family

at www.mgfh.com.

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

Karl Szlendak, 81



Maryland, on June 12, 2025. Karl is now in heaven in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless his soul.

Karl was born on September 23, 1943, in Germany, to Wladyslaw Szlendak (deceased) and Stanislaw Szlendak (deceased). He and his family came to the U.S. in August 1948 when he was at the age of five.

Karl studied at Margaret Brent High School in Helen, Maryland before attending plumbing trade school in Virginia. His plumbing skills and numerous other talents prepared him to begin a 30-year career with the Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers, working at Placid Harbor in Hollywood, Maryland. His job title as Maintenance Specialist didn't capture the wide variety of things Karl could do. He was more like a Maintenance Swiss Army Knife, tackling everything that needed to be done. He was truly a devoted employee that could be counted on in every instance.

It is with deep sadness that Krystyna Szlendak Morgan, loving sister, announces the passing of her beloved brother, Karl Egon Szlendak, of California,

Karl enjoyed the many outdoor activities St. Mary's County offered, including boating, fishing, crabbing, and hunting for all varieties of game, including geese, duck, deer, turkey, and anything else in season. He loved NASCAR, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and collecting Budweiser beer steins. He was a member of the National Rifle Association, and he loved Cabela's outdoor store, Snap-On tools, and John Deere tractor equipment. Karl really enjoyed working on his farming equipment.

If Karl was telling one of his many stories, and he began with, "Hey, you're not going to believe this," you could rest assured it was going to be a good story.

He was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus and devoted much of his time to helping with all their events and the Color Guard. He was also a member of the Optimist Club.

One of Karl's most precious possessions was his black lab, Boomer, given to him by a dear friend, Allie Raley. Boomer was Karl's companion for 12 years.

Karl is survived by sister, Krystyna Szlendak Morgan (husband Bernard Morgan, deceased); brother George Szlendak and son Austin and daughter (Lisa Marie Steffek (husband David Steffek, two children Abigail and Zac); brother Joseph Szlendak (wife Jill Szlendak and their daughters, Brittany and Nicole Vehawn (husband Jason Vehawn and their son Kaleb).

Karl was preceded in death by both his beloved brother Casimir (Caz) Szlendak and wife Mary Szlendak. Caz, Krystyna (Sis), and Karl referred to themselves as the "three musketeers," always causing mischief in their younger years.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with the Knights of Columbus reciting the rosary at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM in Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 225 Alexander Lane, Solomons, MD, with Father Bob Kilner officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD. Serving as pallbearers will be Claye Gross, Michael Maher, James R. Hammett, Jr., James (Dickie) Hammett, III, Allie Raley, and Dale Tarleton.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Karl E. Szlendak's name to either the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, 21685 FDR Blvd, Lexington Park MD 20653 or the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, 46900 S. Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, MD 26253

Karl was a devout Christian and a loving, caring, and thoughtful man. He was always willing to help others when needed. He will be missed by all.

"What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

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

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

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In Remembrance

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

Phyllis Cook, 71



Phyllis Ann McKay Cook, of Callaway, MD, formerly of Tucson, AZ, passed away on June 20, 2025, at Hospice House, Callaway, MD, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on November 4, 1953, she was the daughter of the late Joseph C. McKay, Sr. and Selma D. McKay. Phyllis was the loving wife of the late King Leon Cook, whom she married on August 1, 1974, and who preceded her in death in May 2011. Phyllis is survived by her siblings, Joseph C. McKay, Jr. (Janice), George E. McKay, Sr. (Nancy), Gail Underwood (Galin), and Margaret Brown (Andrew). She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, John W. Carter III (Tammy), Cindy Riti (Tim), Christine McKay, George McKay, Jr. (Penny), and Stephanie McKay. She was preceded in death by her sister, Nancy McKay, and her nephew, Joseph Underwood.

Phyllis graduated from Great Mills High School in 1971. She went to work for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. and met Leon. She and Leon moved to Marion, IN, where they lived for several years before moving to Tucson, AZ. While in Tucson, Phyllis and Leon moved to a retirement community where Phyllis made friendships with several older ladies living in the community whom she helped throughout the years with doctor appointments, grocery shipping, hair appointments, and just being there for them.

Phyllis retired in 2009 from Davi-Monathan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ.

The family will receive friends on Monday, June 30, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in Holy Face Catholic Church, Great Mills, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 AM, with Father Scott Holmer officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 and/or Holy Face Catholic Church, 20408 Point Lookout Road, Great Mills,

MD 20634.

The family would like to thank the staff at Hospice House for the loving care they provided Phyllis, as well as the support given to the family during this difficult time.

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

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

Jeanette Springer, 91



Jeanette Chase Springer, 91 years young of Fernandina Beach, FL, passed away peacefully in her sleep, on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at her home.

Born on November 18, 1933, in Washington, DC to the late Dr. William Wiley Chase and the late Mrs. Jean Ramsay. Jeanette grew up in Washington, DC, spending her summers in Tall Timbers, MD. She graduated from Saint Mary's Seminary and Junior College in 1952. Jeanette then went on to Western Maryland College in 1956 with a degree in Home Economics.

Jeanette worked as an assistant manager in a couple of cafeterias before ultimately accepting a position in finance for the Department of Defense. On May 20, 1961, Jeanette married the man of her dreams, Thomas Eugene Springer, Jr. Over a period of seven years the couple welcomed four children into their home. Her children remember her as a sassy, to the point, fun loving, generous, kind, classy, one of a kind, Lady.

Jeanette is predeceased by her husband, Thomas Eugene Springer, Jr., and their daughter, Susan Elizabeth Hackney.

Jeanette leaves behind her children, Steven (Saundra, Youngsville, NC), Scott (Hampton, VA), Sharon (Alan, Fernandina Beach, FL), and grandchildren Thomas James Springer, Amanda Suzanne Burney (Matt), Leslie Ann Orloff (Michael), Jessica Marie Springer, William Alan Glass, Victoria Jean Hackney, Joseph Scott Springer, Jace Ryan Glass, and Charles Wayne Hackney.

Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, July 18, 2025, from 4pm to 6pm, at Oxley Heard Funeral Home.

She will be laid to rest with her late husband, Thomas Eugene Springer, Jr. at a later date by immediate family members at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

If anyone would like to help/contribute, please consider The Nassau County Council on Aging in Fernandina Beach in memory of Jeanette Springer. Their website is as follows: <https://www.nassaucountycouncilonaging.org/>

Jackson Hall, 90



James Henry Hall, "Jackson", 90, of Chaptico, MD, left this world peacefully on June 18, 2025, at home, with his loving wife, Mary Ann, and family by his side.

He was a loving husband, brother, devoted father, cherished grandfather, great grandfather, and friend to many.

Born on December 24, 1934, in Dynard, MD, and raised in the Chaptico area, he was the beloved son of the late Agnes Virginia Burroughs and Peter Paul Hall, Sr. He was the loving husband of 61 years, devoted to Mary Ann Penn. Jackson and Mary Ann

were married on September 14, 1963, in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Bushwood, MD. Jackson will be dearly missed by his wife, Mary Ann, and by his children, Pamela Bowles (Randy), Aggie White (Jason Copsey), David Hall, Sr. (Barbara), Alice Hall, James Allen Hall (Jenn), all residing in Chaptico, MD. He will also be dearly missed by his grandchildren, Ashley Thompson, Brittany Thompson, David Hall, Jr., Matthew Hall, Kayla Black, Melanie Benjes, Tracey Bowles, Jackson Alderman, Zachary Alderman, Mason Hall, Emma Hall, Charlotte Hall, and Annabelle Hall, as well as his eight great grandchildren.

Jackson is also survived by his brother, Billy Hall and John "Puddin" Hall, Sr., both of Chaptico, MD. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Peter Paul "Possum" Hall, Jr.

Jackson was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County, MD, where he graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1952. He was a lifelong farmer; in his early years, it was with his brothers, Billy, Possum, and Puddin, as they were known as the Hall Brothers. Together they farmed tobacco and grain and raised various farm animals. Later they would all move to their own farms where they, along with their own children, farmed the land on which they lived. He was still gardening right up until the day

Continued on page 16

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We're getting close to the Fourth of July, our national Independence Day. This celebration may get you thinking of the many freedoms you enjoy. But have you thought of what you might need to do to attain financial freedom?

Your first step is to define what financial independence signifies to you. For many people, it means being able to retire when they want to, and to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. So, if this is your vision as well, consider taking these steps:

- *Pay yourself first.* If you wait until you have some extra money "lying around" before you invest for retirement, you may never get around to doing it. Instead, pay yourself first. This actually is not that hard to do, especially if you have a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, because your contributions are taken directly from your paycheck, before you even have the chance to spend the money. You can set up a similar arrangement with an IRA by having automatic contributions taken directly from your checking or savings account.
- *Invest appropriately.* Your investment decisions should be guided by your retirement goals, along with how long you have before you need the money and how comfortable you are with different levels of investment risk. If you deviate from these guideposts — for instance, by taking on either too much or too little risk — you may end up making decisions that aren't right for you and that may set you back as you pursue your financial independence.
- *Avoid financial "potholes."* The road to financial liberty will always be marked with potholes you should avoid. One such pothole is debt — the higher your debt burden, the less you can invest for your retirement. It's not always easy to lower your debt load, but do the best you can to live within your means. A second pothole comes in the form of large, unexpected short-term costs, such as a major home or auto repair or a medical bill not fully covered by insurance. To avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for these short-term costs, try to build an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.
- *Give yourself some wiggle room.* If you decide that to achieve financial independence, you must retire at 62 or you must buy a vacation home by the beach, you may feel disappointed if you fall short of these goals. But if you're prepared to accept some flexibility in your plans — perhaps you can work until 65 or just rent a vacation home for the summer — you may be able to earn a different, but still acceptable, financial freedom. And by working a couple of extra years or paying less for your vacation home expenses, you may also improve your overall financial picture.

Putting these and other moves to work can help you keep moving toward your important goals. When you eventually reach your own "Financial Independence Day," it may not warrant a fireworks display — but it should certainly add some sparkle to your life.

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
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301 997 1707*

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A View From The BLEACHERS



Out of Patience

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

It is hard to be a sports fan. The emotional continuum is wide: highs that spawn late night partying, maybe even streaking your cul-de-sac, and have you hanging championship bling in your man-cave for eternity, and lows that prompt anger, tears, even legitimate despair. It is all ridiculous — to get this jazzed or distressed by a sporting event in which you play no direct role. There's no rational explanation for it. No justifiable reason to be so psychologically dependent on a sports team. You'll get no argument against that from any fan — we all struggle with the infection, truth be told. Fanhood is very confusing; the only certainty is that the emotional connection between team and fan is real.

It is hard being a fan of Washington D.C. sports teams. There are better sports towns and easier teams to love. But this is no pity party. Objective assessment: Washington D.C. lands somewhere in the middle of the sports fans' experience. D.C. is neither Boston, a city spoiled with recent success, nor Minneapolis, a four-major-pro-sport-city without a championship since 1991. D.C. offers a faint memory of football dominance and hope for the future. The basketball team, is quite special. It hasn't had a 50-win season, a modest mark of competence, since the disco era and is mired in a soul-crushing, 45-year-long performance range between mediocre and awful. The hockey and baseball teams profile similarly: lots of playoff appearances, a packed resume of heartbreaking playoffs collapses and a single, glorious championship (not counting the Washington Nationals/now Minnesota Twins 1924 World Series win).

Regarding that hockey and baseball title, each seems like a one-time show of mercy from the universe, an acknowledgement of unjust pain. Few sports fans had suffered like Capitals fans prior to the team hoisting the Stanley Cup in 2018. The Caps' playoff collapses read like a fictional tale of psychological torture. Similarly, after over 30 years without a baseball team, the nation's capital received the skeleton of one in 2005. After seven years of rebuilding in D.C., the Nats went on a heater, making four playoff appearances in six years. Like the Caps, they lost in the first round all four times. By 2018, the talent began to age and exit (Jayson Werth, Bryce Harper) and, after a 19-32 start to the 2019 season, all seemed lost.

Then it wasn't. By Halloween, D.C. had a new hero — Juan Soto — and Stephen Strasburg had become all he had promised to be. A trophy was won. A parade was held. The Nats were on top of the baseball world. Six years ago. A lifetime ago.

The Nats haven't had a winning season since. Their championship team retired, broke down and was scattered across MLB in a painful teardown that at some point became inevitable and understandable. Six years later, fresh off an 11-game losing streak and with an abysmal 32-46 record, another season is over before the All-Star break. In a word, the Nats are adrift.

Patience is perhaps the greatest parental trait, especially for parents of adolescent and semi-adult children! I have a decent amount. Not enough, but a decent amount. And I'm grateful for my parents' patience. We're all seekers and personal growth is never linear. The Nats' growth hasn't just failed to be linear, it's failed fundamentally. They have flatlined and my forbearance well has run dry. There is a collection of young talent, but ownership has the franchise stuck in a too-stubborn-to-sell (the Lerner family has flirted with selling the team for years) and a too-cheap-to-spend death spiral (the Nats' active payroll of \$64M ranks 25th in MLB). It's hard not to imagine a future where young stars like James Wood and MacKensie Gore bolt to more fertile MLB pastures via free agency or trade — like Max Scherzer, Trea Turner, Bryce Harper, Juan Soto, etc., etc., etc. — while the Nats spin in a perpetual rebuild. In parental terms, Nats fans have justifiably reached the "tough love" stage. Manager Jimmy Dugan, in "A League Of Their Own", established that "There's no crying in baseball." The Nats have proven there's only so much patience, too.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

Spot continue to be plentiful in the Patuxent River. The spot have increased in size so that at least half of them are eating size. One skilled fisherman landed 38 eating spot in about two hours last Friday morning at Hawk's Nest just above Point Patience. Fishbites, lug worms and blood worms work for bait.

The spot, perch, and croaker (small ones) are also in the Potomac and its tributaries. The lower Potomac has been invaded by cow nosed rays and porpoise. When they appear in quantity, the fish go elsewhere (they do not like to become prey). Excellent catches of all species abruptly stopped last Saturday when the porpoise arrived in schools of fifty or more. They will be gone soon and the fishing will return to normal. Monday morning found some seatrout taking plastic lures in Cornfield Harbor with no porpoise in sight, but the usual rockfish had yet to return.

Bluefish are in the bay near the Target ship. Trollers using in line weights with sugical hose lures and medium sized spoons were limiting out. It seems that the cobia that were in the area before the season came in have left for the moment as news of cobia catches are nil. The heat wave this week should encourage cobia activity.

Ninety degree days are fine for all species except stripers, who will seek the deep and venture out to feed at sunset and daybreak.

Rockfish are very active in the Patuxent. Trollers and lure casters from the rocks found feeding rockfish in the mouth of West



One of three speckled trout Eric Packard caught Monday morning in the shallows of Cornfield Harbor.

Basin at the Naval Air Station. All other areas around Cedar Point can have good populations of rockfish hitting surface poppers, plastics and bucktails and swimming plugs. Go early and late; fish avoid the hot sunshine just as we do.

Jiggers at the Solomons Bridge pilings are doing well on slack tides. The water runs too fast there during the main flow to get all but the heaviest lures down where multiple snags await.

Catfish have retreated to the fresher regions of the Potomac and Patuxent. They are big, plentiful and eager to bite.

Fresh water fishing at St. Mary's Lake and other local ponds is very good.



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Hi, my name is Dim. I'm a 3-month-old kitten with a playful spirit and a heart full of curiosity. I'm friendly, social, and I especially love the company of other kittens. My favorite hobby? Chasing string toys through the air like a tiny acrobat! If you're looking for a fun-loving feline to brighten your days, I'm definitely ready to join your home! Meet me during adoption hours, 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 THE KITTENS

KITTENS, KITTENS, KITTENS! The rescue is bursting at the seams with adorable, playful kittens all looking for their purr-fect forever homes! Come meet your new best friend at Adoption Day, every Saturday from 11-2 at The Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park. See all adoptable pets online at <http://www.animalrelieffund.org/>



Business Professor Recognized for Teaching Excellence

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Professor of Business Christopher Ripley was recently awarded the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) Teaching Excellence award. The award was presented at the ACBSP's annual conference, held June 19-22 in Las Vegas.

"As someone who's dedicated decades to both business and education, this recognition is deeply meaningful," said Ripley in accepting the award. "To me, teaching excellence means more than delivering content, it's about sparking curiosity, empowering students to think critically, and helping them see their place in the world of business and beyond."

The award is presented annually with the goal of recognizing classroom teachers and their roles at degree-granting institutions. The ACBSP considers three factors when evaluating nominees: teaching and learning; professional development; and institutional and community commitment. The recognition comes with an award, waived conference registration fee, and \$500.

Ripley was nominated by Business department chair Tony Stout, who emphasized Ripley's willingness to tailor his courses to a changing world. Ripley declared 2024 his "Year of AI Learning," attending AI-focused professional development and redesigning courses to incorporate the latest AI tools and practices. These redesigned courses include interactive assignments and practical demonstrations of AI, ensuring students are well-prepared for the modern business environment.

"He addressed a critical gap in education by mastering AI's role in business. He integrated it into his teaching, ensuring students are future-ready," said Stout. "His commitment to excellence and preparing students for the evolving business world is most deserving of this award."

Ripley also took the lead in establishing a chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta Honor



Christopher Ripley

Society at CSM, which inducted its first cohort of students in 2023. The international society invites business students to join Delta Phi – CSM's chapter of Kappa Beta Delta – if they are in the top 20 percent of their class. Ripley was invited to join the International Board of Directors for Kappa Beta Delta in 2024, with the board noting that "although you are a relatively new KBD Chapter Advisor, we are impressed with how vital your chapter is already under your leadership."

Ripley said that in his teaching, he focuses on endowing his students with curiosity and problem-solving skills to carry them into a successful future. He reflected on one student, who created a business plan for a tattoo parlor in an introductory class. Today, she's a partner in a local shop while still attending CSM, leading her peers and excelling in AI-driven assignments.

"This award is a reflection of moments like that, where education sparks confidence, growth, and real-world success," he said.

Press release from CSM

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Jazz Brunch, Golf to Close Out Festival

The Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival, a premier Mid-Atlantic jazz event, is excited to announce a special Jazz Brunch & Golf event at Wicomico Shores Golf Course during this year's four day 25th anniversary festival.

Swing into summer with jazz, brunch, and golf! Join us for a delightful jazz brunch & optional golf experience at the scenic Riverview Restaurant at Wicomico Shores Golf Course on Sunday, July 13, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy a delicious buffet-style brunch while grooving to the smooth sounds of the Sweet Potatoes jazz band. It's the perfect way to relax, savor a beautiful summer morning, and close out the 25th Anniversary Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival.

Tickets for the Jazz Brunch are \$50 per person and \$90 per couple.

Want to hit the links? Make it a full day of fun with a round of golf! The cost for 18 holes with cart is \$50; 9 holes with cart is \$27. *Important note:* to schedule your tee time (available from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) please call Patrick Dugan at Wicomico Shores Golf Course at (301) 884-4601.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to combine great food, live music, and a round of golf in a stunning setting. Get your tickets now at: <https://JazzBrunchGolf2025.eventbrite.com>.

Festival Highlights

- **Thursday, July 10** (6 p.m. – 9 p.m.): *"A Jazz at Sunset Affair on the Potomac"* at Piney Point Lighthouse. Enjoy live music by Higher Standards, local wines, seafood hors d'oeuvres, and dancing under the stars. Tickets are \$85 per person
- **Friday, July 11** (4 p.m. – 8 p.m.): *"Jazz in the Neighborhood"* concert will take place on the museum lawn, headlined by the sensational U.S. Navy Band, The Commodores, with a special opening performance by the St. Mary's

Ryken Jazz Band. Food trucks and vendors will be on site.

- **Saturday, July 12** (12 p.m. – 7 p.m.): The *Main Event* at St. Clement's Island Museum features performances by Casual Groove, Rebecca Jade, Andréa Lisa, and Chelsey Green. Enjoy a wide selection of seafood and Southern Maryland cuisine, shop at jazzy vendor booths, and take a free water taxi to St. Clement's Island. Free admission to the museum is included. Tickets are \$75 for general admission and \$95 for VIP.
- **Sunday, July 13** (various times during the day): Enhance your festival experience with a two-hour **jazz cruise** on the Potomac. Three exclusive cruises will depart from St. Clement's Island Museum, each featuring unique food, beverages, and live music by Sax Appeal. Tickets are \$85 per person, with only 15 spots available per cruise

Tickets and Information

General admission, VIP tickets, tickets to all events, including the jazz cruise, are available at www.potomacjazzfest.com. Stay updated on festival details by following the event's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum/events.

About the Festival

Proceeds from the Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival support the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums in their mission to preserve and promote St. Mary's County's historical sites. Major partners include the Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, the St. Mary's County Museum Division, the St. Mary's County Arts Council, and other partner organizations.

*Press Release from St. Mary's County
Museum Division*

Touchdown, Guns Down for Violence Prevention



As a prelude to Community Violence Prevention Day, Grind Academy and Reach Back & Lift 1, in concert with the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, hosted a "Touchdown, Guns Down" community event at Great Mills High School June 21.

Community Violence Prevention Day will take place on June 28 at Nicolet Park from 12 to 4 p.m. This event is free, family-friendly, and open to all community members.

Photo by Ceandra Scott

Deputy Cited for Driving While Impaired

During the early morning hours of Saturday, June 21 Deputy First Class Ryan McLean (#400), of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, was stopped by a Maryland State Police Trooper and cited for driving while impaired.

McLean was not on duty at the time and was operating a personally-owned vehicle. Following the citation, McLean was released to a sober driver.

In accordance with agency policy and

Maryland state law, DFC McLean is suspended with pay. An administrative investigation has been initiated by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office of Professional Responsibilities into this incident.

Inquiries regarding the citation should be referred to the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack.

Press Release from SMCSO

Roadwork Continues Along Route 5



The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration reminds drivers to plan ahead for summer construction-related roadwork along MD 5 (Point Lookout Road) in Saint Mary's County. The department has several projects that will occur on Point Lookout Road this summer.

The State Highway Administration will continue its advance utility relocation work for the MD 5 highway improvements in Great Mills. The State Highway Administration has permitted utility crews to close a single-lane or shoulder this week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. between MD 471 (Indian Bridge Road) and MD 246 (Great Mills Road); work hours are subject to change.

Drivers are also reminded that construction work continues for the MD 5 Bridge Replacement Project at Hilton Run. The

State Highway Administration is using a temporary signal to alternate northbound and southbound MD 5 traffic through the work zone.

The State Highway Administration reminds drivers to remain alert, plan additional travel time and slow down in work zones for the safety of all drivers and the crews working to improve our roadways.

Customers who have questions may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or 800-331-5603.

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

Press Release from MD SHA

Legal Notice

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be available July 1, 2025 to Town residents and the public at the Town Hall office, 22670 Washington St. Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and at the Leonardtown Post Office, 22735 Washington Street and will also be available online at <http://leonardtown.somd.com> under the Government tab, titled Water Quality Reports.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

If you would like to place a classified ad or legal notice, please call the County Times at 301-373-4125 or email aldailey@countytimes.net

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Man Charged After Setting Fire to Home, Parents' Vehicle

Deputy State Fire Marshals have charged a Mechanicsville man with setting his home on fire early Monday morning June 23 and later connected him to setting his parents' car on fire Saturday morning.

Michael Robert Guy, 47, was arrested shortly after the fire with the assistance of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office.

Just after 1 a.m. on June 23, 2025, the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to 27099 Morganza Turner Road for a dwelling fire. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered heavy fire from inside the attached garage, quickly spreading to the remainder of the home. The home is considered a complete loss, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal was requested to determine the origin and cause.

During their investigation, Deputy State Fire Marshals concluded that the fire was intentionally set and identified Guy as the suspect.

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office assisted in taking him into custody, and he was transported to the Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack.

As the investigation continued and during their interview with Guy, he told investigators that he had set his parents' 2003 Cadillac on fire Saturday morning



Michael Robert Guy

near the intersection of Ted Drive and Ted Circle in Avenue. Coincidentally, that fire was also under investigation by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Guy was charged with first and second-degree arson and transported to St. Mary's County Detention Center, where he is currently being held without bond.

Press Release from MD State Fire Marshals Office

Hollywood Man Arrested After Alleged Gun Threat

Patrol deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded on Sunday, June 22 at approximately 5:20 a.m. to the 25000 block of Gallant Fox Drive in Hollywood for the report of an assault.

Upon arrival, deputies met with the victim, who reported that he had arrived at the residence to repossess a vehicle. During the attempted repossession, a male subject exited the home, fired a shotgun at the victim's truck, then pointed the weapon at the victim and threatened to shoot him. The victim fled the area and contacted 911.

Deputies located spent shell casings at the scene and identified the suspect as Douglas Aaron Chance, 49, of Hollywood. Chance was arrested and charged with the following:

- Assault First Degree
- Assault Second Degree
- Reckless Endangerment
- Malicious Destruction of Property Less Than \$1,000

Further investigation revealed that Chance is prohibited from possessing firearms due to prior convictions. He was also charged with:

- Possession of a Shotgun After Being Convicted of a Felony



Douglas Aaron Chance

- Possession of a Shotgun After Being Convicted of a Disqualifying Crime
- Chance was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown to await a bond hearing.

Press Release from SMCSO



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Freedom Fest Returns with Fireworks and Family Fun

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It used to be a 4th of July tradition – Freedom Fest at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds. Then it faded away, the victim of the county fiscal belt tightening.

It returned last year and will be back again this year thanks to business and organizational sponsors. And the family event is free of charge.

Organizer Nick Simonds said, "Funding was cut, I believe. And the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department took it over for quite a few years, let's say 12 plus years. They had stopped doing the fireworks for a year or two. And then, after that I went to the fairgrounds and said, hey, I'll go ahead and take this on, and we'll bring it back to the fairgrounds and we'll just call it St. Mary's Freedom Fest."

It'll be Saturday, June 28 from 5 to 10 p.m. It's an Independence Day celebration with music, entertainment, food, craft vendors, kids' activities, and a grand fireworks display at dusk.

The schedule includes the Ultimate Dogs Stunt Show at 6 and 8 p.m. and a watermelon eating contest at 7 p.m.

Parking will be limited to the main fairgrounds parking lot and Leonardtown Middle School across the street. Leonardtown High School and the tech center will not be avail-



able because their parking lots are being resurfaced. The south fairgrounds parking lot will also not be available because that is the fireworks staging area. Because of the limited parking, carpooling is encouraged, and attendees are urged to arrive early.

It's an alcohol and drug free event. Folding chairs and blankets are okay. No coolers are permitted.

For the return year, Simonds said, "We had a great attendance, especially for the first year. I think we had just as many people inside the festival as we did in the parking lots of the schools,



There's a lot to see and do for those who park and come into the fairgrounds. The Ultimate Dog Stunt Show, he said "that's a definitely a family favorite."

And what could be more All-American for a 4th of July picnic than a watermelon eating contest? "They're fun to enter, but I think they're even more fun to watch," Simonds said.

Live music will feature a variety of rock, blues, and jazz.

Simonds said there will be about 30 craft vendors. And "We've got a full food truck buffet of everything from ice cream to

crabby fries to funnel cakes."

"There's no admission. So, if you've got a family of six people, you can come to this event, you can bring your chairs, you can bring your blankets, and you can just have a fun family time, really just celebrating Independence Day," he said.

Major sponsors include Mechanicsville Moose Lodge #495, Burch Oil, Windward Land Development, Great Mills Trading Post, Leonardtown Ford, and Lexington Park Chevy, Ford and Lincoln.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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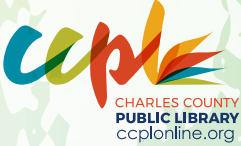
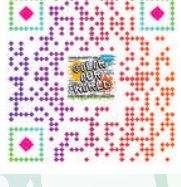



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St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services

County to Begin School Zone Speed Camera Program

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have formally approved the sheriff's office's Automated Speed Photo Enforcement Program for school zones. The approval on May 24 included the hiring of two sheriff's office personnel, and the acceptance of a three-year contract with NovoaGlobal, which will supply the equipment and provide administrative services.

The new personnel will be a sworn deputy to sign off on violations and represent the sheriff's office in court if need be, and an administrative technician to assist with reporting and reconciling the violation, answer questions regarding the program with the public, and assist with community education.

The annual budget for the program is \$670,000.

Commander of Special Operations Captain Richard Russell explained, "In November of 2023, this program was brought before the commissioners. And at the time, the Department of Public Works and Transportation was directed to come up with a plan to use their equipment to conduct a speed study in the school zones of the county. That plan and some of the partial data with that was presented to the commissioners in January of 2024. At that time, the ordinance was approved and passed. With that ordinance, there's a designated program administrator, who will be myself as the commander of the Special Operations Division with the sheriff's office, to run the program. The direction was to put this out for invitation for bid."

He said, "It's a tool to reduce speed. It's a tool to reduce accidents and save lives."

Business Development Manager Debbie Trainor, with the winning bidder NovoaGlobal, said they would use data collected by the county and gather their own data. "The reason for this is to obtain data specific to the hours of operation, when you can operate cameras in school zones, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and also confirm the first set of data. This can be used also as a baseline."

Trainor said, "The sheriff's office will select the sites, and we will also work with the sheriff's office on the best placement of either a portable image or an actual fixed violation image. We'll prepare all the necessary drawings and permits and seek DOT approval, whether it's county or state, and then deploy all the systems."

For the portable systems she said, "Our company handles all the moving of them, so it doesn't fall on the sheriff's office or any county

employees. The systems are also battery operated, and they'll last about three weeks. We monitor the battery life, so we'll come out before any type of battery issues occur."

Trainor noted, "You want to train or change driver behavior. It's very important. And the longer that they're there, the more likely people are to change. They say it takes at least 30 days to change a bad habit no matter what it is."

A violation notice shows the vehicle, the speed limit and the vehicle speed, and the license plate. "And in addition to this, there's also a video that accompanies this," she said.

Trainor said, "Our company offers what we refer to as a full turnkey program where we perform the majority of tasks associated with the program. Again, this includes installing, operating, and supporting all the equipment. We'll provide pre-processing services. What that means for the county is that the sheriff's office will determine what criteria is used for that violation. We'll apply that. Those images are sent to law enforcement over at the sheriff's office for approval. Once that's approved, we can print and mail the citations for the sheriff's office, and we can also mail second notices. Our company provides an 800 number. We have bilingual operators, and we can answer any questions on the violation."

The public will be notified in advance before a speed camera is initiated in any school zone.

If the owner of the car isn't the driver, there's a method of appeal so the driver can be charged.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow asked, "So at the end of three years, if the program is successful, we may not need it anymore."

Capt. Russell said, "Yes!" "Awesome," replied Ostrow, "That would be the goal," Capt. Russell responded.

Ostrow, who lives in Town Creek, said, "I myself must get 10 complaints a week, at least, from people asking me to do something about [speeding around Town Creek Elementary and Esperanza Middle schools]."

Commissioner Eric Colvin observed the program was limited to school zones. "We're not having big brother all over the place. There is a very limited implementation of this program."

Commissioner Mike Hewitt, who voted against the motion last year to seek requests for proposals, said, "I'm going to vote for it because I've heard such a large outcry of people concerned about speeding."

The vote was unanimous.

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Navy Opposes Lexington Park Rezoning

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Navy has opposed a proposal to rezone four parcels in Lexington Park to high-density mixed use to allow for townhouses and the redevelopment of Pax River Village, formerly known as Millison Plaza.

The opposition came at a June 26 county commissioner public hearing. The record will remain open until close of business on July 1. The commissioners are scheduled to make a decision on July 15 at their next meeting.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River Commanding Officer Capt. Doug Burfield said, "NAS Pax River recommends that the Commissioners of St. Mary's County do not approve this zone change. Our concerns are for both the health and safety of St. Mary's County residents and the continued mission of Naval Air Station Patuxent River. The existing zoning designation of limited commercial industrial zoning, or LCI has not been made in error as the parcel is abutting to the existing NAS Pax River Accident Potential Zone 2 (APZ 2). APZ 2's are defined as areas which have measurable potential for aircraft accidents, namely on account of their proximity to a runway at the Naval Air Station. In this case it's Runway 6 2 4. The property lies within the geographical area that is in the flight pattern of the most frequently used runway, Runway 6 at NAS Pax River. When used there are approximately 30 arrivals and departures per day that cross over the property with an average of 900 total arrivals in departures per month."

He added, "There are no plans to decrease

the number of arrivals and departures at the Naval Air Station. According to the 2019 noise study, the property is located under the 60-decibel noise contour, but noise levels could reach up to 110 decibels. The proposed town homes within the development are located directly abutting APZ 2 with the closest town home being approximately 20 feet from APZ 2 and the farthest town home being approximately 500 feet away. Under the current zoning, LCI is intended for low occupancy commercial and industrial uses that are compatible with the Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ)."

Capt. Burfield noted, "There is no housing development currently allowed in LCI per county zoning guidelines and allowing residential development of that parcel would require rezoning on the part of the county by changing the zoning to high density mixed use. The population density would increase by a hundred percent adjacent to APZ 2 and poses a potential risk to health and safety."

He added, "We're concerned that an increase in density will expose more residents to high noise from aircraft further compounding the impact."

Historically the AICUZ areas around air bases provided a buffer from noise complaints by the public that in some cases impacted base operations.

The captain said a reevaluation is planned. "This study is scheduled to be completed by the end of this calendar year and decisions made prior to the release of this study may not be based on the most accurate information."

He added, "If you choose to rezone this property, NAS Pax River recommends that

the townhomes being constructed use the most current noise attenuating methods and materials to mitigate noise generated by jet aircraft. Sound attenuating construction does not, however, mitigate noise generated by rotary wing aircraft, such as helicopters."

The Navy recommends real estate disclosure to be signed by all renters acknowledging that development is located abutting to the APZ 2 and portions of the green space on the property are located in APZ 2. Additionally, the disclosure should include that the development is in the 60 decibel noise contours and will experience noise from both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, some of which could be at a lower altitude and higher noise."

Anticipating the objection, the developer's attorney Chris Longmore said they oppose the restrictions. Longmore said on behalf of Atlantic Realty, "I'm really proud to be here representing this client and this developer that came in and took a property that is well known in the county, is very important to the county, very important to Patuxent River Naval Air Station, because it's right outside of the gates. And as there is proof on the ground now as part of their Phase 1 project, how good the project is starting to look and how great it's going to be when it's done."

The first phase includes replacement of the old Belvedere Motel with a new Aldi grocery store.

Longmore said, "We feel that everything we've done has been in full compliance with both the specific regulations that have been enacted and the suggested ones that are in that guidance that came out in 2022."

The project was recommended for

approval in May on a 4-3 vote by the planning commission. The developer based their rezoning request on a change in the neighborhood, one of the two possible criteria for rezonings under state law.

Longmore said the plan is good for St. Mary's County and Naval Air Station Patuxent River. "We think this is going to be a great amenity, for both."

Longmore insisted, "If it were to be denied for some of the reasons requested by some of the public comments, we believe it would have a great chilling effect on getting people to invest in this area of our county, which has been a priority of this county since I've been practicing."

Longmore said, "There's been a lot of bad activity happening in this area of Lexington Park. If we leave it a plain parking lot with no uses on it, the way that it's been for decades, that activity will continue if you don't allow these individuals to proceed with this reasonable project."

Three people spoke in support. Joan Sullivan Cowan said, "I live on South Essex, and I hear the planes go over all the time and I tell you what, it's a sound of freedom."

She added, "I am a community activist speaking frequently at planning appeals and to you county commissioners for the need for housing for new hires on the Navy base, the sheriff's department and our public schools."

"The Pax River Shopping Center will truly become a village, a very walkable, affordable village where residents can shop and live," she added.

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“IT’S A TOOL TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS AND SAVE LIVES.”

CAPTAIN RICHARD RUSSELL ON SCHOOL ZONE SPEED CAMERAS



LOCAL 5
Navy opposes townhome project near base



LOCAL 6
Commissioners approve speed cameras in school zones



ON THE COVER
Freedom Fest returns to St. Mary's

WEEKLY FORECAST

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MON, JUN 30 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 91° Lo: 76°	TUE, JUL 1 PM Thunderstorms Hi: 92° Lo: 72°	WED, JUL 2 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 71°	THU, JUL 3 Mostly Sunny Hi: 90° Lo: 72°

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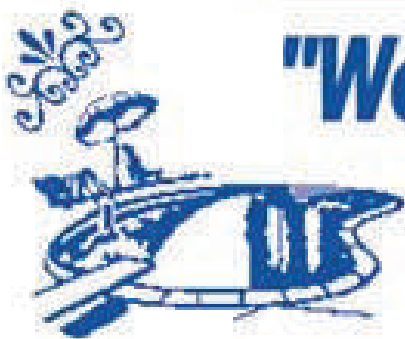
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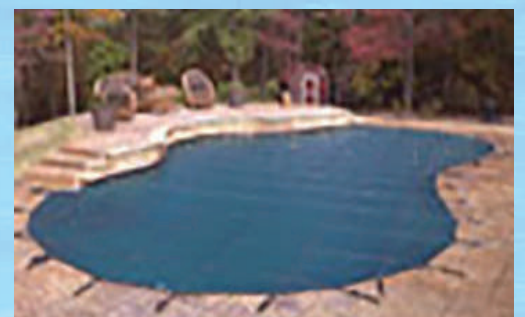


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