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CONTENTS

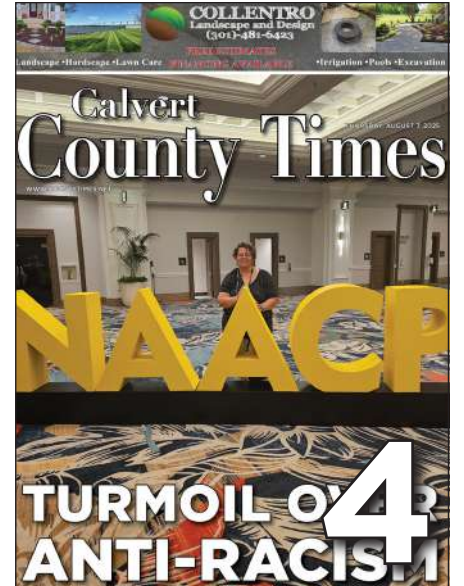
LOCAL NEWS	4	COMMUNITY	10
COPS & COURTS	9	CALENDAR	11

“WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?”

DR. MIKE SHISSLER TO THE SCHOOL BOARD ABOUT ANTI-RACISM



LOCAL
Hance files for re-election



LOCAL
Additional School Resource Officers approved

ON THE COVER
NAACP leads protests against removal of schools' anti-racism policy

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 7	FRI, AUG 8	SAT, AUG 9	SUN, AUG 10
Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 64°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 64°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 64°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 66°
MON, AUG 11	TUE, AUG 12	WED, AUG 13	THU, AUG 14
Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 69°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 73°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 73°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 72°

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Rally Expected Against Removal of Schools' Anti-Racism Policy

Would be Excised from Code of Conduct

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

A rally is expected to be held before the Aug. 7 Calvert County Board of Education meeting to contest the proposed removal of the school system's anti-racism policy from the code of conduct that is distributed to students at the beginning of the school year.

The proposal was brought up in June by School Board President Jana Post and was advanced without discussion.

Debora Harris, president of the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP, will be presenting prepared remarks at the meeting. In an interview with The County Times, she said, "I think it's a concern in a long list of other concerns. The Board of Education, since they've been in office, have been deleting anything with DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)."

Harris said, "The first one was to take inclusion and support from the mission statement, which the county government paid over \$25,000 to get the strategic plan with the mission statement and got the input of many people in the county. I think it's hundreds of people in the county."

She said, "Just like that, they just took it out and no explanation as to why, no involvement of the community and removed it."

That was followed, she said, by removal of Safe Space stickers from classrooms "because it came from the Joe Biden Foundation, without any explanation. And then the last board meeting they deleted the anti-racism policy, again, with no explanation, no community input."

Harris said, "It seems like it's a political board of education, rather than a board of education that's designed to support children learning. We have a good school system and the things that they're doing are moving the school system back rather than forward into excellence."

Harris is retired educator, with 30 years' experience as a teacher and administrator in Calvert and then at the State Board of Education.

Harris said the school system often gets complaints about racist incidents from students and staff, including incidents of being called the 'N' word.

But she said about the anti-racism policy, "There was a framework, there was some sort of structure where staff and students all were on the same level. To put the anti-racism statement away, it doesn't leave anything for them for what happens, what's the process."

Harris is on the county-commissioner-appointed School Safety and Wellbeing

Advisory Committee. "One of the things that we've seen in some of the surveys that we looked at is that kids, and really Black kids in particular, feel that there are different consequences for them. They don't see that their punishment is equal. And so, the anti-racism policy does give you some sort of a framework that everyone can work from."

Is the school board's intent a fast-moving train that can't be stopped, she was asked. "As you'll see on Thursday, a lot of people of all races in the county are quite upset about the Board of Education. It's a nonpartisan, elected board. They have made this board to be a very partisan, very Republican, very political board. And that upsets us greatly because politics is not going to get us a great school system, where we have been for many years."

Maybe it's their newness, she observed. "I don't see that they even understand. Maybe they don't even understand the role that they have as elected board members and giving support for all students, making this a great school system. I don't think they understand how to go about it. I think they just know what is political."

In her two minutes of time to speak to the school board she's going to emphasize the accomplishments she's seen in the school system.

"This has always been a school system where our goal was to meet the needs of all children. I see that this being a step back. That's our greatest concern. The anti-racism policy is a concern, with other things that they've been doing since they've been there. There's no transparency in what they're doing. There's no community input or explanation."

Another retired educator, Dr. Mike Shissler, is the NAACP's education representative. The long-time Beach Elementary School principal and losing candidate in last year's school board election, said his interview with The County Times represented his personal views and not that of the organization. He said Harris would be delivering their official position on Aug. 7.

Shissler said the board actions could have been anticipated. "I've just heard rumors that one of the messages from the Republican Party in Calvert County is that they wanted to get rid of Dr. Townsel (former superintendent)."

Shissler noted that a speaker at the school board meeting from the Republican Central Committee said that elections have consequences, and Shissler believes what he was saying is that an all-white school board is one of those consequences. "I think he basi-

cally said those were things that he was glad about, turning back the clock to what this county really was."

Shissler said, "I've learned that I'm never going to really understand what a Black person goes through in our society, let alone our county, let alone in our schools. It's my question to the board...what are you afraid of? Why are you threatened by taking out terms like white supremacy? Why do you think that's dismissive? And I think if you spend any time reading about American history, it's certainly become more available in the last decade. Or that there are things that happened and things that we've done, not just to Blacks, but the Native Americans to Hispanics, that we probably should feel some guilt over. And if we didn't, then I would question, what is your sense of morality?"

He added, "I'm not trying to go out there and judge people, but I think they need to learn what history has been and need to learn how life looks from other people's perspectives."

Shissler observed, "I think this is coming from beyond five people sitting up on the board. They're delivering messages (for) the Republican Party."

Shissler said, "I think we need to work for the presumption that we can do something, that it's not a done deal. And that we



Debora Harris, president of the Calvert County Branch of the NAACP

could point out why we believe these steps are wrong."

The Aug. 7 rally in front of the school system's administrative offices on Dares Beach Road is expected to begin at 4 p.m. ahead of the school board's 5 p.m. executive session. The regular meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

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Hance to Seek Re-election as Commissioner

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Calvert County At-Large Commissioner Earl "Buddy" Hance has filed for re-election to a third term in next year's election. As of noon on Aug. 6, he was the only one so far to file in the commissioner races.

Hance did recognize that there was some talk that he wouldn't run again. He said, "People would ask me, and I'd always say that depends, because you know, your health, and you just want to make sure everything's good with my health because at my age, and depending on where things are with the county, so whenever somebody would ask, I would always say, I'm going to see. There were some rumors floating around and people started talking and I finally made the decision that I was going to run. I thought, well, I might as well just go ahead, do it'll and squash those rumors. So, that's why I did it when I did it."

Hance, who recently turned 70, said his health checks out fine. "Everything was good."

What's left undone after almost two terms? He said, "Because of all the growth that was going on, and we have done a good job, especially this board of putting some things in place to control the growth a little better. But the last preservation program, that hasn't been available for new farmers to sign up for 10 or 12 years. So, I've been working on a process, trying to get that procedure opened up so we can get more farmers involved in land preservation. Trying to get that wrapped up. And in the last couple of years, Blueprint has put quite a challenge on our budget. So, now that we've got Blueprint behind us, I just want to work on trying to get a stronger financial picture moving forward. And we're going to move into the new building. We made some organizational changes. I just want to follow them through, make sure that government operates as efficiently as it can."

The commissioners recently got a report that the county was stagnating economically. Hance said, "I told him (the consultant) that day that's the situation that we're in. People don't want to see any more growth, because of what it does to the character of the county, and what it does to the roads. So, it's really hard to attract revenue sources without having to raise people's taxes to provide services. So, I'm trying to figure out what that pathway looks like."



Commissioner Buddy Hance

Hance added, "We do have some situations in Calvert County where there are failing septic systems," adding, "We're trying to work forward on how that moves in the future to figure out how to fix systems without adding additional growth, which is a challenge."

The county had hoped to lure a data center to help the economy. He said, "I's still a possibility. We've had a couple of clients interested in coming to the county. The state legislative session put some things into place that have caused some issues that have to be addressed. We're not rushing to do this."

Hance added, "We believe a couple locations in the county where it would not be impactful to citizens, but it would provide revenue."

Hance has been board president for five years but says he won't seek it again next year. "This my last year as president."

He feels managing growth has been his biggest accomplishment. "That's why I ran."

He observed, "Of course, any future board can come in and reverse anything we've done. But the changes that we made to the adequate public facilities ordinance are going to at least make the growth meet standards that are more amenable to the county."

In addition to Hance, Sheriff Rick Cox and State's Attorney Bob Harvey have filed for reelection as have Senators Michael Jackson and Jack Bailey and Delegates Jeffrie Long, Jr. and Todd Morgan.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Commissioners Revise Ethics Code Contains Mechanism for Removing a Commissioner

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has unanimously approved an amendment to the county ethics code. The approval came at the Aug. 4 BOCC meeting.

Constituent Services Specialist Emily Shrieves, who also serves as staff to the ethics commission, explained, "Over the past several months, the Calvert County Ethics Commission (CCEC) has come before the Board of County Commissioners in work sessions regarding the implementation of Ch. 370 Laws of Maryland, 2024 (House Bill 834), which requires the CCEC to publicly disclose recommendations to expel a commissioner and authorizes the governing body to remove county elected officials for local and state conflict of interest violations based on the CCEC's public recommendation. On July 15, 2025, at the BOCC meeting, the CCEC conducted a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed ordinance. The BOCC voted to close the record and the CCEC would return no sooner than 10 days for final adoption."

Shrieves explained, "There was one comment received during the public hearing and no comments received electronically or by mail during the advertisement period. Following the public record closing, the CCEC recommends amending Chapter 41 of the Calvert County Code of Ordinances to implement Ch. 370 Laws of Maryland, 2024."

There is no fiscal impact with the approval. The bill was introduced into the Maryland General Assembly by Del. Mark Fischer (RL 27-C) at the suggestion of a small group called Calvert Citizens United (CCU). They led an unsuccessful legal challenge all the way to the Maryland Supreme Court, attempting to override the vote by then commissioner Kelly McConkey in which he participated in voting to include property he owned into the Huntingtown

Town Center.

During the Supreme Court hearing, the judges suggested that CCU seek a legislative remedy, which they did.

Myra Gowens, one of CCU's founders, spoke to the BOCC at their Aug. 4 meeting after the vote.

After praising Shrieves for the job she did throughout the ethics code update process, Gowens said, "I know it's taken almost 16 months to adopt this bill, but you've adopted it, and that's a wonderful thing. And the citizens recognize that, and they recognize that you've been behind them."

Gowens observed "I want to share another item, and I wrote it down because it was from the past president of the Small Business Interest Group (SBIF). And I'm not going to step on that person's grave, but I want to share this with you. It was all over our internet. It was in and out of our county in 2019. This is what he said, and you can look it up: "We formed a coalition with our government, with three commissioners, (then planning director Mark) Willis, all the people, (Deputy Planning Director) Mary Beth Cook, everybody. We formed a coalition with them four and a half years ago." He said this right before you all adopted the comprehensive plan, when everybody was complaining about the planning commission, the third floor, "We formed a coalition and worked hard and worked with them. And now we're getting criticized."

Gowens said, "I just want you to know that that's nice that they asked everything, the builders, and developers, that they worked hard, that they had everybody backing them except the citizens. And that is the people, the one group they left out."

She added, "I hope that you will stay on track. I hope that you will listen to our citizens, and I hope that you'll respect the fragileness of our county. It's the smallest county in Maryland. It's the sixth smallest county in the whole United States."

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Two Additional School Resource Officers Approved

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved the addition of two School Resource Officers (SROs) to the elementary schools.

Assistant Sheriff David Payne told the BOCC on Aug. 5, "Currently, there are 14 Calvert County Sheriff's Office deputy sheriffs assigned as School Resource Officers to Calvert County Public Schools. Each School Resource Officer is assigned to a group of elementary, middle and high schools throughout the county to provide adequate coverage.

"School safety remains a high priority and a critical responsibility, creating the need for additional law enforcement presence at each Calvert County school.

"The Calvert County Board of Education/CCPS currently funds four of the School Resource Officers through reimbursement."

Payne added, "The Calvert County Board of Education/CCPS currently reimburses the Calvert County Government and Calvert County Sheriff's Office for four Deputy Sheriffs serving as School Resource Officers and the remaining 10 deputy sheriffs serving as School Resource Officers are funded through the Calvert County Sheriff's Office.

Staffing each of the schools with a permanent School Resource Officer is a responsible necessity. The Calvert County Sheriff's Office is committed to accomplishing this goal in systematic phases. To this end, the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Calvert County Board of Education/CCPS includes two additional School Resource Officers to be hired by the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and reimbursed by the Calvert County Board of Education/CCPS."

Payne noted, "This update will result in the Calvert County Board of Education/CCPS funding six School Resource Officer positions, and the Calvert County Sheriff's Office will fund the remaining 10 School Resource Officer positions, resulting in 16 total School Resource Officers in Calvert County."

The fiscal impact for the current fiscal year is \$207,167.03, to include \$121,764.00 in salaries, \$60,882.00 in benefits (calculated at .55), and \$24,521.03 in additional associated deputy costs. New vehicle and vehicle add-on costs are not included at this time, according to Payne.

Sheriff Ricky Cox said, "It's always been my goal for our schools of having the deputies inside them, not to just to secure the school, but mentoring our kids and our chil-

dren. And, hearing from some of the principals I've talked to, they really enjoy having the deputy there to handle situations. That kind of takes a load off their plate as well."

Getting to know the kids is key, he said. "We just finished a DARE camp that was a weeklong, at Windy Hill, with 50 elementary school age kids. And just prior to that, we had our middle-school age camps.

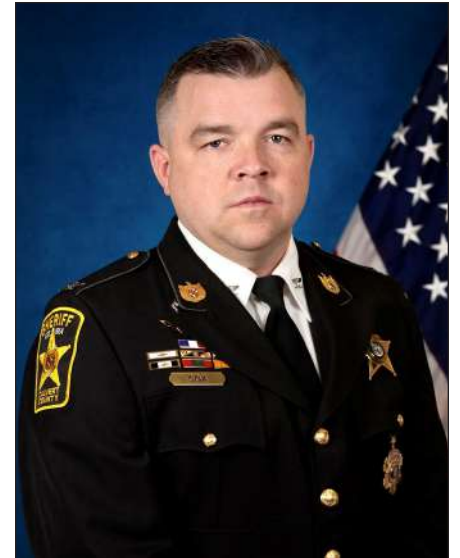
And it's cool to see the deputies interacting with the kids and mentoring our youth. And I think they're our future, our most important asset in our county. And I think that we should protect our schools and our kids at the same time. So that's why I'm asking for these two additional positions."

The sheriff said, "It's my goal to have a deputy at every school. At this point, we've got our high schools, middle schools, and we have 12 elementary schools that need to be covered, which is a total of 22 schools that are out there in our county. And that'll put us about six short, being our elementary schools."

Cox reminded, "Some of those have double campuses, and we kind of do a dual role at that point."

Commissioner Mike Hart said of SROs, "They're part of the school every day."

Commissioner Catherine Grasso said,



Sheriff Ricky Cox

"It's such a positive impact for our community and for the children. So many children don't have heroes to look up to, and they look up to all of you. And, when you nurture those relationships, it makes it easier for some children who perhaps have something on their mind to know that you all are there."

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Arrest Made in Solomons Stabbing

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on Aug. 4 at approximately 10:08 a.m. to the Southern Branch Library, located at 13920 HG Trueman Road in Solomons, for the report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, deputies located an adult female victim suffering from two stab wounds to her upper back.

Additional deputies quickly canvassed the area and located the suspect, identified as 33-year-old Eugene Terrill Harris of St. Leonard, across the street at the Solomons Fastop. Harris was taken into custody without further incident.

Detectives from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau responded and assumed the investigation. Preliminary findings revealed the victim, accompanied by her service dog, had entered the library moments before the assault. Harris then reportedly produced a knife from his pocket and struck the victim. The attack appeared to be unprovoked and random, and there is no known relationship between the victim and Harris.

The victim was transported by Medevac to an area trauma center with non-life-threatening injuries.

Harris was transported to the Calvert



Eugene Terrill Harris

County Detention Center and charged with the following:

- Attempted First-Degree Murder
- Attempted Second-Degree Murder
- First-Degree Assault
- Second-Degree Assault.

Press Release from CCSO

Arrest Made for Two Armed Robberies

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office responded on July 25 to the Verizon Wireless store in Dunkirk for a reported robbery. The suspect, later identified as 35 year-old Jonathan Alexander Gray of Prince Frederick, stole an Apple iPhone 16 Pro Max and left a threatening note on a napkin indicating he had a gun.

Gray then fled the store on foot. On July 27, Gray committed a second robbery at the Dash-In convenience store in Owings. During this incident, he again threatened the store clerk with a gun before fleeing the scene in a small white SUV with stolen cash.

The Calvert County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau quickly connected the two cases and initiated surveillance on Gray. On July 30, investigators conducted a coordinated takedown operation in the Walmart parking lot in Bowie, taking Gray into custody without incident. Gray is currently being held at the Calvert County Detention Center on multiple charges related to both robberies.

The sheriff's office commends the swift actions of the deputies and investigators



Jonathan Alexander Gray

whose collaborative efforts led to the apprehension of this suspect and the prevention of further criminal acts.

Press Release from CCSO

Public Invited to Agricultural Land Preservation Event

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning invites residents to participate in the public adoption process for updates to the rules and regulations governing the Calvert County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. A public information session will be held Thursday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Harriet E. Brown Community Center, located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Created in 1978, Calvert's transferrable development rights (TDR) program was the first local land preservation program to be implemented in Maryland and remains one of the most successful in the state. The program's goal is to guide development away from farms and forested land and direct growth to areas targeted for residential and commercial development. The rules and regulations have not had a comprehensive update since the program's inception. An update is needed as the county prepares to reopen the program to applications for the creation of new Agricultural Preservation Districts (APDs).

The public information event is being held to present proposed changes, take questions and receive feedback and recommendations. Planning & Zoning staff will attend the meeting and be available to answer questions. APD owners and inter-

ested members of Calvert County's agricultural community are especially encouraged to attend.

The public may also participate virtually through Zoom or by phone (audio only):

- Toll-free: 301-715-8592
- Meeting ID: 867 7696 4391
- Passcode (if asked) #
- To provide comment: *9

Residents are encouraged to participate through public comment or by observing upcoming work sessions and meetings. Public input will help shape the future of the local land preservation program and contribute to the county's vision of protecting its agricultural heritage and farm and forest land for generations to come.

Additional information and an anticipated schedule for the adoption process are available online at www.calvertcountymd.gov/AgPreservationUpdate.

For questions or further information, contact Jennifer David, rural planner, at 410-535-1600, ext., 2238, or email jennifer.david@calvertcountymd.gov or Summer Roen, historic/rural planner at 410-535-1600, ext., 2742, or email summer.roen@calvertcountymd.gov.

Press release from Calvert County government.

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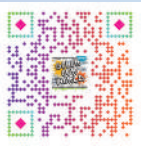


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CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of July 21, 2025 – July 27, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 2,017 calls for service throughout the community including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 73
- Disorderly: 19
- Domestic: 27
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 46
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 836
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 28
- Traffic Complaints: 64
- Traffic Stops: 429
- 911 Hang Ups: 77
- ARRESTS: 47

Theft: 25-59481 On July 21, 2025, DFC Aley responded to Calvert County Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street in Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between July 14 and July 18, while staying at the Holiday Inn Express located at 355 Merrimac Court in Prince Frederick unknown suspect(s) stole cash from the victim's hotel room. The estimated value of stolen property is \$2,000.

Damaged Property: 25-59584 On July 21, 2025, DFC Grierson responded to the public beach access located in the 5500 block of Beach Drive in St. Leonard, for the report of property destruction. The complainant reported sometime between July 19 and July 20, unknown suspect(s) vandalized the wooden stairs with white spray-paint. The estimated value of damaged property is \$40.



Robert Allen Rice

Indecent Exposure: 25-59944 On July 22, 2025, Cpl. Buckler responded to the Prince Frederick Library, located at 850 Costley Way in Prince Frederick, for a report of indecent exposure. An investigation revealed that multiple witnesses observed a male subject sitting on a bench outside the library with his pants down, actively masturbating. The suspect, identified as **Robert Allen Rice**, 58 of no fixed address, was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. Rice was charged with Indecent Exposure and Disorderly Conduct.

Burglary: 25-59856 On July 22, 2025, DFC Ostazeski responded to the 8400 block of



Travon Dalonte Washington

Sailboat Lane in Lusby for a reported burglary in progress. The investigation revealed that the homeowner observed a worker, hired to perform exterior work, unlawfully enter the victim's bedroom. Deputies arrived on scene and made contact with an individual who initially provided a false name. He was later identified as **Travon Dalonte Washington**, 26, of Lithonia, GA. Washington entered the bedroom and stole a PlayStation 5. Washington was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Burglary - 1st Degree, Burglary - 3rd Degree, Burglary - 4th Degree, Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500, Obstructing and Hindering, and False Statement to an Officer.

Theft: 25-59852 On July 22, 2025, DFC Aley responded to Calvert County Sheriff's Office located at 30 Church Street, Prince Frederick, for the reported theft. The complainant reported sometime between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on July 2, unknown suspect(s) stole the rear license plate off the victim's vehicle. The estimated value of stolen property is \$50.



Brendan Anthony Morris

CDS Violation: 25-60135 On July 23, 2025, DFC Huy was dispatched to southbound Southern Maryland Blvd. at Route 260 in Dunkirk for a reported stolen vehicle. The vehicle was located in the parking lot of the Dunkirk Walmart. Contact was made with the driver, identified as **Brendan Anthony Morris**, 25, of Upper Marlboro. An investigation revealed Morris was wanted on an open warrant through Prince George's County and was in possession of a stolen vehicle. A search incident to arrest yielded a plastic tie-off containing approximately 10 grams of suspected cocaine and six Suboxone strips. Morris was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with: CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis, Theft: \$25,000 to Under \$100,000, Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, Failure to Return a Rented Vehicle.

Burglary: 25-60504 On July 24, 2025, DFC



Kevin Thomas Watson, Jr.

McCourt responded to the 5200 block of Mackall Road in St. Leonard for a reported burglary in progress. A preliminary investigation revealed witnesses observed a gray Ford truck parked in the driveway of a vacant residence, and a male suspect was seen kicking in the back door and entering a shed on the property. Deputies arrived on scene and observed the suspect vehicle exiting the driveway. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was identified as **Kevin Thomas Watson, Jr.**, 32, of Somerdale, NJ. A further investigation revealed Watson was in possession of freshly cut copper pipes in the bed of the truck, which matched damage observed at the property. Watson was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center. He was charged with the following: Burglary – 2nd Degree, Burglary – 4th Degree Theft, Burglary – 4th Degree/Tools, Malicious Destruction of Property Value \$1,000+, Malicious Destruction of Property Value Less Than \$1,000, and Theft: \$100 to Under \$1,500 from Building.

Damaged Property: 25-60501 On July 24, 2025, Master Deputy Burgraff responded to the 500 block of Balsom Road in Lusby, for the report of property destruction. The complainant advised his house and trailer were egged by an unknown suspects. The estimated value of damaged property is \$100.



Robert Allen Rice

Indecent Exposure: 25-61050 On July 26, 2025, Deputy H. Jones responded to Firehouse Subs located at 641 N. Solomons Island Road in Prince Frederick for a report of indecent exposure. Upon arrival, Deputy Jones made contact with the suspect, identified as **Robert Allen Rice**, 58, with no fixed address. An investigation revealed Rice had been observed masturbating outside the restaurant in view of employees and customers. Further investigation determined Rice had been previously trespassed indefinitely from the property. Rice was placed under arrest and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where

he was charged with Indecent Exposure and Trespassing: Private Property.

Theft: 25-61161 On July 26, 2025, Deputy Pope responded to the Giant located at 10790 Town Center Boulevard in Dunkirk for a reported theft. The complainant advised that a female, later identified as **Anita Marie Thompson**, 38 of Prince Frederick, attempted to exit the store with a shopping cart full of merchandise, passing all points of sale without rendering payment. Thompson was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where she was charged with Theft: \$100 to under \$1,500 – Shoplifting. The total value of the stolen items was estimated at \$968.63.



David Michael Eirich

Trespassing: 25-61299 On July 27, 2025, at approximately 7:49 a.m., DFC Claggett responded to the 8500 block of N. Solomons Island Road in Owings for a report of a suspicious person.

The complainant reported observing an unknown male take two Coors Light beers from a cooler located at the front of the residence and look into parked vehicles on the property. Upon arrival, DFC Claggett made contact with the suspect, identified as **David Michael Eirich**, 40 of Owings, who was found actively consuming the stolen alcoholic beverages. During the encounter, Eirich became uncooperative and made verbal threats toward deputies. Eirich was taken into custody and transported to the Calvert County Detention Center, where he was charged with Trespassing: Private Property, Theft: Less than \$100, and Failure to Obey a Reasonable/Lawful Order.

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

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

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WWW.SOMD.COM

Animal Shelter Waives Adoption Fees through August 31



A few of the animals currently available for adoption. From left to right are Nina, Midnight, Cocoa, and Noodle.

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter invites residents to adopt during the monthlong Clear the Shelters 2025 adoption event through Sunday, Aug. 31.

During this campaign, the shelter will waive adoption fees for all animals, made possible through a collaborative effort between Friends of the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners.

This year's campaign also includes participation in the Maryland 3,000 Adoption Challenge, a statewide initiative aiming to place at least 3,000 animals in homes throughout August. By joining both efforts, the shelter seeks to increase adoptions for shelter animals, raise awareness about pet homelessness and help families find their perfect match.

Now in its 10th year, Clear the Shelters is a nationwide campaign that is spearheaded by NBCUniversal Local, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Greater Good Charities. Since 2015, the initiative has helped more than 800,000 pets find forever homes. The 2022 campaign established a new record, with more than 161,000 adoptions nationwide.

Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. Adoptions include spay or neuter surgery, microchipping, age-appropriate vaccinations, and a starter care package to help pets transition into their new homes. Standard adoption protocols still apply. All potential adopters will go through the shelter's usual screening process to ensure each animal is placed in a safe, loving and appropriate home.

The shelter is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an intake appointment, call 410-535-7387. The shelter is located at 5055 Hallowing Point Road in Prince Frederick.

Follow the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter on Instagram at @calvertcountyanimalshelter and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyAnimalShelter.

For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter visit www.calvertcountyanimalshelter.com/.

Press Release from Calvert County government

Registration for Fall Sports Now Open

Calvert County Parks & Recreation announces open registration for fall 2025 sports. The following youth and adult sports signups are available:

Youth and Adult Tennis Lessons teach the fundamentals, tactical and physical skills of tennis. Registration opens at the end of July with lessons taught by Chie Tougas, one of only 30 coaches in the world to hold a Professional Tennis Registry (PTR) Master of Tennis in Junior Development. Tougas was a senior director at a U.S. Tennis Association training facility in College Park for 12 years and is a U.S. Professional Tennis Association Elite Tennis Professional and PTR Adult Professional. Tougas has worked with all ages and skill levels. Each session lasts six weeks and multiple sessions will be offered. Participants must bring their own racquets and drinks.

Adult Pickleball Ladder Leagues will be held at Hallowing Point Park, Cove Point

Park and Dunkirk District Park. Each league will be a round-robin format and will run for six weeks. The final week will be playoff games with the top four-point leaders.

Register online at <https://calvertcountyperfectmind.com> or by phone at 410-535-1600, ext. 2649. You can also visit the main office located at 901 Dares Beach Rd., Prince Frederick, or any Calvert County community center to register.

For more program information, contact 410-535-1600, ext. 2649, or visit www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/ParksAndRecreation.

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more visit Parks & Recreation at www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks/ and follow Parks & Recreation on Instagram @calvertcountyparksandrec.

Press release from Calvert County government

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SchoolPool

HOW IT WORKS

SchoolPool is a program that connects parents of children who attend the same school who are looking to share driving duties.

- With the contact information provided, simply reach out to the other parents either over the phone or by email.
- Meet up with the parents to see if there's a good fit and then work out a schedule that best suits both families.
- Parents establish schedules on given days of the week that are most ideal.
- The service is free and easy. There are no membership fees, no commitments and participation is voluntary.
- SchoolPool can also help match parents for bicycling and walking groups.
- Your information will remain confidential and you can request removal from our database at any time.

TRUSTED

We understand the safety of your child is of utmost importance to you. For this reason SchoolPool only shares the parents' contact information and never information about your children. Take advantage of SchoolPool to get your children to school in a safe and secure manner.

WHO USES SCHOOLPOOL

Whether you're a single parent who needs some extra help, a mom and dad with jobs outside the home, or a household juggling one car, SchoolPool may be just right for your family's needs! Each family has its own unique circumstance that may make SchoolPool work for their daily routine.

FREE AND EASY TO USE

Get your free "Matchlist" with the names and contact information of other parents, and either email or call them to arrange a shared ride to school.

Register at: schoolpool.commuterconnections.org

Participating schools must be registered with the Commuter Connections SchoolPool program.

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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, Aug 7

Awful Artworks: In Reverse

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

Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! Usually, you would have a reference image to draw inspiration, but this time someone will describe a mystery item, and you will try your best to recreate the item based on the description. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Teen Night: Totally Art-rageous

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

Come join us for an evening of creativity, connection, and fun! Unleash your inner artist, collaborate with friends as you pass the drawing, or create something truly, er, memorable at the Bad Art station! No starving artists allowed - food will be provided. For ages 13-19. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Fri, Aug 8

Art Blooms at Annmarie

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
5-8 p.m.

Enjoy a beautiful evening with live music, food trucks, a cash bar, and the incredible artwork and floral arrangements featured in the new Art Blooms Exhibit.

Art Blooms is a one-of-a-kind exhibit co-hosted by the Calvert Garden Club. This three-day exhibit features the work of floral designers from across the region and takes inspiration from the artwork on display in the Kay Daughtery and Main Galleries. Tickets required: bit.ly/ArtBlooms2025

Sat, Aug 9

Fossil Field Experience

Calvert Marine Museum

9 a.m. – noon

Come and explore the fossils at Cove Point. Learn more about fossils: where to find them, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. This program is for adults and children 8 and older that are accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 per person. Preregistration is required.

Reptile World: Summer Fun

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
2-3 p.m.

Join Reptile World to meet live, large, colorful and gentle reptiles from all over the world. Discover what reptiles are, what makes them different from birds and mammals and how important they are in our environment. Due to limited space, free tickets will be distributed starting one hour before the show on a first come, first served basis until capacity is reached. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Peach Festival

Waters Memorial United Methodist Church
5400 Mackall Rd, St. Leonard
7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Rain or shine. Yard sale and peaches for sale. Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Great American Yard Sale at Annmarie

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Free admission—If you love garage sales and thrift stores, this is the market for you! Clothes, furniture, knick-knacks, kitchenware, bikes, books, sports equipment, boats & cars, old fishing stuff, arts and craft supplies, whatnots, gizmos, antiques, collectibles, salvage stuff, junk and more. Browse more than 50 booths offering everything under the sun! Food trucks on site to make the day even more fun.

Mon, Aug 11

Resumes and Interviewing Skills

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch
4100 5th St., North Beach
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and job interview help. Looking for a first job, or a better job? Don't miss this free class. Registration closes the Thursday before the event. To attend this class you must register with MWE. Create an account online at mwe-jobs.maryland.gov. Once registered click "Quick Registration" to enroll. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Tue, Aug 12

Humane Society Event

Chesapeake Market and Grille
7150 Lake Shore Dr., North Beach

Show your support for the Humane Society of Calvert County by letting Chesapeake Market and Grille cook lunch and or dinner for you. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society.

SEEDCO - Maryland Health Connection

Calvert Library Southern Branch
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Got health coverage? SEEDCO can help you get it! Maryland Health Connection offers no-cost and low-cost health insurance. Second Tuesdays of the month. Drop in anytime from 9am-12pm. All plans include doctor visits, hospitalization, emergency visits, preventative care, prescriptions, mental health and maternity coverage. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Dine Out Book Discussion

Hook & Vine Restaurant
North Beach
6-8 p.m.

We'll meet to discuss the book *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn at Hook & Vine in North

Beach. Join us for the dinner, discussion, or both! Dinner will start at 6:00pm, and the book discussion will begin at 7:00pm. Please register in advance so that we can make an accurate reservation for a table at the restaurant. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Social Security: Medicare

Calvert Library (Zoom)
6:30-7:30 p.m.

We invite you to a Presentation by Diana Varela, Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration followed by Q&A. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Aug 13

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.

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social

One-Room Schoolhouse
3080 Broomes Island Rd., Port Republic
6-8 p.m.

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy local, farm fresh ice cream while visiting the original, fully restored Port Republic One-Room Schoolhouse. You'll see where the Calvert County fourth grade students experience a day of history. There will be activities for the children, artifact display, and live music by the Calvert County Dance Band. Admission is free, and the first serving of ice cream is free! For more information, please visit our website at www.calvertoneroomschool.org/. The One Room Schoolhouse has accessibility for those who use a wheelchair or walker.

Publisher Thomas McKay
Associate Publisher Eric McKay
General Manager
Al Dailey aldailey@countytimes.net
Advertising
Jen Stotler jen@countytimes.net
Staff Writers
Dick Myers dickmyers@countytimes.net
Contributing Writers
Tim Flaherty, Ron Guy, Ken Lamb,
Shelby Opperman, Dave Spigler

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

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



County Times

P. O. Box 250 • Hollywood, MD 20636



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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Spiritual leaders
7. Salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. State lawyer
20. “Game of Thrones” actor Ciaran
22. Eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. Mountain in New Zealand
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. One of the founders of modern psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Partner to feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankee great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Late beloved TNT sportscaster
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Gold
65. Longtime Braves hurler Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit
- CLUES DOWN
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace materials
4. Containers
5. Investment account
6. Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury category (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Muslim spiritual leader
15. Showing sincere conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language in India (abbr.)
30. Start over
32. Wild white flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)
38. Side by side and facing the same way
39. Religious conflicts
42. Touch lightly
43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Japanese city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer

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JULY 31 SOLUTIONS

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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, Aug 7

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, Aug 8

Art Blooms at Annmarie

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
5-8 p.m.

Enjoy a beautiful evening with live music, food trucks, a cash bar, and the incredible artwork and floral arrangements featured in the new Art Blooms Exhibit.

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Calvert Marine Museum
9 a.m. – noon

Come and explore the fossils at Cove Point. Learn more about fossils: where to find

them, how to identify them, and what they can tell us about the past. This program is for adults and children 8 and older that are accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$25 per person. Preregistration is required.

Hope & Harmony

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd., Mechanicsville
5:30-10:30 p.m.

Ballin' for Bucks dinner, dancing & game night. Up to 25 prizes totaling up to \$4,000 in cash. There will also be Money Wheel, Raffle Baskets, 50/50 and Pull Tabs. The proceeds will benefit Pediatrics at Medstar St. Mary's Hospital—Emergency Department. For tickets e-mail: mechanicsvilleoptimist@gmail.com or text or call either: Colleen @ 240-298-7706; Tina @ 301-672-1558 or Geneva @ 240-298-6206.

SMTMD Contra Dance

Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall
37497 Zach Fowler Rd, Chaptico
7-9:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the month. The evening starts at 7 pm with a half hour beginner's dance workshop followed by live music performed by the SOMD Open Band and dancing from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Check the website calendar for the lineup of dances and callers. Admission: \$8 for members; \$12 for non-SMTMD members; children 17 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and band members are free.

Sun, Aug 10

Carry-out Chicken Dinner

Knights of Columbus
Ridge
11:30am til...

\$15 dinner, 1/2 chicken, potatoes, veggie, cole slaw, roll. Self-serve dining facilities available. Baked goods available.

Wed, Aug 13

MANTECH Blood Drive

4408 Pecan Ct, California
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MANTECH International Corporation is hosting a blood drive in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

Donating blood is a simple yet incredibly impactful way to support our community and provide a lifeline to those in need. Every donation can save up to three lives, contributing to emergency medical treatments, chronic illnesses, and so much more.

Thu, Aug 14

Farmers Feeding St Mary's

Bay District Volunteer Fire Department
46900 S. Shangri-La Dr, Lexington Park
2-6 p.m.

From local farmers to your plate! The annual Farmers Feeding St. Mary's program will offer farm fresh produce free to the community. Please bring your own bag. Food distribution will continue until the event's end time

or until produce runs out. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services, the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, Feed St. Mary's, and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are pleased to offer this valuable community event!

Upcoming

Sam Hunt in Concert

Calvert Marine Museum
Saturday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m.

Multi-platinum award-winning country star Sam Hunt will bring his chart-topping hits to the Motto Mortgage Preferred and RE/MAX One Waterside Pavilion at the Calvert Marine Museum. 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 \$70 - \$140 (all-in-pricing). Tickets are available online.

10th Annual Patriot Day 5K

Little Flower School
Great Mills
Saturday, Sept. 6

Aa special community celebration honoring our heroes and supporting our school! This family-friendly event includes a 5K race, kid's fun run and community gathering filled with school spirit, remembrance and gratitude. If you would like to sponsor or register for the event, please visit LFS website for event details: <https://www.littleflowercatholic.org/patriot-day-5k>

ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library UPCOMING EVENTS

Hear Me Out...: Book Show & Tell

Do you have a great book that you cannot stop recommending to everyone? Are you looking for new books to read? This is the place for you! We listen and we don't judge. This program is perfect for extroverted and introverted adult readers of any genre looking to find new books to enjoy and talk about ones they already love. Anyone who would like to share is invited to speak for up to 5 minutes on any book of their choosing to persuade others to give their favorite book a shot. Participants are also free to just listen and jot down new titles for their To-Be-

Read list. No one is required to share if they do not want to. Leonardtown Library on Thursday, August 7 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Friends of St. Mary's County Library Children's Book Sale

Find great reads at great prices! Lexington Park Library on Sunday, August 10 from 1 - 4 p.m. The Friends of the St. Mary's County Library's Children's Book Sale offers gently used children's books at amazing prices! Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

Nature Photography Workshop

Have you ever wondered how you can

use your phone to take professional-level photos to share online or with your friends & family? Learn how to use today's technology to capture the world around you! Leonardtown Library on Tuesday, August 12 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. This workshop will include a training on the fundamentals of photography, an overview of how to use the features of your digital camera or smartphone to your advantage, and an outdoor photo walk in the library's Front Yard to practice nature & portrait photography. Participants will also be able to use our "Nature and Biodiversity" Citizen Science Kit during this program. These kits includes a set of clip-on specialty lenses for smartphone nature photography! Please note: Digital cameras and smartphones will not be provided for this program, but you are more than welcome to bring your own! Register on www.stmalib.org.

The Arrival of Maryland's First Permanent English Settlers

St. Mary's County Museum Director Karen Stone will present the story of Maryland's first wave of immigrants – the English who came to stay in 1634. Lexington

Park Library on Wednesday, August 13 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Learn more about their reasons for leaving England, Lord Baltimore's earlier experiments, their relationship with their neighboring colonies and with the area's original inhabitants. The story continues with future migrations of the English as they went west, hoping yet again to build a better future. Register on www.stmalib.org.

Rock Painting for All

For years, people have been painting rocks to place in their gardens, on their desks, at tourist attractions, and other places around their community. Come paint your own rock to place during your adventures this summer and help "Color Our World!" You can even add one to our very own "rock snake," Rocky Bal-boa, on the Library's back patio! This program is for all ages and artists of all levels. Participants will be supplied with a rock, paint, and examples of designs they could potentially utilize. Leonardtown Library on Friday, August 15 from 2 - 4 p.m. Register on www.stmalib.org.

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.

Criss Cullison, 63



On Saturday the 26th of July 2025 Christine (Criss) Marie Cullison, 63 of Great Mills, MD passed away peacefully at MedStar Washington

Hospital Center in Washington, DC. Criss was born to the late John Norman Cullison, Jr. and Brenda Jean Jarboe Cullison Guy on September 27th, 1961, their second child. Criss was raised in the Catholic faith after being baptized at Holy Face Catholic Church in Great Mills, MD. She attended mass with her family every Sunday.

As a young girl, Criss was very close to her family. During the summers she enjoyed the annual family trips to the mountains. Over the years trips with her family included vacations to the Shenandoah National Parkway and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In Tennessee she got to pan for rubies and rode on Tweetsie Railroad. In West Virginia she toured a coal mine and rode Cass Scenic Railroad. She visited the headwaters of the Potomac River. In North Carolina she visited the Cherokee Indian Reservation, Grandfather Mountain, Fontana Dam and Clingmans Dome. In Pennsylvania she visited the Gettysburg Battlefield, Hershey Chocolate Factory, Hershey Park and Amish country. In Kentucky she visited Mammoth Cave and Boonesborough. In Virginia she visited Bush Gardens in Williamsburg, Mabry Mill and Luray Caverns. She also picked up fairy stone crosses at Fairy Stone State Park. While maybe not the most avid outdoor type Criss did enjoy the time spent with family and all the places visited.

Criss attended Little Flower Catholic School, Piney Point Elementary, Esperanza Middle School and St. Mary's Academy.

She graduated from St. Mary's Academy in May 1979. After Graduating Criss continued her education at St. Mary's College graduating with a bachelor's and later earning her Master's degree.

She started work at the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, MD at Public Works went on to work at Naval Aviation Depot Operations Center (NADOC) and later took a position with the Contracts department, earning the respect of her peers she worked her way up to a position as Contracting Officer. She retired from her civil service career in 2013.

Criss started cake decorating as a teen perfecting her talent as a master cake decorator in the community. Her cakes were found at a number of weddings or at special occasions where she made birthday, anniversary or doll cakes. Many of you may have enjoyed her cookies, cupcakes, cakes or other baked goods that came out of her kitchen. When not baking, Criss perfected her talent as a painter. She painted a number of paintings over the years, becoming very skilled and showing her talent at a local art show showcasing her works. Criss also loved to crochet, making numerous Afghan's, baby blankets, pillows, animals, flowers and many other items from a skein or two of yarn.

Criss continued to give to the community over the years, a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. She was a Sunday School teacher at Little Flower School, member of Toastmasters Club, Ridge Lions Club, St. Mary Chapter of NARFE, KC Belles Ridge, MD and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Mary's #1547.

Criss is survived by her brother Michael Patrick Cullison (Anita Lorraine) of Leonardtown, MD and stepsiblings Virginia Quade of Bushwood, MD, Deborah Burroughs of Hollywood, MD, Robin Lawrence (George) of Chaptico, MD, and Emanuel Guy, Jr. of Hollywood, MD;

uncles; John Parron Jarboe (Maryann) of Wildewood, FL, and Robert Neal Jarboe (Nancy) of Myrtle Beach, SC. and aunt Beverly Jarboe of Hughesville, MD and her nieces and nephews Olivia M. Cullison and Dylan P. Cullison of Leonardtown, MD; Elijah G. Cullison of Greenville, SC and Allison M. Cullison of NC. Vanessa N. Stewart and great niece McKenna N. Gipson of Charleston, SC. Also, her dear friend and neighbor April and George (Geep) Connelly, children Stevy, Sunnie, Jorga and Phillip. They once wanted to build a fence for privacy, that was never built, they later became the best of friends since first meeting 23 years ago.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother Joseph Earl Cullison, stepfather Emanuel Greenwell Guy Sr., paternal grandparents John Norman Cullison, Sr. and Margaret Mary Combs Cullison, her maternal grandparents Parran Benedict Jarboe and Rita Alyce Tennyson Jarboe, her uncle Benedict Paul Jarboe; stepsiblings Dennis Guy, and Lisa Guy, her stepbrother-in-laws Frank Quade and James Burroughs, and her nieces and nephew Rebecca Lorraine Cullison, Jason Long, Sunni Lee Guy and Leighann Burroughs Tuemler.

The family will receive friends on the 11th of August 2025 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM with prayers followed by rosary commencing at 7:00 pm in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Father Scott Holmer on the 12th of August 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in Holy Face Catholic Church, Great Mills, MD. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Pallbearer's will be John (Bubba) Chapman, Sr, John (LJ) Chapman, Jr, George (Geep) Connelly, Phillip Connelly, Christopher Jarboe, Steven Jarboe, Sean McCampbell, Brandon Chapman and Dylan Cullison.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to the Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad, Lexington Park, MD or Holy Face Church, Great Mills, MD.

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.

Dickie Cullison, 90



Joseph Richard "Dickie" Cullison, Sr., of Piney Point, MD passed away July 24, 2025 at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington D.C.

He was born on June 14, 1935 in Pearson, MD to the late Paul Edward Cullison and Mary Magdalene (nee: Wood) Cullison.

Dickie was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County and a graduate of Little Flower

Catholic School in Great Mills, MD. After completing eighth grade, and his father suffering with Parkinson disease, Dickie spent long days working and helping his father farm Mulberry Farms in Medley's Neck. He went on to marry Airrey "Regina" Robrecht on August 22, 1957 at St. Francis Xavier Mission Church on St. George's Island. They celebrated over 67 wonderful years of marriage, and raised three sons together.

He began his career as an automotive mechanic in 1956 with Bell Motor Company and working their for over 19 dedicated years, leaving in 1975. He also worked evening for the first 10 years at Coate's Shell Station in Piney Point, serving vehicles and running the shop; so he could provide for his family. From 1975 to 1983 he worked as a mechanic and maintenance specialist at Steuart Petroleum, picking extra hours up when cargo ships came in and needed help docking. He spent a short time at Harry Lundeberg School before landing his favorite position in 1983, working at Patuxent River Naval Air Station under various contractors as a skilled mechanic with Sea Air Transport. He retired in 2004 with over 45 years of experience in automotive mechanics.

Dickie was not a man known to sit still too long, and he often had a project he was working on. He spent 20 years playing "Santa Claus" for the Valley Lee Fire Department. He loved the Magic of Christmas and the joy it brought to so many children. He grew vast gardens for many years, always sharing his harvest with his neighbors and friends. He was proud of his yard and took pride in keeping it in well-manicured. He had an easy-going disposition and never met a stranger. He was personable and enjoyed time spent with friends and family and his pet dogs.

In addition to his wife, Regina, Dickie is also survived by his sons, Joseph Richard "Rick" Cullison, Jr. of Phoenix, AZ, Michael Wayne Cullison, Sr. (Melissa) of Piney Point, MD, and James William Cullison of Piney Point, MD; his sister, Mary Virginia Cullison Woods of Fairfax Station, VA; grandchildren: Shannon Cullison and Michael Cullison, Jr., both of Piney Point; an extended family and friends. In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his siblings: Thomas Edward Cullison, June Constance Cullison Diesel, and Clayton Edward "Eddie" Cullison Sr.

Family will receive friends for Dickie's Life Celebration on Monday, August 4, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with prayers held at 7:00 p.m., at Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend John Nguyen on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Mission Church, 16470 Thomas Road, Piney Point, MD 20674. Interment will follow the Mass in the church cemetery.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com.

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

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A View From The BLEACHERS



Leverage

By Ronald N. Guy
Contributing Writer

Canton, Ohio, August 2008: It was a predictably hot summer evening at the NFL's birthplace. As thousands of humans milled about, an ambient buzz echoed around a massive stadium and the adjacent shrine to American football. Stories were told. Memories were shared. Snapped photos memorialized the experience. A scan of the jovial crowd revealed handshakes, hugs and smiles. By date of birth, there were many adults in attendance, but make no mistake about it, everyone there felt like a kid.

Six men would be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on that night. There was no dress code, but NFL attire was clearly the unwritten rule. Many teams and players were represented in the chosen wardrobes, but the dominant color scheme was Burgundy and Gold and the most prominent jersey numbers were 81 and 28.

Rare is the opportunity for fans to witness the Hall of Fame induction of a franchise great. But two on the same night? Nearly unprecedented. Recognizing the special moment, 'Skins nation commandeered Canton on that long-ago night with one objective in mind: celebrate Art Monk and Darrell Green as they joined football's most exclusive fraternity.

A horrific sight greeted me at the stadium gate: a Kelly Green Philadelphia Eagles jersey. As if the hue wasn't offensive enough, it was a Monk, number 81, Eagles jersey. Was this dude sent to taunt me? That would have been par for the course for an Eagles fan. But the jersey wasn't a complete gag; it was an unfortunate historical artifact.

Monk, painful as it is, played his last games with the Eagles. Seeing the jersey reopened an old wound. In 1994, with Monk aging and a new salary cap in place, Washington let its franchise icon sign elsewhere – first with the Jets for a season, then with the Eagles for a final farewell. For whatever reason, be it pride, frugality, stubbornness or host of other short-sighted reasons, it was neither the fairy tale ending the fan base craved nor the one the team and player likely preferred. But life often smirks at our happily ever afters.

Fast forward 30 years and Washington is again at an impasse with a beloved star receiver who is every bit as good off the field – as a teammate and human – as he is on it. Weeks into training camp and on the cusp of the preseason, Terry McLaurin has expressed frustration with his contract situation, made a few token visits to camp to sign autographs and requested a trade. What he has not done is step on the field.

The big unknowns are what McLaurin is seeking in an extension and what the team is offering. Suffice to say, there is a considerable gap. Removing emotion, the situation is complex: McLaurin is very good, but he is not one of the NFL's elite receivers. He's nearly 30 years old, an age when most wide receivers decline. And he is under contract this season for a cool, but admittedly below market value, \$19.7 million.

With non-guaranteed contracts, short careers and the physical brutality of the sport, I begrudge no NFL player for fighting for every dime. But assuming Washington is offering a reasonable extension, it's hard to understand McLaurin's strategy. He isn't going to sit out the season. That's only going to result in him forfeiting this year's remaining salary and then seeking a new deal next year at age 31. He'll never make up that lost money. A lengthy holdout isn't a viable option either for all of the same reasons, plus the awkwardness of showing up weeks into the season.

So, what is McLaurin doing? What he thinks is right, I'm sure. But he isn't reading the room. He has some leverage: The team has made win now moves after last season's resurgence. But, as can be the case in any human relationship, his calculus is off. In a staring contesting he'll blink first. The team knows it and I hope McLaurin does too. Otherwise, this will end very badly – i.e. a damaged D.C. legacy and another NFL team's fan with a new McLaurin jersey on his back.

Send comments to RonaldGuyJr@gmail.com

The Tackle Box Fishing Report

By Ken Lamb
Contributing Writer

Cool weather surprised us all by breaking the heat wave last Thursday night.

The cooler weather continues this week making for excellent fishing conditions.

Best overall news is the spot run in the Patuxent. The spot are eager to be caught and ready to bite at Green Holly, Sandy Point, the mouth of Town Creek, Point Patience, Kingston Hollow, Hawk's nest, and just about every oyster bar up the river to Benedict. It really doesn't get any better than this.

The bluefish continue to get bigger and feed daily in the mid channel of the bay from the Choptank. Best areas are around the Target Ship where trolled surgical eels are producing for trollers. Lure casters are using spoons, top water plugs, Gotchas, etc. thrown into the middle of the breakers. Big jigs fished near the bottom close to the breaking schools find bigger (some gigantic) bluefish.

Bull Redfish are scattered about, cruising in big schools. The fish are looking to eat baitfish and will come up and break tossing bait and froth into the air. There is no predicting when one may come across them. They seem to like the Mud Leads and the lumps below the Target ship. They will take most any lure when in a feeding frenzy. Big lures work best.

Cobia are still south of us. Windmill Point



Don Haggard and his nearly 6 pound bass from a local pond

is very good, but it is a hefty run from Point Lookout.

The striper season is now open in the Mayland waters and is off to a good start. The cooler weather and good tide movement are perfect for stripers, and good catches have been made around structure in the Patuxent.

Speckled trout and red fish are in the lower Potomac and in the bay near the mouth of St. Jerome's creek.

Trout are more numerous than the reds at the moment.

These are perfect summer days. School starts soon. Time's a wasting.



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Does the 4% rule make sense for your retirement?

You may have heard of the “4% rule” when it comes to retirement. The idea is simple: After you retire, you withdraw 4% of your investment portfolio each year. In theory, this helps ensure your savings last for your lifetime. While this rule can be a helpful starting point, it’s not a one-size-fits-all — and it’s definitely not a substitute for a plan tailored to your specific needs, wants and wishes.

The truth is, how much to withdraw in retirement depends on factors like when you retire, if you’ll work part time, how long you expect retirement to last, your lifestyle goals, inflation and whether you want to leave a financial legacy to heirs. So, the 4% rule should be viewed as more of a guide than a strict rule.

Let’s start with age. The 4% rule is often based on someone retiring at 65 and expecting to live until about 92. But if you retire earlier, you may want your portfolio to stretch further. In that case, you might need to start with a lower withdrawal rate, maybe closer to 3%. And if you retire later, you might safely withdraw a little more — perhaps 4.5% to 5% — depending on your financial situation.

Your retirement lifestyle also plays a big role. Are you planning to travel the world or spend more time at home? If you expect higher spending in the early years of retirement, you may need to adjust your withdrawal rate or plan to reduce spending later to balance things out.

Your financial flexibility matters too. If you have less wiggle room with your expenses, rely heavily on your portfolio for income or want to preserve wealth for your heirs, a more conservative approach might be wise. In this conservative scenario, your portfolio withdrawals may be met from interest and dividends. Think of your withdrawal rate as existing on a spectrum from more conservative to less conservative, with your personal situation determining where you land.

Then there’s inflation. A well-built strategy usually includes small annual increases in withdrawals to keep up with rising costs — about 2.75% per year. But you don’t need to take a raise just because the calendar says so. If the markets have had a tough year or you don’t need the extra income, it might be smart to skip an increase. Being flexible can improve the chances your money will last.

It’s also important to understand what’s known as your “portfolio reliance rate” — how much of your retirement income comes from your investments versus other sources like Social Security or pensions. The higher this percentage, the more conservative you may want to be with withdrawals.

And don’t forget the IRS. If you’re drawing from a traditional IRA or 401(k), you’ll need to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) once you reach age 73. Your RMD for any year is the account balance as of the end of the prior calendar year divided by a life expectancy factor according to the IRS. These RMDs need to be accounted for in your strategy.

The bottom line? The 4% rule is a useful starting point, but it’s just that — a starting point. A good financial advisor can help you build a strategy that reflects your age, your goals and your full financial picture. By revisiting your plan regularly and staying flexible, you’ll give yourself the best shot at turning your savings into a secure, fulfilling retirement.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.

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

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Animal Adoption Fees Waived During August



A few of the animals currently available for adoption. Clockwise from top left are Cookie, Gemma, Polo, and Bossey.

The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption & Resources Center is proud to join animal shelters across the state in the return of the Maryland 3,000 adoption challenge, hosted by the Baltimore Animal Welfare Alliance. For the entire month of August, adoption fees will be waived to help thousands of animals across Maryland find loving homes. Though adoption fees are waived, all regular adoption procedures still apply.

"We're thrilled to take part in the Maryland 3,000 challenge," said Hollis Lampe, Animal Services Division Manager. "Every adoption makes a life-changing difference, not only for the animals but also for the families who welcome them. Waiving adoption fees allows us to remove barriers and help even more pets find the loving homes they deserve."

Since opening, the St. Mary's Animal Adoption & Resource Center has been protecting, advocating for, and providing compassionate care to animals in need. The Animal Adoption & Resource Center takes in and oversees adoptions for a variety of

animals, including dogs, cats, reptiles, small mammals, birds, and more!

The shelter is open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from noon – 6 pm, and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon – 4 pm. Walk-ins are welcome; no appointment necessary!

Residents can learn more about the Center, view animals available for adoption, and watch the live kitty cam online at: www.stmaryscountymd.gov/animalshelter.

The Maryland 3,000 challenge was first launched more than a decade ago and continues to grow in participation and impact. In 2024, Maryland shelters collectively surpassed the goal with 3,119 adoptions. This year, with even more shelters participating, the goal is to exceed that total and place even more animals into loving homes. For more information and a full list of participating shelters, visit www.maryland3000.org

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.

North End Gallery Celebrates 39th Anniversary

Have you visited North End Gallery lately? It's a local treasure featuring many of Southern Maryland's best artists. Come celebrate our 39th anniversary throughout September. And don't miss First Friday from 5-8pm when we join Leonardtown's Annual Art Walk.

North End Gallery was established by a small group of artists and has grown into a solid small-business managed by over thirty Southern-Maryland artists. The strength of the gallery is due to the members, who contribute not only incredible artwork but who give their time, energy and support to this wonderful gallery.

The 39th Anniversary showcases the neest and best work of all gallery members including that of our artists emerita. They have been asked to bring in their favorite piece, which for many artists is the one they have most currently finished.

North End Gallery is grateful for the support that The Arts Council of St. Mary's County, the Town of Leonardtown, and the community at large have provided over the years, bringing the gallery to this significant anniversary.

Press Release from North End Gallery

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MEET THE PUPPIES



Animal Relief Fund has adorable puppies ready to steal your heart — from bouncy 3-4 month olds to snuggly 8-week-old babies! If you've been thinking about adding a new family member, now's the time. Learn more and apply at <http://www.animalrelieffund.org>

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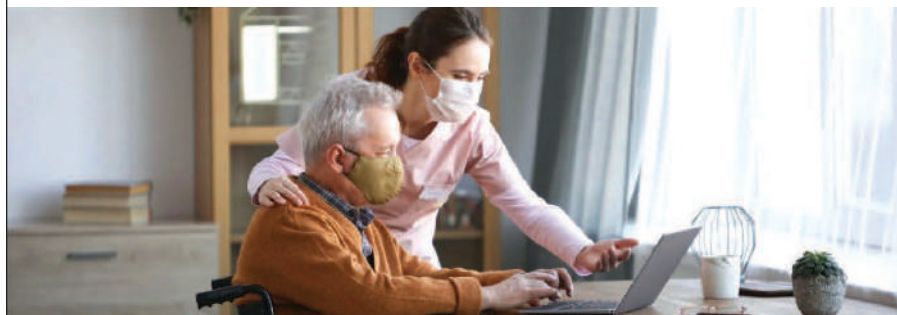
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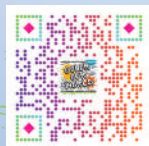
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Recently Retired Air Force Pilot Honored

By Dave Spigler
Contributing Writer

During an evening dinner hosted by the Father Sebastian da Rose Knights of Columbus in Valley Lee, Lieutenant Colonel Brett Shilling was surprised with a special presentation from the Knights and the local Quilts of Valor group "Pax Sound of Freedom."

Brett served 21 years as an Air Force fighter pilot and had recently retired in Germany. He flew home with his family to spend a few days with his parents Chuck and Lori Shilling in Piney Point. His proud dad wanted to acknowledge his son's illustrious career and devotion to our country, so he had his Knight's Council put together a special evening. He secretly invited several family members and close friends to come together to celebrate Brett's service.

Colonel Shilling's story of patrolling the Russian border in his F-16 Viper aircraft was published in an October 2020 edition of the CountyTimes following a special report by NBC reporter Richard Engel on a morning TODAY Show.

An accomplished jet pilot, Brett received many service awards during his distinguished career including two Combat Air Medals. He earned the call sign "Tick" from his fellow squadron mates who described him as a "tick" for just like this pesky insect, when engaging in a war game "he gets on your back and refuses to let go."

Brett graduated from Oxon Hill Science and Tech High School in 1999 and was his Class Valedictorian. He earned an appointment to the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO and achieved academic excellence and received orders to jet flight school upon graduation. During his illustrious 21 year flying career, he endured a significant amount of G Forces not often experienced by any jet pilot in any of our military services. At his retirement ceremony, his Commanding Officer awarded Brett with the Meritorious Service Award with four Oak Leaf Cluster for his many brilliant and distinctive accomplishments in the service of his country.

At the conclusion of dinner, friends Jim and Cele Clooney were invited to make another presentation to recognize Brett's



Lieutenant Colonel Brett Shilling, USAF

many contributions during his years of military service. As members of the local Quilts of Valor Foundation "The Pax Sound of Freedom," the Cooneys are volunteers in this nationwide organization that prepare wonderful patriotic quilts to present to veterans upon their completion of service. Since 2003, thousands of service members and veteran recipients have been surprised with the presentation of these beautifully hand stitched quilts. This movement began when a mother had a dream of giving one to her son when he returned from Iraq. In her dream, her son's demeanor and utter despair changed once he was wrapped in a quilt. The first one was presented to a young soldier at Walter Reed Medical Center who lost his leg in Iraq. In the 22 years since, almost 500,000 of these comforting and healing quilts have been awarded. Brett was beaming as Jim and Cele wrapped him up in his quilt.

As a nation, we are fortunate to have many fine men and women such as Lt. Colonel Shilling standing guard in protecting our country. Thank you, Shilling family for a job well done. And to you Lt. Colonel Shilling, thank you for your service.

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NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER

News

F/A-18 and EA-18G Surpass 12 Million Flight Hours

The U.S. Navy's F/A-18 and EA-18G aircraft fleet has surpassed 12 million flight hours, marking an important milestone for one of the most enduring families of aircraft in modern naval aviation. This achievement underscores the capability, reliability and availability of these aircraft, which have served as the backbone of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps air power for decades.

Put into perspective, the aircraft have completed the equivalent of 500,000 days, or nearly 1,370 years, of nonstop flight defending national interests and ensuring global security.

"When you call the roar of these aircraft 'the sound of freedom,' it holds real weight," said Capt. Michael Burks, program manager for the F/A-18 and EA-18G program office (PMA-265). "Throughout their service, the F/A-18 and EA-18G family has supported nearly every major U.S. military conflict of the past 40 years and continues to adapt to rapidly changing threat environments. From the initial deployment of the Hornet to the advanced capabilities of the Super Hornet and Growler, these aircraft have delivered forward presence, tactical airpower and crit-



ical electronic warfare capabilities around the globe."

Since the F/A-18 Hornet was first introduced in the 1980s, it has quickly become a versatile and capable fighter and attack aircraft. Its successor, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, and its electronic warfare counterpart, the EA-18G Growler, introduced significant advancements in radar, avionics, payload capacity and electronic attack.

Key modernization efforts include Super Hornet Service Life Modification (SLM), which extends Super Hornet service life from 6,000 to 10,000 flight hours, and the delivery of Block III Super Hornets, which are equipped with advanced sensors, enhanced survivability and a redesigned cockpit for improved pilot performance. Growler Block II modifications will enhance mission systems, enable future

capability growth and strengthen the Navy's electronic warfare superiority.

"This milestone is a significant achievement and a reflection of the generations of Sailors, Marines and civilians who sustain, fly and innovate these platforms every day," said Burks. "Twelve million flight hours demonstrates our commitment to delivering world-class capability, enabling our warfighters to execute their missions with an asymmetric advantage and return home safely."

The flight hour milestone comes at a notable time for naval aviation, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Super Hornet's first flight in November, and as the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps prepare to celebrate 250 years of service to the nation this year.

As part of Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft Programs (PEO(T)), PMA-265 supports, sustains and advances the F/A-18A-D Hornet, F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler, delivering critical capabilities to ensure naval aviators succeed in dynamic and contested operational environments.

Press Release from NAVAIR

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

MEDICARE MINUTE

presentations

27
AUG

Choosing Between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. Everyone with Medicare faces the same question at some point—should I enroll in Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan? Although both are part of the Medicare program, they differ in some important ways. Learn about the differences between Original Medicare and a Medicare Advantage Plan, and when you might consider one over the other.

24
SEPT

Medicare Supplement Policies. Are your out-of-pocket costs adding up every time you go to the doctor? You may want to learn about Medigaps—the supplemental insurance policies that work with Original Medicare. Learn the basics of Medigaps, when you can purchase one, and how they compare to other coverage options.

29
OCT

Fall Open Enrollment Period. Fall Open Enrollment is the time of year when you can change your Medicare coverage, but knowing where to start can be tough. During this Medicare Minute, you'll learn strategies to choose the coverage that best fits your needs for 2026.

19
NOV

Preparing for Future Health Care Needs. You might assume that your family would be able to make your health care decisions for you if you were to become incapacitated. However, this isn't always the case. This is why it's important for you to plan ahead. Review advance directives, living wills, health care proxies, and powers of attorney to help ensure that decisions made on your behalf meet your needs and preferences.

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PRESENTATIONS BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M.
CALL FOR YOUR RESERVATION: 301-475-4200 EXT. 1050

Legal Notices

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION Notice of Applications Received for a Dam Safety Permit and Opportunity to Request Public Informational Hearing

BRETON BAY RECREATION, LLC, 21935 Society Hill Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650 has submitted an application for a Permit to remove the existing Breton Bay Golf and Country Club Dam (MD Dam No. 475) and reconstruct one of similar size but reduced hazard. It will be a low hazard earthen dam used for irrigation. Application has been made under Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 5-501 through 5-514, and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.17.04.05. Written comments or requests to be placed on the interested persons list must be received on or before September 1, 2025. Further notices about action on the application will be provided only by mail to those persons on a mailing list of interested persons. On all correspondence, please provide your name, address and telephone number and refer to Dam Safety file number. For more information regarding the Dam Safety Permit please contact Ariel Ben-Sorek, Dam Safety Permits Division at (410) 353-5448 or by email at Ariel.Ben-Sorek@maryland.gov.

RIDGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc. is currently soliciting bids for the following:

- 16' rigid hull, soft sided boat / raft
 - Lightweight for 3 or 4 people to lift and move from trailer to water
 - Capacity of at least 6 adults
 - Heavy duty rubbing strake
 - Multiple Inflateable Chambers with pressure relief valves
 - Deck drains/scuppers
 - Bottom shall be aluminum or fiberglass
 - 30-40hp Yamaha four-stroke, tiller steer, electric start and mounted in accordance with manufacturers specifications
 - 6 gallon plastic fuel tank with accessories to hook up
 - Plastic battery box
- 1 handheld Garmin GPS73
- 1 handheld ICOM IC-M85UL VHF radio
- Bunk style trailer, single axle, aluminum or galvanize equipped to move same vessel

Boat / Raft shall be delivered to 13820 Pointlookout Road, Ridge, Maryland 20680

One original and one copy of the sealed bid should be addressed to Steve Gatton and marked "Sealed Bid for Raft". The bid will be received at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc., PO Box 520, 13820 Point Lookout Road, Ridge, Maryland 20680 until 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on September 4, 2025. At which time, the bids will be publicly opened and read.

Bid for comparable equipment will be accepted. The Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the proposal submitted when such waiver is in the best interest of the Department.

Inquiries concerning proposal information should be directed to Steve Gatton at 301-872-5571.

New Members Sought for Boards, Committees & Commissions

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are seeking applications from residents who are interested in serving on a local Board, Committee, or Commission. Volunteering to serve as a member of these groups is an excellent way to meet new people while contributing to the successful operation and development of our community!

Visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards for board descriptions and to complete the online application. All applications must include a resume and be submitted by August 29, 2025.

Current vacancies:

- Commission for People with Disabilities
- Commission on the Environment
- Economic Development Commission
- Human Relations Commission
- Recreation & Parks Board
- Social Services Board/

Interested residents can complete the online application at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/boards or call Diane Gleissner at (301) 475-4200 ext. 1707 for more information.

Press Release from St. Mary's County government.

Only One Business Fails to Pass Alcohol Compliance Check

On Tuesday, July 29 at around 3 p.m., the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted a series of covert alcohol compliance checks at licensed establishments throughout the county.

The operation involved the use of an 18-year-old Confidential Informant (CI) from the Sheriff's Office. The CI, dressed in jeans and a shirt, was directed to enter restaurants and attempt to order an alcoholic beverage to test each business's compliance with state alcohol laws.

The CI was accompanied by Corporal Jaime Davis and Sergeant Robert Merritt of the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division. Both deputies were dressed in civilian attire and observed all transactions.

A total of 25 businesses were visited during the compliance operation. Of those, 24 successfully passed by requesting identification and refusing to serve the underage CI. One business failed to request identification and served an alcoholic beverage to the underage individual. The following establishments were visited:

- Antoinette's Garden: 22694 Washington Street, Leonardtown
- Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar: 45480 Miramar Way, California (Failed compliance)
- Asahi Japanese Steak House: 22576 MacArthur Boulevard, #302, California
- Blue Wind Gourmet: 22803 Gunston Drive, Lexington Park
- Bradford's Neighborhood Market: 23860 Hollywood Road, Hollywood
- Cracker Barrel Old Country Store: 45315 Abell House Lane, California
- Il Piccolo Morso: 22845 Washington Street, Leonardtown
- Ledo Pizza: 25460 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown

- Longhorn Steakhouse: 23054 Three Notch Road, California
- Mac's Tap & Table: 25470 Point Lookout Road, Unit C, Leonardtown
- Nicolletti's Pizza & Sub Shoppe: 22741 Three Notch Road, California
- Noli's: 26005 Point Lookout Road, Suite A, Leonardtown
- Okada Japanese Restaurant: 23415 Three Notch Road, California
- Olde Town Pub: 22785 Washington Street, Leonardtown
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant: 45265 Abell House Lane, California
- Outback Steakhouse: 23415 Three Notch Road, California
- Red Robin Gourmet Burgers & Brews: 45305 Abell House Lane, California
- Salsas Mexican Café: 25470 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown
- Social Coffeehouse & Speakeasy: 41658 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown
- Sweetbay Restaurant and Bar: 22680 Washington Street, Leonardtown
- Texas Roadhouse: 45255 Abell House Lane, California
- The Brass Tap Craft Beer Bar: 44940 St. Andrews Church Road, California
- The Front Porch: 22770 Washington Street, Leonardtown
- The Greene Turtle Bar & Grille: 23415 Three Notch Rd., California
- The Rex: 22695 Washington Street, Leonardtown

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of the community by enforcing state laws regarding the sale of alcohol to underage individuals. Businesses are reminded of their responsibility to verify identification before completing alcohol sales.

Press Release from SMCSO

Southern Maryland Online

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Certified Angus Beef
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2 To 3-Oz., Frozen
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Delicious!
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**Boston Butt
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355mL., Cans, All Flavors
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Rose
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Moscato
12.99



12-Oz. Cans
30-Pack Miller Lite
23.99



750mL, Selected
Absolute
Vodka
18.99



750mL
Sunfory
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Wines
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12-Oz. Cans
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Vodka
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12

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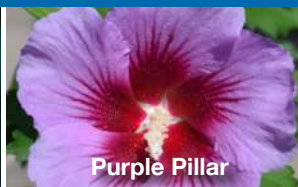
ROSE OF SHARON



Dark Levendar Chiffon



Blue Chiffon



Purple Pillar

BUTTERFLY BUSH



Pugster Amethyst

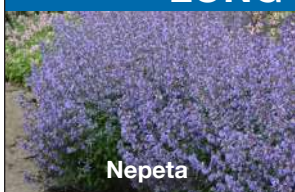


Blacknight



Lo & Behold Blue Chip

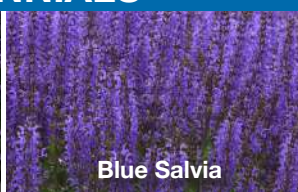
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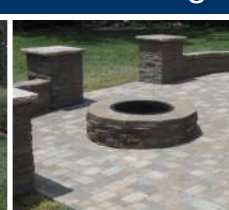
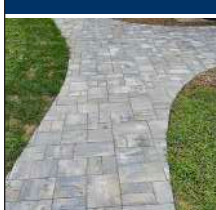
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Third Suspect Arrested for Great Mills Shooting

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office arrested Jayshawn Maurice Bartlett, 21, of Lexington Park, on Friday, Aug. 1 on a District Court arrest warrant charging him with 25 counts related to a May shooting in Great Mills.

In the early morning hours of May 3, 2025, patrol deputies conducting proactive patrols around Chancellors Run Road and Pegg Road heard gunfire and immediately responded. At the scene, they located a vehicle with four male occupants. Three of the individuals had sustained gunshot wounds. The fourth occupant was unharmed.

Through investigative efforts, detectives determined the shooting stemmed from an altercation that had occurred the previous evening. On May 6, two suspects, Cameron David Louis Curtis, 22, of Valley Lee, and Peyton James Robert Curtis, 20, of Callaway, were arrested in connection with the incident. Both suspects remain incarcerated at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, awaiting trial.

As the investigation continued, detectives identified a third suspect, Jayshawn Maurice Bartlett, 21, of Lexington Park, as also being involved in the shooting. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and he was taken into custody without incident.

Bartlett was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and charged with the following:

- Four counts of attempted first-degree murder
- Four counts of attempted second-degree murder



Jayshawn Maurice Bartlett

- Four counts of assault first-degree
- Four counts of assault second-degree
- Firearm use in the commission of a violent crime
- Handgun on person
- Loaded handgun on person
- Handgun in vehicle
- Loaded handgun in vehicle
- Four counts of recklessly discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle

The investigation remains open, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Keith Moritz at 301-475-4200, ext. 8093, or by email at Keith.Moritz@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Press Release from SMCSO

Residents Invited to Submit Legislative Proposals

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) will host a joint meeting with members of the St. Mary's County Legislative Delegation on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to present the Commissioners' 2026 Legislative Agenda to the Delegation.

Prior to the joint meeting on October 7, the Commissioners will consider what proposals to include as part of their Legislative Agenda.

Residents and organizations are invited to submit proposals to the CSMC for their consideration. The deadline to submit proposals to the CSMC is August 29, 2025. Further details can be found on the Legislative Proposal Form.

Residents and organizations can access the Legislative Proposal Form on our website at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/CountyAttorney or the form can be accessed directly at www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Docs/2026LegislativeProposalForm.pdf.

Proposals may also be submitted directly to the St. Mary's County Delegation per the Delegation's schedule.

Proposals may be submitted by mail or email to:

- Commissioners of St. Mary's County
41770 Baldrige St, P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650
csmc@stmaryscountymd.gov
- Todd Morgan, Delegate, District 29C,
St. Mary's County
215 House Office Building
6 Bladen St, Annapolis, MD 21401
todd.morgan@house.state.md.us

The joint meeting will be held in the CSMC Meeting Room, located on the 1st floor of the Chesapeake Building at 41770 Baldrige Street in Leonardtown. CSMC decisions and related documents are available on our website in BoardDocs. Meetings are open to the public and can be viewed live on TV Channel 95 or on-demand via www.YouTube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

Press Release from Commissioners of St. Mary's County

New Policy Would Address Student Debt

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education is considering a new policy that deals with student debt. Currently parents or guardians of students owe the school system hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid fees and changes.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Watson told the school board at a July 30 work session, "Since COVID, we've implemented, obviously, one-to-one technology for almost all of our students...and with that has come some increases in not only just technology debt, but other debt as well across the school system. So, we were talking about some situations where we could look at our internal processes, and kind of capitalize on some of our existing policies."

So, staff have developed a proposed policy, and a committee has been formed to develop procedures to implement those policies. The new policy will have its first reading at the Aug. 13 school board meeting and a public hearing on Aug. 27.

Watson said, "This policy is intended to promote transparency, fairness, and support for all students while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

The policy statement says, "The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines and procedures regarding student related debts that occurred within the school system. The goal is to promote responsible financial management, ensure equitable treatment of all students, and clarify the board's position on the collection

and management of school related debts."

The policy says, "The school system recognizes that students may incur debts related to school activities, including but not limited to meal accounts, lost or damaged technology, lost or damaged school property fees associated with extracurricular activities, library fund, fines, and other approved charges."

It goes on to say, "The school system shall communicate clearly with students and parents or guardians about any owed debts, including the amount owed, the reason for the debt and the procedures for payment or resolution."

It adds, "Efforts may be made to assist students and families in resolving debts, including providing payment plans or alternative options, where feasible, to avoid undue hardship."

Board member Dorothy Andrews asked, "I know that when students go through the line...if they don't have any money or something, they can still have their food and there's no collection needed or anything. So do the meal accounts really need to be in there?"

Watson said, "The lunch cost is still the responsibility of the parent of the child. So, that child does build up a negative lunch account balance that is tracked. If a student or parent fills out the proper documentation and they are awarded, they would be considered for a free or reduced meal. So, we urge people to fill it out as much as possible. We send out a lot of communication on that."

School Superintendent Dr. J. Scott Smith said, "We've done a great deal as a state and as a county not to stigmatize or penalize a child. And we recognize how important it

is that every child gets an appropriate lunch because if you're hungry, you're really going to struggle to concentrate in class."

He added, "That being said, we're accumulating. We've got students who are accumulating a substantial amount of debt and, parents aren't necessarily being as responsive as they need to."

Andrews said, "I just wanted that cleared up more for the public to hear, that children are well taken care of."

Board member Mary Washington said, "I want to thank the school system for efforts to remind the parents that is important to fill out the free and reduced lunch form. They may think they don't qualify, but once they fill it out, they may not qualify for a free lunch, but they may be able to qualify for a reduced-price meal. So, efforts need to be more aggressive in making sure that they need to fill this out at the beginning of the school year and...when their economic condition changes. Maybe earlier they didn't qualify, but because of parent losing a job or sickness or whatever, they fill it out, they may possibly qualify, but they must fill out the form."

She added regarding the wording that 'efforts may be made to assist students and families,' "I think since you do it anyway, it should be 'efforts shall be made or will be made' because you do that anyway."

Smith agreed that the wording should be changed to "shall."

Watson said, "When you have a student whose laptop is broken or unintentionally damaged, that may be something that a principal would consider that as an option, working



Board of Education member Mary Washington

with that family as a fee waiver or something like that. Whereas a student then purposefully breaks that or uses a TikTok challenge where they stick a paper clip or a pencil into the port and it damages the whole laptop, then that would be a situation again that that the principal of that school may consider it differently."

The policy allows the right for extracurricular activities to be withheld in the case of debt arrears. But Washington said students shouldn't be penalized if their parents don't have the money.

During the course of the discussion, it was revealed that the accumulated unpaid debt included \$135,000 in meals, more than \$200,000 in technology equipment and \$20,000 in library books.

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Consultant Hired for School Redistricting

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Board of Education has awarded the contract for the school system's redistricting study, formally known as the "Facility Utilization and School Boundary Consulting Contract."

According to Director of Capital Planning Kimberly Howe, the project includes "identifying, justifying and recommending school boundary recommendations for the most effective and efficient use of capital resources in a fiscally responsible manner, as well as remaining flexible to appropriately respond to conditions in our student population, facilities, and our community over time. This will result in the development of optimized use of our facilities to include potential closures and boundary realignment recommendations for our 27 schools that maximizes opportunities for student achievement and allows for the best delivery of instructional program within our available facility and financial resources."

The contract was awarded to Cannon Washington, a global consulting firm with an office in Arlington, Va. They have previously done work for the school system.

The awarded contract is \$199,860, with a contingency of \$48,045, bringing it just short of the \$250,000 budgeted for the consultant.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Watson explained the proposed schedule for the contact work:

- July 2025–September 2025: Consultant evaluations of facility utilization and school boundary changes, including the potential school closures
- September 2025–October 2025: Internal evaluations with staff to finalize up to 3 scenarios
- October 2025–December 2025: Community engagements sessions throughout the county to receive feedback on proposed plans
- January 2026: Final option report presented to committee and the Superintendent of Schools. Information presentation of the final option to the Board of Education.
- February 2026: Incorporate feedback from the Board of Education and conduct a public hearing
- March 2026: Final approval portion to the Board of Education and possibly the Commissioners of St. Mary's County
- April 2026: SMCPS notification of new assignments to parents

Of the consultant evaluations, he said, "We'll look at facilities. We'll look at boundaries. We'll look at population of schools and potential school closures, potential movements from schools to schools, depending on overpopulation in some of those areas."

Of the public meetings, he said, "We anticipate that looking like presentations at all three high schools that would coordinate all of the feeder schools too that high school for those presentations."

Howe said, "Anyone is entitled to go to any one of those. If you want to go to all three, you would be able to do that."

Board member Dorothy Andrews wanted to know if future county's future growth would be considered. Howe said, "We have a lot of data that we have to provide them on our buildings, our growth patterns, our enrollment. They're going to take a deep dive into looking at our enrollment and our projections, and capacity and utilization of our buildings. What we have is the information that we can get from (the Office of) Land Use and Growth Management. In conjunction with that, there's also the comprehensive plan that is going on for the county. And we'll link them to that as well, because then they can see what is being said in the community about that as well."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Scott Smith said, "I think this is going to be incredibly complex work. It's going to require us to have the sharpest of pencils and the most thoughtful of minds. But we cannot throw around we're going to close the school, we're going to close the school, we're going to close the school, we're going to close the school."

"St. Mary's County isn't like that. We don't throw away anything and we don't close things unless we absolutely know that it's the right thing to do, not only for students, but for parents in the communities that those schools serve."

"So, we have five smaller schools and all



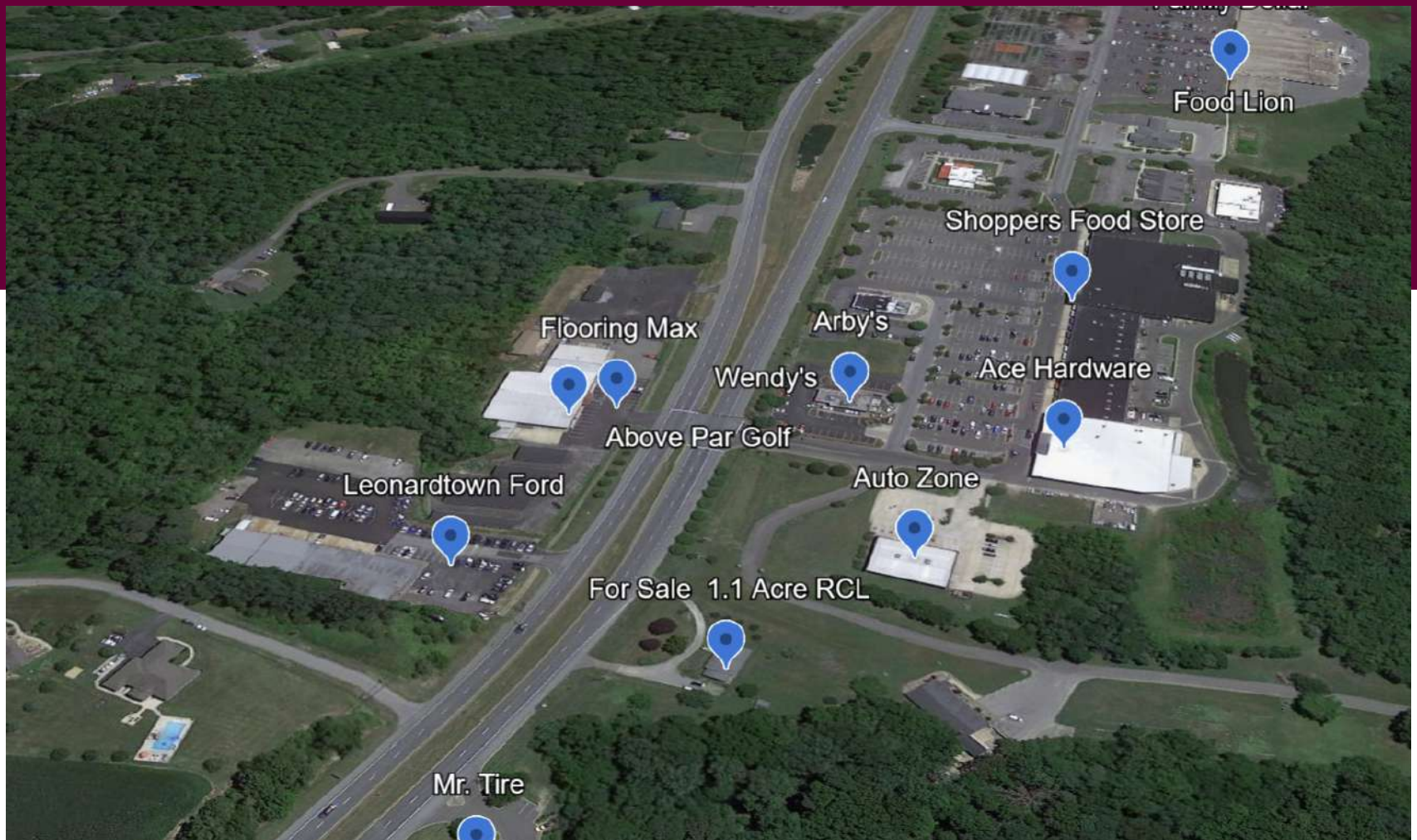
Maria Gorodetskaya will be Cannon's client leader. She will be responsible completely for ensuring that the project happens.

small schools in the State of Maryland, with the way the Blueprint is written and funding flows, are always at a remarkable disadvantage. And so really what we're going to be doing is working with consultants and some of the very best minds to be able to demonstrate, perhaps all the way up to the state level, why things need to be considered, perhaps even with a greater amount of detail. I know that they talked about looking at some of the funding relative to small schools and figuring out a multiplying factor. We're going to have so much data to be able to drive that."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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Current structure can be converted to retail or office or a variety of uses. Check with the local government for the full list of approved uses. New Weis Supermarket and a huge car wash are opening soon next door. Get your offer in today!



Thomas McKay

Commercial Advisor
thomas.mckay@penfedrealty.com
www.berkshirehathawayhs.com/
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Community Spirit Shines at National Night Out

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Neighborhoods across St. Mary's County lit up with laughter and community pride as residents gathered for the annual National Night Out celebration. From Charlotte Hall to Ridge families joined law enforcement, first responders, and elected officials for an evening of connection and camaraderie.

Hosted by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, the event ran from 6 to 8 p.m., bringing together dozens of neighborhoods for block parties, cookouts, games, and meet-and-greets with public safety personnel.

Sheriff Steve Hall told The County Times, "National Night Out is a great reminder that public safety is a shared effort. When our community comes together like this—neighbors meeting deputies, conversations happening on front lawns—it builds real trust. That connection between our blue and our community is what keeps St. Mary's strong."

Deputies, Maryland State Police troopers, local fire departments, and rescue squads made their rounds, engaging with residents and sharing safety tips. Participating neighborhoods included Lexington Village, Golden Beach, Hollywood Shores, Myrtle Point, Wildewood and Leonard's Grant, among many others.

The Sheriff's Office encouraged residents to register their events in advance, and the turnout reflected the county's strong commitment to community engagement. "When neighbors know each other, we're all safer," said Alisa Casas, Public Information Officer for the Sheriff's Office.

dickmyers@countytimes.net



Photo courtesy of St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office



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Public Input Sought for St. Mary's 2050 Plan

Second Survey Results Released

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

County officials are continuing to encourage community participation in the long-range planning process dubbed "St. Mary's 2050: Charting Our Tomorrow."

The project consultant and county staff just completed an extensive outreach blitz in which they attended a number of events in May and June in which they solicited participation in surveys to supplement one that was offered online. Results of those surveys were presented to the planning commission on July 28 and the county commissioners on July 29.

Responses were received from more than 1,300 residents, but that only represents slightly more than one percent of the county's 115,000 population. County officials would like to do better.

Consultant Leigh Anne King, director of Clarion Associates, said two percent is considered to be a good response for a long-range plan. King and Director of Land Use and Growth Management Jessica Andritz made the presentations to the two boards.

In an interview with The County Times, Andritz said, "The reason why we sought money from the commissioners was so we could get a firm with nationwide experience in helping local jurisdictions develop future plans, whether it's the comprehensive plan or an infrastructure facilities plan, all kinds of things."

She added, "I think what we heard about asking people to provide feedback about the future, particularly as we're projecting out, sometimes it's hard relative to a document like that."

But the plans do have an impact on citizens even if they don't readily see it. "It absolutely does," Andritz said, "But it may not impact them immediately. When you're thinking about a comprehensive plan, by and large you're thinking about it, 15 to 20 years out, even though the state requires the plan to be reviewed and updated every 10 years."

She noted, "I think that span of time could be difficult for the average person to really focus on and understand."

Andritz explained that a comprehensive plan is "the chief land use policy document for the county, guiding land decisions, whether we're talking about, targeted growth and development, or preservation and conservation and being a steward of our environmental resources. Through economic development programs, we want to see all businesses grow and thrive here in the county. So, this is the chief policy document that kind of lays the foundation

framework for implementation, whether it's through comprehensive zoning ordinance, whether it's through the strategic plan, whether it's the transportation plan put together by the Department of Public Works and Transportation. It's the chief land use policy document that guides those types of decision for St. Mary's County."

She was asked if the plan determines what the county will look like. She said, "It doesn't go into that level of detail. It's not going to talk about what a specific neighborhood looks like. It's more general than that, more big picture, that it might tell you areas where there is infrastructure or where there needs to be infrastructure to support targeted growth and development. It's also going to identify certain areas around farms and areas along the water where you wouldn't necessarily want development, where the infrastructure, meaning water and sewer for example, aren't there."

She added, "The document has wide ranging implications, but it's not going to probably go into the detail of someone's neighborhood. That's something that you would typically find either at a master plan level, or at preliminary plan level when we're talking about creating a large-scale community, like some of the ones that are being developed."

So why should people be involved with long-range planning? Andritz responded, "To outline and share data with the commissioners, what residents want (the county) to look like, feel like, in 2050. Without the public input and engagement, it's very difficult for you, a handful of planning commission members, and a handful of elected commissioners, to make those decisions are best made with informed (input), by those who live and work here."

Andritz said the process is exciting for her staff. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. It's great to get out there and talk with people about it. But we will continue to get input as we move forward through the fall. We'll start working with the consultants and the project team that's been assembled to draft and review the draft. And the draft will be available this fall to certainly engage in and provide feedback. I'm hoping that the numbers will continue to grow."

During the presentation to the two public bodies, King reported. "The public review draft will be shared as part of Community Engagement Window Number Three. Call that the plan unveiling and that will give the community an opportunity, as well as the commissioners and planning commission, to provide comment and make revisions to that plan before we take it into the final phase,

which is plan adoption, where we have the formal public hearing process, which would happen later this year, early into next year during the winter months."

During the presentations to the planning commission and the county commissioners, King presented results of the survey conducted in May and June. "There were three short surveys that were packaged as one survey that were provided at 15 in-person community engagement opportunities."

In the section of the survey called "Guarding Our Growth through 2050" respondents were asked, "Which areas of St. Mary's County that participants support mixed use development?"

Responses were Lexington Park, Leonardtown, and California. King said, "Mixed use development is typically a development that will include a commercial component and a residential component."

King said, "Slightly less than a third said that they didn't support this type of development in any location. So that's notable."

The second question focused on identifying the areas of St. Mary's County in which participants support smaller starter homes and townhouses. Responses were in order of magnitude Lexington Park, Hollywood, California, followed by Mechanicsville, Charlotte Hall, and Callaway.

The next question focused on multi-family housing. A quarter of the respondents were not supportive.

There was a question about redevelopment. King said, "One thing that we know about most redevelopment situations is that to make it economically feasible, typically the owner, the developer of that property has to build it at a more intensive level to make the investment in the redevelopment feasible."

In that scenario, 46 percent of respondents supported it, and 19 percent didn't. The others were unsure.

A second section of the survey dealt with environmental and agricultural resources:

- Investing in natural storm water management
- Purchasing land to protect shoreline areas.
- Purchasing conservation easements.

Only 17 percent were opposed to such actions.

As to supporting purchasing land for water access, 54 percent said yes and only 13 percent said no.

As to the development of new agricultural support uses, such as small-scale meat processing and produce packing hubs and then lowering speed limits on frequently used rural roads, there was overwhelming support although less so for lowering the speed limits.

For more information about the plan go to: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/StMarys2050/>

dickmyers@countytimes.net

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CONTENTS

LOCAL NEWS	5	OBITUARIES	18
COMMUNITY	13	CALENDARS	19
COLUMNISTS	16		

“IT’S A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.”

LUGM DIRECTOR JESSICA ANDRITZ ON WORKING ON ST. MARY’S 2050 PLAN



LOCAL 5
County seeks continued public input on comprehensive plan



LOCAL 9
Proposed policy aims to tackle student debt



ON THE COVER
Sheriff's office hosts National Night Out

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, AUG 7 Partly Cloudy Hi: 79° Lo: 64°	FRI, AUG 8 Partly Cloudy Hi: 78° Lo: 63°	SAT, AUG 9 Mostly Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 63°	SUN, AUG 10 Partly Cloudy Hi: 84° Lo: 64°
MON, AUG 11 Partly Cloudy Hi: 85° Lo: 68°	TUE, AUG 12 Partly Cloudy Hi: 88° Lo: 72°	WED, AUG 13 Partly Cloudy Hi: 89° Lo: 72°	THU, AUG 14 Partly Cloudy Hi: 90° Lo: 71°

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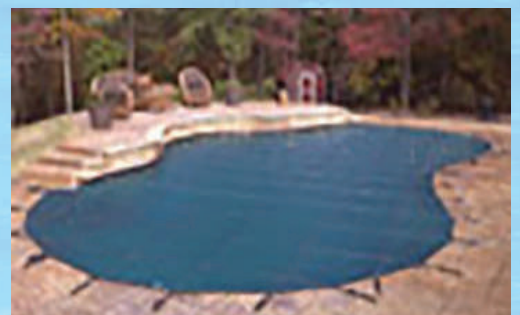
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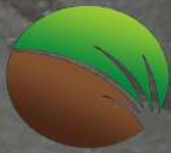


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