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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

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**Contract Awarded for  
Mass Notification System**

**Teen Convicted for  
Attempted Murder**

**Bay Study Shows  
Elevated Hypoxia**



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“WHEN THERE’S A CONCERT IN SOLOMONS AND YOU WANT TO KNOW IF TRAFFIC’S BEING IMPACTED.”

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIRECTOR STEPHEN PEREIRA ON ONE OF USES OF MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



**LOCAL 4**  
Contract awarded for mass notification system



**LOCAL 6**  
One killed, two seriously injured in Lusby crash



**ON THE COVER**  
Linda L. Kelly Animal Shelter waives adoption fees through the month of August

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, AUG 21</b> Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 62°	<b>FRI, AUG 22</b> Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	<b>SAT, AUG 23</b> Sunny Hi: 81° Lo: 67°	<b>SUN, AUG 24</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 68°
<b>MON, AUG 25</b> Mostly Sunny Hi: 82° Lo: 63°	<b>TUE, AUG 26</b> Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 60°	<b>WED, AUG 27</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 77° Lo: 59°	<b>THU, AUG 28</b> Mostly Sunny Hi: 78° Lo: 61°



## LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

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# Bay Hypoxia Volumes Remain Above Average

Data collected by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Old Dominion University show an above average volume of hypoxia—waters with less than 2 mg/l of oxygen—in the Chesapeake Bay mainstem of Maryland and Virginia in early and late July.

Early July saw an increase in hypoxia from late June, with volumes almost double the historical average, and the sixth-highest early July volume in the past 40 years. Anoxia – waters with less than 0.2 mg/l oxygen – was also above average.

Hypoxia volumes decreased in late July and were closer to average, but anoxia was near double the historical average and confined solely to Maryland waters.

Historically, heavy rainfall early in the year can precede greater levels of hypoxia—areas of water with low dissolved oxygen levels—due to rain runoff carrying excess nutrients into the Bay, which can contribute to algal blooms and reduce water clarity. Warmer temperatures can also contribute to hypoxia as warmer waters hold less oxygen.

Qualitatively, freshwater flows into the Chesapeake Bay leading up to summer were about 20% above average, indicating a greater than average hypoxic volume may be observed over this season due to more nutrients entering the Bay. Above average volumes in late June and into July could be the result of significant rainfall in Maryland and Pennsylvania during May, and high average air temperatures in the region during June and July, with nutrients from runoff fueling algal blooms, their decomposition, and resultant oxygen consumption.

According to NOAA's National Centers

for Environmental Information, Maryland received 7.81 inches of rainfall in May, the highest in the past 131 years. Pennsylvania's precipitation was 7.72 inches, the second highest in that same time frame. This year's rainy May was followed by a hot June and July—Maryland's average temperatures in June was 74.8 degrees, fourth-highest in 131 years, and 79.9 degrees in July, second-highest in 131 years.

Crabs, fish, oysters, and other creatures in the Chesapeake Bay require dissolved oxygen to survive. Scientists and natural resource managers study the volume and duration of Bay hypoxia to determine possible impacts to Bay life.

Ongoing efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from industrial and wastewater sources, agricultural land, and cities and towns are aimed at reducing hypoxic conditions in the Bay. In the water, nitrogen and phosphorus fuel algal blooms that remove oxygen from the water when they die off and decompose.

Each year from May through October, the Department of Natural Resources computes hypoxia volumes from the water quality data managed by department staff and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Data collection is funded by these states and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Bay hypoxia monitoring and reporting will continue through the summer. Additional Maryland water quality data and information, including the Department of Natural Resources hypoxic volume calculation methods, can be found on the Eyes on the Bay website.

*Press release from MD DNR*

# St. Leonard Sidewalk Project Begins

The Calvert County Department of Public Works began a sidewalk reconstruction project in the St. Leonard Town Center on Monday, Aug. 18. The project will enhance pedestrian safety and improve walkability along Calvert Beach Road.

Construction will occur on both sides of Calvert Beach Road Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. between St. Leonard Road and Cross Gable Lane. Work will involve the removal of trees located between the sidewalk and curb, demolition of sidewalk sections displaced by tree roots and the installation of new concrete sidewalks. All work is weather dependent.

For public safety, a pedestrian detour will be in place throughout the project. Motorists should expect lane closures and flagging operations during work hours. Drivers and pedestrians are urged to follow

posted signs and use caution in the area.

The Department of Public Works thanks residents and visitors for their patience during this improvement project. The project is part of Calvert County's ongoing efforts to improve local infrastructure and enhance walkability in town centers.

For questions or more information contact Public Works at 410-535-2204 or by email at [public.works@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:public.works@calvertcountymd.gov).

Find information on Calvert County Government services online at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov). Stay connected with Calvert County Government through the mobile app, newsletters, social media and more at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/StayInformed](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/StayInformed).

*Press Release from Calvert County government*

# Contract Awarded for Mass Notification System

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has approved a multi-year contract that will allow for a mass notification system for the public in case of an emergency.

Director of the Department of Technology Services Stephen Pereira explained at the Aug. 19 BOCC meeting, "The Department of Technology Services (TS) is responsible for the support and maintenances for the software used throughout Calvert County Government. TS is in the process of renewing the Emergency Management software for the mass notification system which allows county agencies to communicate with thousands of residents, businesses, and visitors within minutes of an emergency.

Pereira added, "The system can notify regarding situations such as missing persons, evacuations, law enforcement notifications, severe weather, and water and sewer messages. The current renewal is a contract which spans over two years. By entering into a multi-year contract, Calvert County is able to secure a \$6,582.94 reduction in cost. The total cost of the renewed subscription is \$109,715.56 for two years. Year one, totaling \$54,857.80, is budgeted in the TS contracted services account."

Pereira explained the dual system. "There's an automatic side, and I would encourage anybody to go on the county government (web)site and look for Calvert Alert and through Calvert Alert, that is Everbridge. That's where you can go as a citizen. I have my own personal account as well as my family, as well as being the administrator on the county side. But you can go there and set up what alerts you would like to get. You want to know when the roads are closing down and the sheriff's office can notify you when that happens. Or when there's a concert in Solomons and you want to know if there's traffic being impacted there, you can sign up for that."

He added, "You can turn it on or turn it off. You can manage that yourself. It is great."

But then Pereira added, "The automatic side of that is where the weather alerts



Director of the Department of Technology Services Stephen Pereira

come out. It's important to note that those come from the National Weather Service through Everbridge. So, when there's notification time, the alerts of thunderstorms, tornadoes, whatever it may be, those come through automatically. You can set up to email, we can text you, we can call your home phone. You manage how you want to get that message. It's important to note if you are unable to figure that out, you can call our office or go on the county's website. Look up our number, you give us a call, we'll set the counter for you. And I imagine we do have a lot of older population that just can't understand how to do that. And we're happy to help them set that up and know that when they do call, we help manage it for them."

Pereira note, "On the manual side, when something happens that is totally unexpected, we have the capability to reach out to anybody in the county and make quick notification to them even if they haven't signed up."

He said, "You have two great tools there for any type of notification planning that you need to put together for any type of emergency."

The commissioners unanimously approved the contract.

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

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# Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter Waives Adoption Fees During August



Ponyta is an adorable semi-social cat who is ready to patrol your barn or warehouse.



Nina is currently in a foster home. Call 410-535-7387 to meet her.



We have several ducks available for adoption, including Spirit.



Did you know rabbits like Ash can learn tricks and be taught to use the litterbox?



Brandi Hood, animal shelter care supervisor, holds two kittens available for adoption that were shown at the Aug. 19 BOCC meeting.

In recent months, the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners has featured at the beginning of every meeting an adoptable animal from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter. The adoption fee is waived for that animal until the next meeting.

That wasn't an issue when Brandi Hood, animal shelter care supervisor, showed off two highly adoptable kittens at the Aug. 19 meeting. That's because adoption fees are being waived for all of the shelter animal for the month of August.

The 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



Ashley Staples-Reid, special projects program manager for Calvert County, snuggles with one of the kittens available from the shelter.



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# Elderly Man Dies in Multi-Vehicle Crash



Photo courtesy of Solomons VRS&FD

Deputies from the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau responded on Aug. 15, 2025, at approximately 3:49 p.m., to the area of southbound Solomons Island Road (Rt. 4) and Coster Road in Lusby, for the report of a serious motor vehicle collision with injuries. Due to the severity of the crash, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Unit responded to the scene and assumed the investigation.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a 2004 Honda Civic, operated by Anthony Valentine, 18 of Milford, DE, was traveling south on Rt. 4 approaching Coster Road. A juvenile female was in the front passenger seat, and her identity is being withheld due to her age. Simultaneously, a 2011 Toyota Avalon, operated by Hollis Clinton Ruoff Jr., 95 of Silver Spring, was attempting to make the left turn from northbound Rt. 4 onto Coster Road. The Honda Civic struck the passenger side of the Toyota Avalon.

After the initial collision, the Toyota and Honda traveled to the right side of the road-

way and collided with a 2015 Dodge Dart, operated by Dale Young Jr., 33 of Lusby, and a 2017 Ford Explorer, operated by Karen Nolin, 60 of Prince Frederick. The Dodge Dart and Ford Explorer were stationary at the traffic light on Coster Road. As a result of the collision, Valentine and the juvenile female were transported to regional trauma centers via Maryland State Police Aviation Command with serious injuries. Young was transported by ground to Calvert Health Medical Center for minor injuries. Ruoff was transported by ground to Calvert Health Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries. Nolin was treated and released on the scene.

Deputy First Class M. Lewis #6643 of the Crash Reconstruction Team is conducting the investigation of the crash. Anyone with information is asked to contact him at 410-535-2800 or by email, [mike.lewis.jr@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:mike.lewis.jr@calvertcountymd.gov).

*Press Release from CCSO*

# Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

## Citizens Asked to Report Impaired Drivers

The Calvert County Traffic Safety Council and Calvert County Sheriff's Office remind drivers to drive sober or get pulled over by law enforcement authorities.

As summer draws to a close and celebrations continue, it is important to remember that driving under the influence of alcohol or cannabis endangers everyone on the road. Impaired driving is never an acceptable choice.

According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, there were 511 crash fatalities nationwide during the 2023 Labor Day holiday, including 117 motorcycle deaths, and 36% of those crashes involved a drunk driver. Of those motorcycle deaths, 27% were killed in drunk driving crashes. Among drivers aged 18 to 34 who were killed in crashes during the same time period, 45% had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

The Calvert County Traffic Safety Council and Calvert County Sheriff's

Office remind residents to plan ahead and designate a sober driver to get home safely.

Report impaired drivers by calling 911, and always remember to wear your seatbelt.

To learn more visit [www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over](http://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/drive-sober-or-get-pulled-over).

The Traffic Safety Council is a technical committee reinstated in 2023 when Calvert County adopted its Strategic Roadway Safety Plan. The council brings together representatives from Calvert County Government, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office and Maryland State Police to address highway safety issues.

The council's mission is to reduce the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities by promoting traffic safety through directed enforcement efforts, educational programs and public awareness initiatives.

*Press Release from Calvert County government*

# Howe Found Guilty of Attempted Murder

On August 11, 2025, Andre Xavier Howe, 18, of Huntingtown, was found guilty of attempted second degree murder, two counts of first degree assault, and use of a firearm by Calvert County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Chandlee.

The guilty finding followed the entry of an Alford plea, whereby Howe acknowledged that the state's evidence was sufficient to convict him.

The charges stemmed from an incident that occurred on July 14, 2024. On that date, Howe armed himself with a handgun and drove to a townhouse community in Prince Frederick to settle a score with another

individual. Once on the scene, Howe fired random shots into a townhouse injuring two victims. The intended victim lived in a separate townhouse and was not injured.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 14, 2025. Howe continues to be detained at the Calvert County Detention Center. He is facing a maximum sentence of 100 years incarceration, to include a mandatory sentence of five years without parole.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Allison S. Walton.

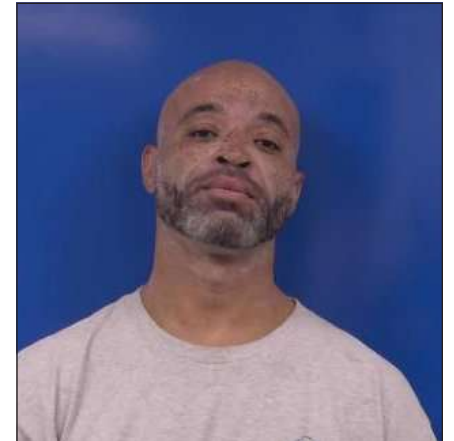
*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney*

# Owings Man Sentenced for Fleeing & Eluding

Tarvaris Tony Reid, 47, of Owings was sentenced on Aug. 1 to 12 years' incarceration with all but seven years suspended. Reid entered a guilty plea on July 25, 2025, for fleeing and eluding uniformed police by failing to stop his vehicle and driving while impaired by alcohol before the Honorable Mark S. Chandlee in the Circuit Court for Calvert County.

The charges arose from the evening of February 26, 2025, when Reid led Calvert County Sheriff's deputies on a high-speed pursuit through Owings after he refused to stop for a simple speeding violation. Reid reached speeds in excess of 80 MPH as he travelled through Skinners Turn Road, West Mt. Harmony Road, Fowler Road, Jennifer Lane, and MD Rte. 4. The pursuit ended at Skinners Turn Road and Industrial Lane where DFC. Claggett performed a PIT maneuver, immobilizing the vehicle. It was later determined that Reid had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.227 at that time of the incident.

Reid has six prior convictions for driving while under the influence or impaired by alcohol or a controlled dangerous substance.



Tarvaris Tony Reid

This is Reid's second conviction for fleeing and eluding police. Reid was also sentenced to an additional two years' incarceration to be served consecutively to his seven-year sentence for violating probation.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Allison S. Walton.

*Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney*

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# CALVERT COUNTY POLICE BLOTTER

During the week of August 4, 2025 – August 10, 2025, Calvert County Sheriff's Office Deputies responded to 1,803 calls for service throughout the community, including, but not limited to:

- Check Welfare / Mental Health: 66
- Disorderly: 14
- Domestic: 24
- Motor Vehicle Crashes: 38
- Patrol Checks / School Checks: 717
- Suspicious Persons / Vehicles: 30
- Traffic Complaints: 71
- Traffic Stops: 431
- 911 Hang Ups: 63
- ARRESTS: 43



John Edward Nichols

**CDS Violation: 25-63647** On August 4, 2025, Cpl. Buckler conducted a traffic stop in the area of Rt. 4 and Rt. 231 in Prince Frederick for a moving violation. The driver, identified as **John Edward Nichols**, 35 of California, MD, became argumentative during the stop. DFC Crum and his K9 partner Zeus responded and conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle, resulting in a positive alert. A subsequent search revealed a crack pipe, brass Brillo, and a bottle of Oxycodone pills. Nichols was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with

CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia and CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis.



Kevin Darnell Commodore

**CDS Violation: 25-64290** On August 7, 2025, Deputy Campbell responded to the Wawa located at 305 Market Square Drive in Prince Frederick for a reported theft. The investigation revealed that unknown suspects entered the store, retrieved a bag from behind the counter, and began filling it with numerous items before exiting the store without paying. Deputy Campbell made contact with the suspects, identified as **Kevin Darnell Commodore**, 38 of Lusby; **Heather Lynn Davis**, 43 of Huntingtown; and **Latroy Lynell Hall**, 45 of Huntingtown. A Wawa bag was observed in plain



Heather Lynn Davis



Latroy Lynell Hall

view, and the suspects were unable to provide a receipt or proof of purchase. Further investigation revealed various drug paraphernalia and controlled dangerous substances (CDS), including suspected fentanyl and cocaine, inside the vehicle. A subsequent search incident to arrest uncovered additional paraphernalia on Hall's person and CDS on Davis's person. All three suspects, Commodore, Davis, and Hall were charged with CDS: Possession-Not Cannabis and CDS: Possession of Paraphernalia. Hall and Davis were additionally charged with Obstructing and Hindering. Davis also received charges of Possession of Contraband in a Place of Confinement and Theft Less Than \$100.



James Robert Owens Jr.

**CDS Violation: 25-64894** On August 9, 2025, Cpl. Ridgely responded to a motor vehicle crash in the 100 block of Helena Drive in Prince Frederick. Upon making contact with the driver of the striking vehicle, identified as **James Robert Owens Jr.**, 42 of Lusby, deputies observed signs of impairment. DFC Hendrickson and his K9 partner, Atlas, responded to the scene and conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle, which resulted in a positive alert. A subsequent search of Owens revealed a cellophane wrapper containing four

capsules of suspected Fentanyl that fell from his pockets. Owens was transported to the Calvert County Detention Center and charged with CDS: Possession – Not Cannabis.

**Damaged Property: 25-64436** On August 7, 2025, DFC Mister responded to the 100 block of Rachael's Way in Prince Frederick for a report of property destruction. The complainant advised an unknown suspect(s) 3 spray painted graffiti on the front of the residence. The estimated value of the damage is unknown at this time.

**Theft: 25-64416** On August 7, 2025, DFC Fleenor responded to the 3900 block of 17th Street in Chesapeake Beach, for the reported theft. The complainant reported approximately 10 mesh black outdoor chairs had been stolen. The estimated value of stolen property is \$600.

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

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

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### Your Neighborhood Tire and Auto Shop

#### Prince Frederick

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410-535-3880

M-F 7AM-7PM

SAT 7AM-4PM

#### Lusby

25 Cover Point Road

410-326-2672

M-F 7AM-6PM

SAT 7AM-4PM

#### Owings

7605 Meadow Run Lane

410-257-2830

M-F 7AM-6PM

SAT 7AM-4PM

## It's Back-to-School Time!

Remember: Never pass a stopped school bus.

*It's the law.*



# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Aug 21

### Song Circle

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

Whether you're a musician, singer, or just love to hum along, this event is for you. Lead or learn folk and acoustic tunes in a casual, welcoming jam session. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### TACOS: Teen Advisory Council of Students

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

Teens! Calvert Library needs you! We want the library to be a safe space where teens can hang out and freely access books and information. TACOS meets monthly to help us with our events and services planning. Join us every third Thursday! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Fri, Aug 22

### 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](http://servingtogetherproject.org/calvert) for more information.

### Bad Art Night

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

What is Bad Art Night? It's an outrageous night of BAD ART MAKING for adults at Annmarie Garden. Guests 21 and up are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll

have all the supplies you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

A cash bar and lively music will add to the fun! Admission: \$7/person (Must be 21+); members FREE

## Sat, Aug 23

### What Not to Do as a Calvert County Gardener

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
10-11 a.m.

In gardens large and small there is no end to the ways you can express yourself, cultivate a beautiful landscape and, unfortunately, mess up. Every mistake in the garden is an opportunity to learn. This will be a discussion forum on mistakes gardeners have made, and an opportunity for Calvert County Master Gardeners to answer questions. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Mon, Aug 25

### Overcoming Challenges to Succeed

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 to learn about challenges and barriers that may interfere with navigating a successful career plan. 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 [mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov). Once registered click "Quick Registration" to enroll. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Tue, Aug 26

### Social Security Disability Benefits

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
4-5 p.m.

Disability is something most people don't like to think about. However, studies show that a 20-year-old worker has a 1-in-4 chance of developing a disability before full retirement age. A representative from the Social Security Administration will be providing information about eligibility requirements, the application process and more. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Planning for Retirement

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

Are you ready to retire? Do you know what is the best age to start receiving Social Security benefits? How to file for benefits? Can you work and receive benefits at the same time? Can your spouse get benefits on your Social Security record? A representative from the Social Security Administration will provide answers to the most common questions about retirement benefits. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Wed, Aug 27

### Job Seeker Resources

Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch  
4100 5th St., North Beach  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MD Labor Workforce Veterans Services will be available (in person) to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. More job-seeker help is available on [mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov). If you have questions or need more information about employment resources available, please contact the American Job Center for Southern Maryland at 301-645-8712 or email them at [dldwalcharlescountyjs-LABOR@maryland.gov](mailto:dldwalcharlescountyjs-LABOR@maryland.gov) to request an appointment. 410-257-2411.

<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

Come join us for a fun hour of bilingual conversation! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! It will be a time for community members to help each other out with their language needs! Did you take Spanish in high school or college and are a little rusty? Is your family from Latin America and you aren't as fluent as you'd like? This is for you! Are you working on strengthening your English language skills and gaining more confidence? 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Thu, Aug 28

### Little Minnows

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

This month's theme is Marsh Detectives. For preschoolers ages 3 - 5, with an adult. This program focuses on one of the museum's three themes. Join us for story time and craft, available while supplies last. Sessions are 25 - 40 minutes. Sign up at the Admissions Desk when you arrive. Included with museum admission.

## Upcoming

### Seldom Scene Concert

Calvert Elks Lodge #2620  
Prince Frederick  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m.,

The premier Bluegrass band, The Seldom Scene will headline the first concert of the season at the Southern Maryland Bluegrass Concert Series at the Calvert Elks in Prince Frederick. Tickets are available now at \$40 per person, with advance purchase recommended as the event is expected to sell out. For more information, visit [www.somdbluegrass.com](http://www.somdbluegrass.com) or call 301-737-3004.

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

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



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# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Aug 22

### Bad Art Night

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

What is Bad Art Night? It's an outrageous night of BAD ART MAKING for adults at Annmarie Garden. Guests 21 and up are invited to be inspired by the works in our galleries, then undertake some unconventional and unorthodox art-making. We'll have all the supplies you'll need to have at it. Finished artwork will be displayed for all and then cast your vote for "The Best of the Worst." Prizes will be awarded! It's a great night to let loose, get "creative", and have some fun!

A cash bar and lively music will add to the fun! Admission: \$7/person (Must be 21+); members FREE

be served from 8-9:50 a.m., with the conference beginning at 10 am. Tickets can also be purchased prior to the date. The conference Worship Leader is Rev. Gwen Warren-Washington, Pleasant Grove MBC, Upper Marlboro, MD, the Facilitator is Rev. Michelle Docket, One Church DMV, Waldorf, Maryland. The conference Guest Preacher is Rev. Dr. Carolyn Gilmore, Galatians Baptist Church, NE, Washington, DC. The occasion will be in person and the cost is \$25.

### TEXAS Holdem Tourney

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge  
2-11 p.m.

\$120 buy-in (includes bounty). Starting stack 20,000 chips. Registration opens at 1pm. Cards in the air at 2pm.

There will be one re-entry for players who bust out until the second break. Blind levels will change every 20 minutes

Food available for additional cost. There will be a 50/50 raffle and cash wheel separate from tournament entry. For more information please contact James Dean, 240-577-0828 [orjdeanjunior@gmail.com](mailto:orjdeanjunior@gmail.com)

### Beach Party

SDVFDRS Fire and EMS Station  
19330 Piney Point Road, Valley Lee  
3-10 p.m.

Our third annual Beach Party will feature some fun in the sun as they provide a family-focused atmosphere for both adults and children to celebrate the end of Summer with splash down water activities, corn hole, good food, music, and other outdoor activities.

Please reach out for more information: [fundraising@sdvfdrs.org](mailto:fundraising@sdvfdrs.org)

## Mon, Aug 25

### Republican Women of St Mary's County

The Pax River Ale House  
46590 Corporate Dr., Lexington Park  
11 a.m.

Social begins at 11 a.m. and the meeting starts at 11:30. Lunch can be purchased. The meeting is open to the public.

### Elk's Monday Night Poker

St. Mary's County Elk's Lodge  
45779 Fire Department Lane, California  
7 p.m.

Buy-in: \$35. Blinds will start at 25-50 and progress every 20 minutes. Please enter through the side of the building. For any question or additional details contact Linda Hill, 240-925-5697; [doxiemama1014@gmail.com](mailto:doxiemama1014@gmail.com)

## Upcoming

### Blue & Gray Event

Point Lookout State Park  
Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday, Sept. 14 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

This event will represent the artillery and infantry of Point Lookout. Demonstrations and exhibits will be presented by living history interpreters and will include military and civilian living history, scheduled small arms and artillery demonstrations and tours of historic Fort No. 3.

### Seldom Scene Concert

Calvert Elks Lodge #2620  
Prince Frederick  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2 p.m.,

The premier Bluegrass band, The Seldom Scene will headline the first concert of the season at the Southern Maryland Bluegrass Concert Series at the Calvert Elks in Prince Frederick. Tickets for the October 5 Seldom Scene performance are available now at \$40 per person, with advance purchase recommended as the event is expected to sell out. For more information, visit [www.somdbluegrass.com](http://www.somdbluegrass.com) or call 301-737-3004.

## Sat, Aug 23

### Women's Conference

First Missionary Baptist Church  
46370 Pegg Lane, Lexington Park  
9 a.m.-12 Noon

The theme: Women of God: "Committed, Consistent and Courageous". Onsite registration begins at 7:30 am. Breakfast will

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## In Remembrance

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

### Eddie Hall, 62



Edward "Eddie" Dale Hall, 62, of Leonardtown, Maryland passed away peacefully on August 12, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born on July 16, 1963, in Leonardtown, Eddie was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's County. He was the beloved son of Charles Aloysius Hall and Ellen Genevieve (Wilkinson) Hall. Eddie grew up deeply rooted in his community, attending Chopticon High School and staying active in his community throughout his life. In his spare time, he enjoyed working outdoors in his yard planting, pruning and mowing. Eddie enjoyed family vacations at the beach in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and spending time with his grandchildren.

On July 16, 2004, Eddie married the love of his life, Robin Hall, at the Olde Breton Inn. Together, they built a life full of love, laughter, and family. Eddie worked in the flooring industry for over 45 years and was a proud co-owner of Parran's Flooring Center, where he worked diligently and built a reputation for craftsmanship and integrity.

Eddie was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Robin Hall; his children, Justin Hall (Kristen), Joseph "Jay" Hall (Mary), and Lindsey Smoot (Russell); and his cherished grandchildren, Bruce Guy, Everett Smoot, Samuel "Sammy" Hall, Wrenn Smoot, and Luke Hall. He also leaves behind his mother-in-law Margery "GG" Pearson; his siblings Michael Hall (Joan), Deborah Brooks (Warren), David Hall (Nancy) and Nancy Borgschulte (John), as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at 1:00pm for a Celebration of Life at Olde Breton Inn, 21890 Society Hill Rd, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

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

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital: <https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>

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

### B.K. Abell, 69



Benjamin Kennedy Abell III, "B.K.," 69, of Mechanicsville, MD, formerly of Leonardtown, MD, passed away on August 17, 2025, at Georgetown University Hospital.

Born on January 10, 1956, in Leonardtown, MD, he was the son of the late Elizabeth Ann Abell and the late Benjamin Kennedy Abell, Jr. B.K. was the loving husband of Ida Evangeline Abell, whom he married on April 21, 1979, at Holy Angels Catholic Church in Avenue, MD. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children: Paul Abell (Aimee) of Middleton, FL, and Merissa Price (Steve) of Avenue, MD; his sisters: Cindy Worcester (Jeff) of LaPlata, MD, and Jenny McCabe (Pete) of Ashburn, VA; and his grandchildren: Jack Gray, Charlie Abell, Emerson Abell, and Cooper Price.

B.K. graduated from Chopticon High School in 1975. He was an Operating Engineer and retired in 2017. B.K. was also a life member of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department.

The family will receive friends on Friday, August 29, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mechanicsville, MD, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 NOON, with Father Michael Tietjen officiating. Interment will follow at Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery, Helen, MD.

Serving as pallbearers will be T.J. Kohut, Kevin Worcester, Michael David Woods, Andrew Mika, Mac Lawrence, and Greg Worcester. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Mechanicsville and Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department families.

Contributions may be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Society in Mechanicsville, the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, and/or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

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

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

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## A View From The BLEACHERS



### Seeker

By Ronald N. Guy  
Contributing Writer

Practice football with manufactured drama. A WNBA regular that's long in the tooth and begging for the start of the playoffs. A baseball season that's essentially over for half of MLB teams and still weeks away from October magic. No NBA. No NHL. No college football. The only real competitive juice is in Williamsport, Pennsylvania where kids from all over the globe are vying for a Little League World Series championship.

This is the August sports calendar. It's like the pot of green beans at Thanksgiving or Mondays – things we'd rather do without but are just part of life's drill...their only redeeming quality being to remind of how glorious gravy-drenched stuffing and Friday nights are.

And with that indictment, a recent August evening, predictably absent of live sports worth the time investment, had me digging deep through recorded programs across applications for some sort of sports fix. The Netflix mini-series "Enigma" offered the landing spot. For history buffs, this was not a reference to the World War II German encoding machine; rather, it was a three-part exploration of the prickly, complex, insufferable, mercurial and (obviously) enigmatic Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

Rodgers, now entering his 21st NFL season, is a fascinating story. In the running to be the first overall pick in the 2005 NFL Draft, he fell to Green Bay with 24th overall pick in what is still one of the most embarrassing draft experiences of all time, in any sport. His selection by the Packers was curious, considering legend Brett Favre was still behind center. It led to three years on the sideline for Rodgers, then a summer of drama as Favre retired, returned and then was abruptly traded to the New York Jets.

With the keys to the Packers car finally in his hands, Rodgers blossomed into one of the league's best, winning four MVP awards and, at the age of 27 and in just his third year as a starter, Super Bowl XLV. Several famous girlfriends, rumored family feuds, COVID vaccine controversies and lots of State Farm insurance commercials have followed over the years. As did injuries and playoff disappointments. Rodgers's Hall of Fame career in Green Bay ended in 2023 with a fizzle and, ironically, a trade to the Jets. Now he's clinging to NFL life, trying one more time in Pittsburgh to author a meaningful ending.

The Netflix documentary follows Rodgers's career chronologically, juxtaposed against his more recent self-discovery, a journey that has included experimentation with alternative healing methods and religions. For those of rigid mindsets, it comes off as peculiar. For those open to such things, the motivation of sharing such a deeply personal journey with the world, and in such an overt way, raises questions about Rodgers's authenticity.

Regardless, it's interesting, as are most things with Rodgers. At one point, he speaks about the profound "Now what?" feeling he had after winning the Super Bowl. In the wake of that ultimate professional accomplishment, he began to question the energy he had put into summing football's mountain. Was the obsession worth it? What had he sacrificed in life to focus on football – a game? And would that game satisfy his need to matter?

When contemplating his spirituality, E Street Band member and Bruce Springsteen bestie Clarence Clemons described himself, simply and powerfully, as a seeker. As time passes, and our birth trails farther in the distance and our end, both unknown and inevitable, approaches ahead, life presents moments that cause us to account for our time on Earth - the choices we've made, the path we are on the future we desire. The imminent end to a primary career, physical decline that constrains activity, a loss of a loved one, children heading off to college or just a generic mid-life crisis are inflection points inviting deep reflection. Whatever your opinion of Rodgers, and acknowledging he had led a life vastly different from this writer's and probably all the readers', the struggle with his choices, his lack of clarity, his search for meaning and his ultimate desire to find happiness and lasting contentment, certainly made an otherwise enigmatic human seem very relatable.

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

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With your future at stake, you may want to get guidance from a financial professional who can develop a personalized financial strategy to help you navigate life's curveballs.

Here are specific ways a financial advisor can help.

- *Create a customized long-term strategy.* This is the first step to weather unforeseen events. You may have several long-term investing goals — your retirement, your child's education or perhaps a dream vacation. A financial advisor can help you build a strategy specific to your goals and risk tolerance. This will include prioritizing those goals, building a path toward each and pivoting your strategy as markets shift and needs change.
- *Set realistic expectations.* Successful investing requires discipline and patience — most individual investors make their money over time, not overnight. Start by setting realistic timelines to reach each of your goals. And don't be surprised if you need to make trade-offs, like working an extra year to help fund your retirement dream home. It's realistic to expect you'll hit some bumps in the road. Perhaps the markets will drop and the value of your portfolio may follow. (It's also realistic to expect they will rebound, as they have historically. Of course, past performance of the markets is no guarantee of what will happen in the future.) A financial advisor can help you keep your emotions in check no matter what comes your way and stay focused on the long term, knowing you have a customized strategy in place.
- *Diversify your investments.* The foundation for your portfolio is your asset allocation, or how you divide your assets among stocks, bonds, cash and other investments. Different investments behave differently in various market conditions, so maintaining a good mix can help better weather market fluctuations than putting "all your eggs in one basket." Finding the right diversification mix, and keeping it balanced despite what the market does, can get complicated, but it's almost second nature for a good financial advisor. All investments do carry risk, and asset allocation doesn't ensure a profit or protect against loss in a declining market.
- *Keep a long-term outlook.* It's easy to become distracted by the latest headline, expert prediction or market swing. However, if these events don't change your long-term outlook, there probably isn't a reason to make changes to your strategy. In fact, these declines often present good opportunities if you're a long-term investor, so use them to your advantage — your financial advisor can show you how.
- *Keep your emergency savings well-funded.* This is your "rainy day" fund, and an unexpected event may constitute a rainy day. For most people, maintaining three to six months of total expenses in emergency savings is appropriate. The specific amount depends on factors like your risk of unexpected expenses or temporary loss of income, and how much you value being confident that you can weather financial emergencies. A financial advisor can help you determine what your emergency savings should look like.

Unexpected events are part of life. You can't predict them, but you can prepare for them. No matter what is going on around you, having a professional by your side can help set you up to navigate them confidently.

*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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# What to Know About Lupus

Estimates from the Lupus Foundation of America indicate roughly five million people across the globe have a form of lupus. Though that figure suggests a person's chances of developing lupus are slim, it's still worth anyone's time to gain a basic understanding of the disease.

## What is lupus?

The Lupus Research Alliance reports lupus is a serious autoimmune disease that prompts the immune system to attack healthy cells by mistake. Lupus is a chronic disease that requires long-term treatment. The LRA notes that symptoms vary among individuals with lupus, which can make the disease difficult to detect.

## Types of lupus

Lupus Canada notes that there are four different types of lupus.

- **Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE):** SLE is a chronic illness, but Lupus Canada notes that most people diagnosed with it are not continuously sick for the rest of their lives. The LRA reports SLE affects many parts of the body. If left untreated, the inflammation resulting from SLE can cause organ damage and compromise organ function.
- **Cutaneous lupus:** Cutaneous lupus causes a rash or lesion on the skin, typically after skin is exposed to sunlight. Lupus Canada notes cutaneous lupus is not life-threatening and does not affect internal parts of the body. However,



cutaneous lupus may sometimes occur along with SLE, so individuals may experience skin rashes in addition to symptoms associated with SLE.

- **Drug-induced lupus:** Some people develop lupus due to an overreaction to certain medications. In such instances, the disease is characterized as drug-induced lupus and typically goes away once a person stops taking the medication that triggered the response.
- **Neonatal lupus:** The LRA notes that autoantibodies are immune proteins that mistakenly target the body's own tissues and organs when a person has an autoimmune disease, such as lupus. Neonatal lupus occurs when an infant acquires autoantibodies from a mother

with SLE. Issues associated with neonatal lupus, including problems that affect the skin, liver and blood, typically resolve within six months. However, congenital heart block associated with neonatal lupus requires a pacemaker.

## Symptoms of lupus

Symptoms of lupus vary so widely that the LRA characterizes it as "the disease with 1,000 faces." However, some symptoms are more common than others. The LRA notes the most common symptoms of lupus include:

- **Fatigue:** As many as 90 percent of lupus patients identify fatigue as a primary symptom of their condition.

However, the LRA notes that scientists remain uncertain if the fatigue lupus patients feel is a byproduct of the disease or the treatments used to manage it.

- **Butterfly rash:** Also known as a malar rash, the rash that appears across the cheeks and the bridge of the nose in the shape of a butterfly is experienced by roughly half of all people with lupus. The rash is red and can last from days to weeks, and some people experience pain or itchiness as well.
- **Arthritis:** The LRA reports that up to 90 percent of people with lupus will have arthritis.
- **Unexplained fever:** Most people with SLE experience unexplained fevers (body temperatures over 100 F).

## Are some people more vulnerable to lupus?

Lupus Canada notes that women between the ages of 15 and 45 are most often affected by lupus. In fact, the Lupus Foundation of America reports that 90 percent of people living with lupus are women.

In addition, while Caucasian women are not invulnerable to lupus, the Lupus Research Alliance reports that the disease is more common in women of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent.

Lupus can pose a notable threat to those diagnosed with the disease. More information is available at [lupus.org](http://lupus.org).

# Strategies to Manage and Tame Stress

Stress is a part of life. In small doses, stress can have a positive effect. But when stress is chronic, it can take its toll on the body and mind.


Stress can make people irritable and cause them to lash out at others. Stress also can contribute to high blood pressure and adversely affect sleep. When confronting chronic stress, individuals may have to take action to find relief. These stress-busting strategies can help.

- **Engage in physical activity.** The Mayo Clinic says any form of exercise can help relieve stress. Physical activity boosts chemicals in the brain and endorphins that help a person feel good. Exercise also can refocus attention so a person is not preoccupied with a stressful thought or situation.
- **Listen to music.** Music can be calming and serve as a distraction from stressful feelings. Simply listening to music can be a quick fix for a stressful situation and a bad mood.
- **Review your lifestyle.** It's easy to take on too much, but doing so can lead to feelings of being overwhelmed, says the Mental Health Foundation. Prioritizing some things over others and delegating when possible can tame stress.
- **Practice mindfulness.** Breathing and

mindfulness exercises can be practiced anywhere. Research has shown that mindfulness can reduce the effects of stress and anxiety. Deep breathing and being in a quiet moment when stress peaks may help to reduce stress.


- **Step away for a few minutes.** If possible, step away from a stressful situation, whether it is a difficult project at work or a loud room with a lot of activity going on. Many people find commuting stressful. Changing the route to one that avoids busy roads, even if it takes a bit longer to get from point A to point B, might help.
- **Talk it out.** Sometimes connecting with others and sharing experiences can help to relieve stress. Keeping feelings in and fixating on a situation may exacerbate feelings of stress. Social situations that encourage talking and laughing can lighten a person's mental load, says the Mayo Clinic.
- **Don't turn to substances.** Alcohol and drugs may temporarily relieve stress, but this approach can lead to addiction and even worsen the physical and mental toll stress takes on the body.

Stress is a part of life, but finding ways to manage chronic stress is vital to long-term health.



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# Fitness Classes Women Can Try

Ask people what their top New Year's resolution is each year and they're likely to say something along the lines of "lose weight" or "get fit." That is why area gyms run specials throughout the month of January as they seek to attract new people intent on improving their overall health. Too often these resolutions are a distant memory by the ides of March.

Despite repeatedly hearing about how important diet and exercise can be for personal health, and even despite the same resolutions made at the start of every year, a survey from Healthy People 2020, an initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services, found only 24 percent of Americans 18 and older met current aerobic physical activity and muscle-strengthening guidelines.

Among those who exercise regularly, a study published in the International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science found women tend to exercise more than men and have different exercise habits and motivation to exercise. Women were apt to exercise to control weight, while men do so to improve fitness level. As women find more time for exercise, they may be drawn to the various classes available that can help them meet their exercise goals.

- **Barre classes:** Barre classes are inspired by ballet and work on the ballet bar. They are designed to help



participants develop a lean and long dancer's body. The classes may be low-intensity or vigorous, depending on the instructor. They certainly will be leg-heavy with a lot of squat or plié type maneuvers.

- **Zumba®:** Zumba is a danced-based

class that incorporates dance styles from around the world, but tends to feature a notable concentration of Latin moves. The music is full of energy, and instructors engage the classes with fancy footwork that feels more like visiting a dance club than a workout

studio.

- **Cycling:** Riding a bicycle pays enormous cardiovascular dividends. Stationary bikes line workout rooms, and the instructor varies the pace and intensity to simulate various real-world conditions.
- **Circuit classes:** Circuit classes feature short intervals at various stations or machines. Participants move around the circuit in predetermined periods of time to complete the exercises.
- **HIIT:** HIIT stands for high intensity interval training. HIIT features short bursts (anywhere from 30 seconds to 3 minutes) of cardiovascular exercises that are designed to work at intense levels with recovery, but not rest periods. This keeps the heart pumping and is designed to boost metabolism. Plus, the workouts are short, so time-crunched people don't have to devote as much time to the gym each day.
- **Aerial fitness:** Those who have been to the circus may have been amazed at the aerial artistry of being twisted and suspended in silk. Aerial fitness classes blend elements of this performance art with gymnastics and yoga.

Exercise classes come in many forms and can motivate women to fully commit to their fitness goals.



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# Grove Family Health

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Leonardtown, MD**

### Providing Proactive Primary Care

## What Is Grove Family Health – And Why Is Direct Primary Care the Future of Healthcare in Our Community?

Have you ever felt rushed through a medical visit? Waited weeks to be seen? Or have you been hit with a confusing bill after what should have been a simple appointment? You're not alone—and it's exactly why **Grove Family Health**, your local family primary care clinic, was created.

Based in Leonardtown, Maryland, Grove Family Health is a new kind of healthcare experience—a **family clinic built on trust, time, and accessibility**, all made possible through a model called **Direct Primary Care (DPC)**.

### What Is Direct Primary Care (DPC)?

**Direct Primary Care** is a simple, affordable, and relationship-based approach to healthcare. Instead of billing insurance for every visit, test, or procedure, patients pay a flat monthly fee—much like a subscription—to receive ongoing care.

DPC practices are built around **direct access to your provider, transparent pricing, and longer appointments** that prioritize prevention and whole-person wellness. This model allows patients to avoid co-pays, surprise bills, and long wait times.

It's healthcare on your terms—**unrushed, proactive, and deeply personal**.

### What Makes Grove Family Health Different?

At **Grove Family Health**, that Direct Primary Care model is brought to life by **Sheri Dean, CRNP**, a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 20 years of experience. She opened the clinic to serve her community with **more time, more access, and more heart**.

As a member, you get:

- Unlimited in-office visits for wellness, sick care, and

chronic condition management

- **Direct communication with Sheri by phone, secure messaging, email—even after hours**
- Access to **telehealth and in-home visits** when appropriate
- Personalized attention and appointment times long enough to truly address your concerns

And yes, we have a waiting room—but **most patients barely spend any time in it**. You're seen when you're scheduled, and your visit is never rushed.

We also coordinate with your insurance when helpful—like for labs, prescriptions, imaging, and specialist referrals—so your coverage still supports you, without interfering with your care.

### Not Ready for Membership?

That's okay—**Grove Family Health also offers affordable, one-time urgent care visits** for non-members. Whether you need help for a minor injury, infection, or sudden illness, you can get fast, high-quality care without the long waits or inflated costs of traditional urgent care centers.

### A Smart Option for Small Business Owners

For small business owners, Grove Family Health is more than a clinic—it's a **partner in keeping your team healthy**.

- Already offer insurance? DPC enhances it with faster access, fewer absences, and better outcomes.
- Not offering insurance yet? A Grove membership gives your employees **real care and peace of mind**—without the overwhelming cost of traditional plans.

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- Support you when you need motivation the most

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A Special Pull Out Section

# Women's **HEALTH** & WELLNESS



# Weis Markets Celebrates Grand Opening of Charlotte Hall Location

Weis Markets celebrated the opening of its new Charlotte Hall store with a media preview event and ribbon cutting on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025.

The new store, located at 30015 Three Notch Road, is the 51<sup>st</sup> Weis Markets location in Maryland and is open to the public as of August 21.

In celebration of the grand opening and to thank the community for the warm welcome, Weis Markets presented \$1,500 donations to local organizations, including Charlotte Hall Veterans Homes, Chopticon High School, and Mechanicsville Fire Department. A \$10,000 donation was also made to the Maryland Food Bank in support of its efforts in St. Mary's County.

The new 60,000+ square-foot store is one of the company's most state-of-art stores, including an expansive produce department with a wide selection of organic produce; full-service seafood department; full-service meat and seafood departments; sushi prepared in-store daily; a deli offering a wide selection of sliced meats and cheeses

along with a heat and serve meal section; Starbucks kiosk offering offer a variety of hot and cold beverages, bakery items, mugs, and whole and ground beans; a wide selection of organic and natural foods; a full-service drive-thru pharmacy; and a six-pump Gas N' Go fuel center where customers can redeem their Weis Rewards points.

The store also features energy efficient LED lighting and CO2 refrigerated cases, which use significantly less harmful refrigerants than those in most supermarkets.

Additionally, the store will offer Weis 2 Go Online ordering with curbside pick-up and delivery, through which customers can order online and have their groceries handpicked by trained personal shoppers for pick-up or home delivery through DoorDash, Instacart, Shipt and Uber Eats.

Elected officials from St. Mary's County attended the ribbon cutting, alongside local community members and Weis Markets executives, including Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Weis and Chief Operating Officer Bob Gleeson.



# Business Awarded Livestock Processing Grant/Loan

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD), and the Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) are excited to announce a recipient of their new Southern Maryland Livestock Processing Revolving Loan Fund, which was opened to the public via a Request For Proposal back in February of this year.

Created by SMADC in partnership with MARBIDCO, this two-part program features a \$200,000 no-match grant and a \$250,000 loan with forgivable options (both funded by SMADC), targeting capital and equipment investments in meat processing facilities in the five Southern Maryland Counties. The program supports local livestock farmers by expanding USDA-inspected meat processing services for retail sale, thereby increasing access to fresh, locally sourced meat for consumers.

Via the application and its extensive review process, Stauffer's Butcher Barn in St. Mary's County, has been awarded the grant-loan program. They are using the program to acquire meat processing equipment and to expand their existing custom exempt operation to include USDA inspected and approved retail processing. Through the improvements made by the loan-grant combo, Stauffer's Butcher Barn will offer processing for beef, hogs, sheep and goats while also adding in USDA inspected and approved retail capabilities for intact and nonintact meats, sausages and other specialty products; a service much needed for livestock producers in the Southern Maryland Region.

The Stauffer family, headed by Steven



and Jen Stauffer, who operate the business with their children, Jayden, Waylon and Warren, have restored one of the oldest tobacco barns in the county and constructed a meat processing shop within its structure. This barn, which is over a century old, is a source of pride for the family as they maintain its functionality.

Once fully certified by the USDA, Stauffer's Butcher Barn will be able to provide the following services to the farming community:

- Facilitate the sale of fresh meat by providing local services for cutting, wrapping, and labeling.
- Provide value-added services including smoking, fermentation, sausage-making, scrapple production, and stuffed hams.
- Improve the profitability of local livestock producers by lowering costs and enhancing sales opportunities.
- Establish a dedicated retail area for selling locally produced items, promoting consumer engagement, and broadening markets for Southern Maryland

livestock farmers.

Customers of the Butcher Barn will continue to have the option to choose their desired meat cuts, with the specialty products being vacuum sealed and frozen before collection by the farmers.

Stauffer's Butcher Barn has the ability to work in conjunction with West Forty Market, the Amish owned USDA approved slaughterhouse in Mechanicsville that SMADC worked with to become USDA certified back in 2021. Located only 15 miles apart, livestock carcasses can be transported via refrigerated truck from the Amish slaughterhouse facility to final end processing at Stauffer's Butcher Barn, allowing farmers in Southern Maryland to deliver live animals off at the slaughterhouse and pick up finished final product from the Stauffer's, all within the same county. This is a big improvement over the many hours of driving each way that farmers currently do when they take their animals to processors in Northern Maryland, the Eastern Shore, or Virginia.

"We are incredibly grateful for the

opportunity to collaborate with SMADC and MARBIDCO. What began as a family tradition has grown into a business we once only dreamed of—one our community truly needs," the Stauffer family said. "In just a few years, we've gone from working in minimal space with limited equipment to operating in a renovated facility with some of the best processing equipment available. Thanks to this support, we are now positioned to provide high-quality USDA retail processing services to our local livestock producers in the very near future."

Mary Wood, chair of SMADC's board, said locally produced and processed meat helps the regional meat industry grow and thrive. "Farmers currently must travel out of state or to the far corners of our state to have their meat processed under USDA certification. With the help of SMADC and MARBIDCO, Stauffer's Butcher Barn is now working to provide this service locally to Southern Maryland meat producers, so that they can in turn serve consumer demand for local meat products."

"MARBIDCO is delighted to collaborate with SMADC and the TCCSMD to promote a viable and profitable farming community in Southern Maryland by investing in local livestock processing capacity to support livestock producers," said the organization in its most recent newsletter. "Supporting the livestock processing sector is a key aspect of MARBIDCO's agricultural development mission."

SMADC will continue to work with Stauffer's to provide administrative support as they walk through the process of certification with the USDA.

*Press release from SMADC*

# BRADFORDS

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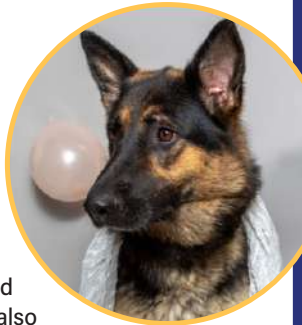


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## MEET THE PUPPIES

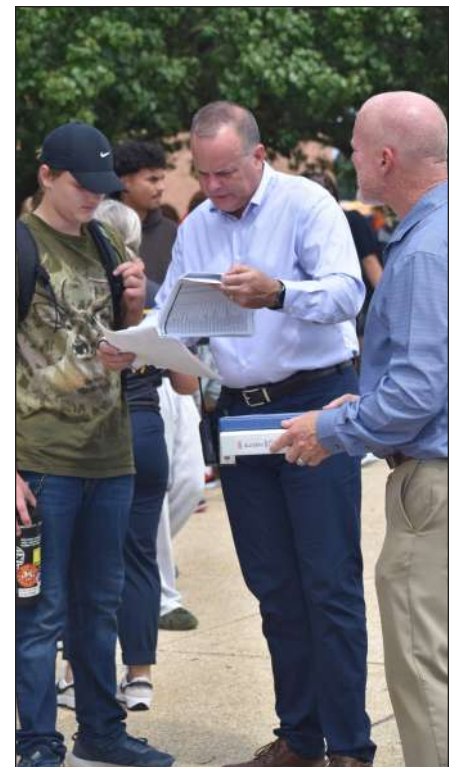
Animal Relief Fund has adorable puppies ready to steal your heart — from bouncy 3-4 month olds to snuggly 8-week-old babies! If you've been thinking about adding a new family member, now's the time. Learn more and apply at <http://www.animalrelieffund.org>



# St. Mary's Goes Back to School



Photo by Ceandra Scott



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# Hill Sworn In as Circuit Court Judge

On Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, Kevin R. Hill was sworn in as a St. Mary's County Circuit Court Judge. Investiture guests were invited to a reception immediately following the ceremony at St. Clair West in Clements.

Immediately prior to his appointment, Judge Hill served as the Family Law Magistrate in the St. Mary's County Circuit Court since 2020. He assumes the Circuit Court seat of the Honorable Judge Michael J. Stamm who passed away unexpectedly in October 2024.

Prior to attending law school, Judge Hill managed his family's restaurant business for over 15 years, first at the Hill's Halfway House in Mechanicsville, and later at the St. Mary's Landing Restaurant in Charlotte Hall. He stated in his investiture remarks that he attributes his work ethic and understanding of the needs of St. Mary's County citizens "from the years serving the public and working with his parents to build a successful family-owned local business."

Judge Hill has spent almost his entire legal career in public service. He was recognized as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2017 while serving as an Assistant State's Attorney with the State's Attorney Office for St. Mary's County.

Uniquely, Judge Hill served as an Assistant Public Defender for many years before becoming a prosecutor. He has litigated criminal misdemeanor, civil cases, and serious felony cases in St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert counties.

Presently, Judge Hill is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Maryland, Global Campus where he teaches courses in Business Law, Litigation, and professional development. He serves on two local non-profit Boards of Directors, volunteers with the W.A.R.M. program, and directs a mentorship initiative for recent law school graduates.

Judge Hill earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's College of Maryland



Judge Kevin R. Hill

– with majors in Political Science, Public Policy, and Economics with a business concentration, becoming St. Mary's College's first graduate with a triple major. He earned his law degree with honors from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, where he was recognized as a Washington Area Clinical Law Student of the Year, awarded the school's Dean's Cup, and was an Associate Editor on the school's Law Review.

Over the next few months Judge Hill will have to complete a series of orientation and instruction through the Maryland Judiciary which includes multi-day courses in family law, criminal law, New Judge Orientation, and the Office of Administrative Courts judicial conference on Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency.

Judge Hill will have to stand for an election in the 2026 election cycle.

Press release

# Resurfacing Begins on Southbound MD 5

The Maryland State Highway Administration will resurface a section of southbound MD 5 (Three Notch Road) between MD 6 (New Market Turner Road) and MD 235 starting as soon as the week of Aug. 18.

The project should be completed by early October, weather permitting.

Crews will remove the top layer of asphalt, patch, and resurface MD 5 within the project limits. Drivers should expect nighttime single-lane closures from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sundays through Thursdays. Work hours are subject to change.

The State Highway Administration's contractor F. O. Day Company Inc. of Rockville will use portable variable message signs,

temporary traffic signs and barrels to guide motorists through the work zone.

Customers with questions about this roadwork may contact the District 5 Office at 410-841-1000 or toll-free at 1-800-331-5603. The State Highway Administration is Serious about Safety and asks drivers to slow down in the work zone for the safety of all drivers and the crews working to improve our roadways.

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

Press Release from SHA

## Wentworth Nursery

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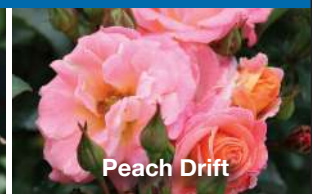
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## Legal Notices

**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 Inflatable 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.

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



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## Fourth Suspect Arrested for Great Mills Shooting

Deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with the U.S. Marshals Service, have arrested Dequan Marquis Spicer, 24, of Great Mills, in connection with a shooting on May 3, 2025.

In the early morning of May 3, 2025, patrol deputies conducting proactive patrols near 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, Cameron David Louis Curtis, 22, of Valley Lee, and Peyton James Robert Curtis, 20, of Callaway, were arrested in connection with the incident. Jayshawn Maurice Bartless, 21, of Lexington Park, was arrested on August 1, 2025. The three suspects remain incarcerated at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center, awaiting trial.

As the investigation continued, detectives identified a fourth suspect, Dequan Marquis Spicer, 24, of Great Mills, as also being involved in the shooting. Spicer was located in North Carolina and extradited to St. Mary's County on July 3, 2025.

Spicer was transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center and served with an Indictment warrant on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, for the following charges:



Dequan Marquis Spicer

- Four counts of attempted first-degree murder
- Four counts of attempted second-degree murder
- Four counts of assault first-degree
- Four counts of assault second-degree
- Loaded handgun on person
- Handgun in vehicle
- Loaded handgun in 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](mailto:Keith.Moritz@stmaryscountymd.gov).

*Press Release from SMCSO*

## Sheriff's Office Alerts Over Extortion Scam

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is urging residents to be aware of a disturbing extortion scheme in which scammers pose as members of violent drug cartels, sending graphic threats to intimidate victims into sending money.

Variations of the scam have been reported across the United States, and recent similar incidents have been reported in St. Mary's County. In these cases, victims receive text messages or phone calls claiming to be from cartels. The messages often include explicit images and personal details, such as names, addresses, or family information, likely gathered from social media or public records.

The goal is to instill immediate fear and panic. Scammers may falsely claim that a loved one has been kidnapped and is in imminent danger, demanding payment through wire transfers, prepaid cards, or mobile banking apps.

"These scams are designed to make you react before you have time to think," said Patrol Community Services Division Commander. Captain Stephen Simonds.

Their only objective is to get your money. Do not engage.

Common tactics include:

- Repeated calls or texts to keep victims under pressure.
- Using personal details to make threats sound more credible.
- Urging victims to avoid contacting authorities.

What to do if contacted:

- Do not respond to the threats or send money.
- Immediately contact the supposed victim to confirm their safety.
- Block the number, document all messages, and avoid sharing personal details online.

If you feel that you are a victim of this or other scams, please call our non-emergency number at 301-475-4040 to make a report.

"Your best defense is awareness," Captain Simonds said. "If you receive one of these messages, stay calm, verify, and report."

*Press Release from SMCSO*

# Waterway Improvement Projects Approved

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County have approved the receipt of the county's portion of the State Waterway Improvement Fund for the current fiscal year and have approved their application to tap the fund for the next fiscal year.

According to Director of Recreation and Parks Raymond Bivens, the Waterway Improvement Fund comes from "an excise tax on sale of boat registration, as well as a portion of the state gas tax."

The county has been allocated \$249,000 for this fiscal year, of which \$199,000 goes to Wicomico Shores and \$50,000 to Forest Landing improvements.

The application for Fiscal Year 2027 is also for \$249,000 and would be used for repairs at St. Georges and Tall Timber landings, according to Bivens.

Commissioner Mike Hewitt commended the department for the past projects completed with Waterway Improvement monies. "Bottom line is that the improvements to these boat ramps have been wonderful. The one at Clark's Landing is great. The one at Forest Landing, I don't really think it needs much down there, but hey, you're the expert and if you get the money, go ahead and fix it. Bushwood, everyone, you've done has been a great job."



Forrest Landing

Bivens said, "I think continuing the maintenance is very important, but looking forward to the future, (also) trying to expand and add parking as the county grows."

For instance, Bivens noted there was no parking at Tall Timbers Landing.

Bivens explained, "We recently sent a letter out to landowners near us, just letting

them know that we have open space funds. We're always interested. Please come talk to us first. So, I have a meeting tomorrow with one that responded to that letter."

Hewitt noted, "I tell you the one at Forest Landing, if you don't get there early, you don't get a place to park, don't get a place to put your trailer."

Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "I had a conversation with the DNR director this past week at MACO (Maryland Association of Counties convention), and she's excited to hear more about Snow Hill Park and based on my flowery description of it and how we are going, the frustration we're feeling with the boat ramp. And I realize that's Army Corps of Engineers issue right now."

Bivens told Colvin he believes the issues have been resolved.

Bivens also presented the Fiscal Year 2026 Developmental Disabilities Administration Grant Award in the amount of \$35,000.

Bivens said, "This grant supports Camp Discovery. We just concluded our four-week program with 49 participants. These are special individuals with special needs. It's a fantastic program that provides respite care to families." He said Colvin joined them for their final day.

Colvin said, "I had multiple parents come up and just thank me and over and over again. I heard, 'I don't know what we would do if this program wasn't here'."

The county has received a similar grant for 25 years and Bivens said they have been told they are eligible for an extra \$5,219 this year.

*dickmyers@countytimes.net*

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# It's Back to School at St. Mary's Ryken

## New Principal Enters First Year

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Although it was back to school on Wednesday, Aug. 20 for St. Mary's County Public Schools, including the three high schools, the students at St. Mary's Ryken in Leonardtown get a short reprieve. They begin class on Tuesday, Aug 26.

There is, however, a flurry of activity this week as teachers and staff return to campus to prepare for the new school year. And one thing especially new this year is their principal, Thomas "Tom" Campbell, who assumed the helm of the school last month.

Campbell was raised in Montgomery County where he went to high school at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Olney, a school that he has been principal of since 2013, before accepting his new responsibility. Both schools are sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers.

St. Mary's Ryken was established in 1981 and traces its roots in Catholic education to St. Mary's Academy (est. 1885) and Ryken High School (est. 1956).

St. Mary's Ryken has 680 students, of which 46 percent are from St. Mary's County, 26 percent from Charles, 12 percent from Calvert, nine percent from Prince George's and seven percent from other areas.

Campbell, since his former and current school are sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers, had contacts at Ryken, which is how the school is often locally referred to.

Campbell explained that Theodore James Ryken founded Xaverian Brothers in around 1839. "Ryken was motivated to start a religious order of brothers rather than priests who would engage in missionary work. And at the time, once he got the order up and running, one of the areas that he saw as a need for missionary work was the American West. And so, he and a small group of brothers made their way as far as Louisville, Kentucky, before the money ran out, and the local bishop asked them to start a school. And so, their missionary work, their evangelization, just took a different form than what he originally intended. And they opened their first school in Louisville in about 1864, which is still open today. And then they went throughout the United States from there."

He said of the local community, "I've always been impressed. What a wonderful school and what a wonderful community."

Campbell, 50, and his wife have moved to the area and attend St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown. They have three children, the youngest being 17, and who will be attending St. Mary's Ryken.

In addition to the school, he said, "We love being close to the water. We've fallen in love with Solomons Island. We're slowly making our way around any restaurant in the area that has a water view. But we've also just enjoyed the people in this part of the state. Everybody has been so friendly, and so welcoming."

His entire career has been in Catholic education. After several schools, he became

associate superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, before returning to Good Counsel. "We were down there for six years, and we missed being close to family, missed being close to friends."

Campbell said, "I was in Catholic schools through 12<sup>th</sup> grade before moving on to college. Faith is very important to me. Faith is very important to my family and to be able to combine my desire, and passion for working with young people and education with that faith led me to a career working in the Catholic school system."

But you don't need to be Catholic to attend Ryken. Why would a non-Catholic attend? He replied, "I think Catholic schools have, in my opinion, a reputation for academic excellence, for strong discipline, and for focusing on the whole student. So, the student academically, socially, personally, as well as spiritually. I think, in my experience in Catholic education, there is no difference that people of all faiths, backgrounds, and traditions appreciate the values-centered education that students receive. So even if one is not particularly religious, and especially if someone is not Catholic, they still appreciate and want that education grounded in values, and the ability to talk about God and to talk about faith and explore those issues at a formative time in a student's life."

Currently there are no Xaverian Brothers on the staff, which he noted is a national problem. "If you look through a lot of religious orders, there are few that are flourishing, but unfortunately there are more that are seeing a decline."

This week at school is filled with "faculty and staff meetings, getting organized, letting them have time to plan, meet with department colleagues, set up their classrooms."

On Aug. 19 there was a college application workshop for the seniors. On Aug. 20, international students will be on campus for an orientation. "And then Wednesday and Thursday we have our new students, so incoming freshmen and any transfers who will be on campus for their orientation."

The school has a lot of special academic and extracurricular activities. Campbell said, "The Xaverian Brothers really value placing an emphasis on students identifying their gifts and talents and using those gifts and talents to their fullest. So, we have a full array of academic programs. I've been impressed. Academically, we have three different engineering programs. We have a flight academy, where students can work toward passing their ground, certification for the pilot's licensure. We have advanced placement.

"So, we have the arts, theater classes, instrumental music, visual arts, choral music, and that extends beyond the school day as well. So, we have a full selection of athletics, including sailing, which is not something you see at a lot of schools, but all of the traditional ones: field hockey, soccer, football, cross country, tennis, golf, basketball, ice hockey."

He added, "We also have fantastic fine

arts programs. So, our theater company puts on two performances a year. We have a dance recital; we have instrumental and vocal concerts. It's a very active campus."

He added, "Trying to, to identify where students' passions and gifts are and then giving them an outlet for those on campus. And of course, we also have our campus ministry programs as well, with full retreat program."

There also is a program on campus "which supplies home goods, anything a family might need that is just setting up a house, and for those who need that assistance." Students staff it.

He noted, "We have a great service component, so it really is that tradition of our education."

Why would he recommend a Catholic education to both Catholics and non-Catholics? He said, "When your goal is development of the entire person, then the strong academics and the faith formation go hand in hand, or one 'A' and one 'B'; they're almost inseparable. And if you're a Catholic, that means growing deeper in your faith as a Catholic and learning more about it and understanding the richness of the history and the traditions and the values and why we do what we do as Catholics.

"And I think if you're not Catholic, it could also be not only just learning about another faith but also exploring your own



St. Mary's Ryken Principal Tom Campbell

faith and having the opportunity to be in a faith-centered environment that allows you to grow in your, whatever that might be. The brothers are very inclusive in that regard. We see that diversity of students, and I mean diversity in every meaning of the word. We see that as enriching to the entire community."

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

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# Grants Aimed at Inmate Mental Health

## Large Jail Population Has Mental Health Issues

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The beginning of the county's Fiscal year on July 1 usually leads to a flurry of activity in applying for or accepting grants from the state, which also operates in the same fiscal year.

The Aug. 19 Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) meeting, after not meeting for several weeks, did include such a grant onslaught, including a half dozen grants for law enforcement and emergency services.

Several dealt with addressing substance abusees and those with other mental health issues at the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center. Monies from one of the grants would cover the cost of a licensed social worker.

Warden Mary Ann Thompson reported to the commissioners, "We really do need to expand the mental health coverage in the building. This would add another licensed social worker, because currently at the moment I have nine (inmates) that are waiting to go to the state hospital. We have 50 percent of our mental health population that is on medication. So, this would be a great bonus for us to be able to work with the population inside the detention center, as well as to provide some aftercare planning so that when they're released we can do warm handoffs with the community."

Thompson added, "Nine are awaiting to go to either Perkins, Spring Grove, or Springfield. So, they've been deemed incompetent."

Thompson advised that of the 298 inmates at the detention center, 182 are being observed or they're already mental health patients.

Thompson said, "It is huge because there's so much dual diagnosis with co-occurring substance abuse and with mental health."

The grants will cover two registered nurses and two peer recovery specialists, the licensed social worker and some of the



Warden Mary Ann Thompson

cost of medications.

The three detention center grants total around \$340,000

In other grant actions:

- Approved the FY2026 School Resource Officer / Adequate Coverage Grant from the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Center for School Safety, in the amount of \$196,906 (excluding county funding) for two School Resources Officers (SROs).
- Approved the FY26 GOCPP Gun Violence Reduction Grant award of \$79,552 for a peer recovery specialist in the state's attorney's office.
- Approved the spending plan for the Maryland 9-1-1 Board Trust Fund, Project MD2638 for the total amount of \$951,900 for FY2026. Used for security, maintenance, and training for emergency communications. Fund money comes from a surcharge on cell phone usage.

The commissioners unanimously approved all of the grant requests.

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

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**“WE REALLY DO NEED TO EXPAND THE MENTAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN THE BUILDING.”**

ST. MARY'S COUNTY DETENTION AND REHABILITATION CENTER WARDEN  
MARY ANN THOMPSON



**LOCAL 7**  
Commissioners approve waterway improvement projects



**LOCAL 8**  
Fourth arrest made in Great Mills shooting



**ON THE COVER**  
St. Mary's prepares to go back to school

## WEEKLY FORECAST

<b>THU, AUG 21</b> Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 61°	<b>FRI, AUG 22</b> Sunny Hi: 79° Lo: 61°	<b>SAT, AUG 23</b> Sunny Hi: 80° Lo: 66°	<b>SUN, AUG 24</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 82° Lo: 67°
<b>MON, AUG 25</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 81° Lo: 62°	<b>TUE, AUG 26</b> Mostly Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 60°	<b>WED, AUG 27</b> Partly Cloudy Hi: 76° Lo: 59°	<b>THU, AUG 28</b> Sunny Hi: 77° Lo: 60°

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**Grants Target Inmate  
Mental Health**

**Fourth Arrest Made in  
Great Mills Shooting**

**Hill Sworn in as  
Circuit Court Judge**



# RYKEN WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL