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Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

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**Calvert Test Scores
Outperform State**

**Proclamation Issued for
Domestic Violence**

**MACO Briefs Commissioners
on General Assembly**

**PRAD CELEBRATES
HISTORY, PRESERVATION**





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Registration opens at 7 a.m. | Race starts at 8:30 a.m.

CalvertHealth's 16th annual Breast Cancer 5K run/walk benefiting the Sheldon E. Goldberg Center for Breast care will be held on beautiful Solomons Island.

Support this year's 5K alongside friends, family and community members.

We are striving to make this year's event our most successful 5K yet, so don't miss out on the inspiration and fun.

5K Run/Walk: \$40 (before Oct. 10)

Fun Walk (about 1.5 mile loop!): \$40 (before Oct. 10)

Day of Race Registration: \$50

Thanks to our generous sponsor, **Seven Lands and Seas Travel**, when you sign up for the 2025 CalvertHealth Breast Cancer 5K, you're making a difference and earning a chance to **win a Viking Cruise valued up to \$10,000!** Each registration counts as an entry. The drawing will take place at the 5K—but you don't need to be present to claim your prize. *Must be 18 or older to win.*

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For more information on the event or sponsorship opportunities, contact the Foundation Office at **410.414.4570** or email: foundation@calverthealthmed.org

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deaths/ 100,000 females

Compared to:

MD Counties
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U.S. Counties
19.6



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"I GUESS I DON'T PUT AS MUCH WEIGHT ON COMPARING US TO THE STATE."

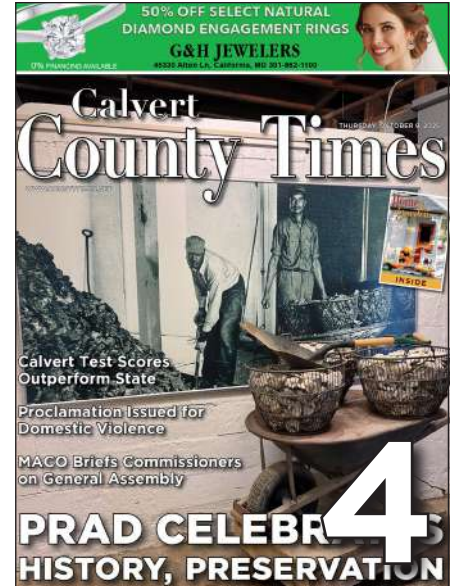
SCHOOL BOARD VP LISA GRENIS ON NEW MCAP TEST SCORES



LOCAL 6
Commissioners review MCAP results



LOCAL 8
Lobbying group discusses state budget's impact on Calvert



ON THE COVER
Lore Oyster House highlights Patuxent history

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 9	FRI, OCT 10	SAT, OCT 11	SUN, OCT 12
Sunny Hi: 63° Lo: 48°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 54°	Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 59°	Rain Hi: 66° Lo: 55°
MON, OCT 13	TUE, OCT 14	WED, OCT 15	THU, OCT 16
Rain Hi: 64° Lo: 56°	Mostly Cloudy Hi: 71° Lo: 56°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 73° Lo: 52°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 51°



Community Crab Feast



Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025

Choose your time: 1-3 p.m. or 4-6 p.m.

Abner's Crab House at 3748 Harbor Road in Chesapeake Beach

A fundraiser for the Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse, Inc. (CAASA)



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per person

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CAASACrabfeast2025.eventbrite.com
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PRAD Continues a 47-Year Tradition

Lore Oyster House Makes Informative Side Trip

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

It's been an annual tradition at Calvert Marine Museum since 1978. Patuxent River Appreciation Days does exactly what the name implies. It shows appreciation for the gem that defines Calvert County's western boundary. This year the event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum.

Oystering has been an integral part of the river's history. The museum's Lore Oyster House, newly refurbished, is an ideal place to learn about that aspect of the river's history. The Lore Oyster House is located on Solomons Island just a short distance from Calvert Marine Museum. It will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on Oct. 11 and would make an ideal side trip for PRAD visitors.

Museum Deputy Director Rachelle Green explained, "The Lore Oyster House is about almost a mile from Calvert Marine Museum's main campus. It was the JC Lore and Son from about the mid 1930s through 1978. When you walk into the Lore Oyster House, you're actually walking into the final stage of the oyster journey. It's double doors that would have trucks. It's basically the loading area for shipping oysters."

She explained, "And as you walk further into the oyster house, there's a large open room, and this is where the oysters were loaded into the building from a hatch through the roof. As you move further to the right, there are two side by side oyster shucking rooms. These were the rooms where oyster shuckers would stand at stalls and they would shuck oysters for hours and hours on end.

"As they came, the oysters were then collected and processed in a processing room. Oysters were weighed by the gallon. And then they were cleaned, washed, and packed. The process was a complete operation from when they came onto the dock to processing the oyster, shucking the oysters, canning the oysters, and shipping the oysters."

As to what visitors will see, Green said, "Right now we have panels all along the walls with historic photos and information about the oyster industry not only in Solomons, but in the broader Chesapeake area. We are excited that the oyster house is open after years of a renovation project. We have renovated the exterior and the interior of the oyster house.

"One of the things that we like to promote for the oyster house is that you get an authentic experience when you walk in the door. We have not changed anything



The Lore Oyster House

about this building. It's the original floor, the original paint colors. All of the rooms are in the same configuration that they were in in 1978. And so, you get a feel of the magnitude of this operation. We have some of the processing machinery."

She said, "It's one of most unique buildings in Southern Maryland. It's a National Historic Landmark. And because there are not many (oyster) houses left in this area, most people are surprised and really curious about what an oyster house looks like. They're just absolutely amazed at the photos of people who worked there. That's one of my favorite things about the oyster house is that we have pictures of the folks that worked in the oyster house who lived in this area. And often we will get families come in and recognize family members on the walls of the oyster house and they'll tell us wonderful stories about their grandfather, their uncle, their aunt, their mom, their grandmother, how they worked for the oyster house years and years ago. We have their names in our Lore Oyster House records."

She added, "It becomes a really nice place that people can connect the island, the oyster industry as a whole. And also, there are watermen that come in and love to see the oyster house because it's part of our daily life today. They oyster, they're out on their water now and this is the season. So, they come in, and they show their families how this used to process, years and years ago."

Green said, "A lot of times people want to know how much workers were paid. And so, we do have a panel that explains how workers were paid by the number per gallon. So, in 1941 it was 35 cents a gallon, and in 1974 it was a \$1.50 per gallon."

They have a boat the family owned and operated in conjunction with the Oyster House. She said, "So, the oysters would come in by boat, offload to the oyster house, get shucked and processed and shipped all

over the country."

The visitor experience is enhanced by knowledgeable docent volunteers. Green said that their volunteer coordinator Sherry Ray can be contacted by anyone interested in volunteering or they can go to their website and fill out an application.

The 47th annual Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD) will be on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free festival is one of Southern Maryland's longest-running traditions, offering family fun, live music, and a celebration of the river.

PRAD promises a full day of fun, including toy boat building, free museum admission, boat rides, crafts, and art vendors. Food vendors will offer a variety of options, with beer, wine, and orange crushes available for purchase from Calvert Crabs.

Entertainment Lineup at the Waterside

Pavilion:

- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. — Big Tribe
- Noon to 1 p.m. — Jay Armsworthy
- 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Some Assembly
- 3 to 4 p.m. — Groove Span

Throughout the museum grounds, dozens of nonprofit and community groups will showcase their work to protect and celebrate the Patuxent River. Visitors can explore interactive exhibits, demonstrations on oyster farming and native plants, a petting zoo, and more.

At the Drum Point Lighthouse and boat basin, families can take part in toy boat building and enjoy free cruises aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison*, *Draketail*, and *Poe Skiff*. Guests may also try rowboats, pedal boats, and remote-control sailboats.

Inside the museum, visitors can create a hands-on recycle craft, explore exhibits and shop for Chesapeake-inspired gifts in the Museum Store. Families can also meet the museum's North American river otters, Chessie Grace and Calvert.

According to a release, "PRAD is a testament to the community's commitment to preserving the Patuxent River and celebrating its vital role in our quality of life. PRAD is presented by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, the Calvert Marine Museum and community partners committed to preserving the Patuxent River and supporting local environmental programs."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



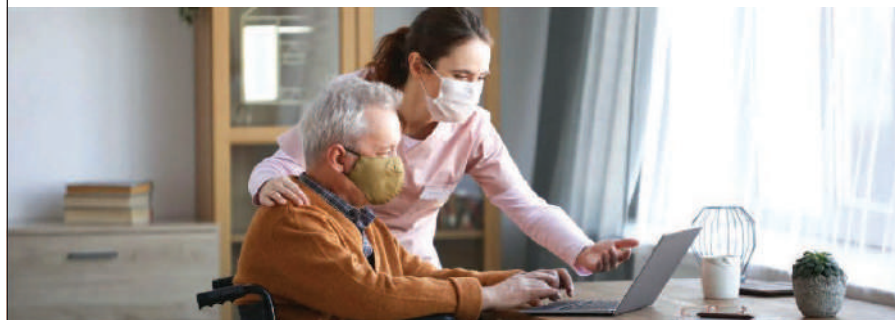
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CALVERT COUNTY INFORMATION & EVENTS

Calvert County Government will be responsible and accountable to all citizens of Calvert County; provide high quality, effective and efficient services; preserve Calvert County's environment, heritage and rural character; foster opportunities for responsible and sustainable residential growth and economic development; and support Calvert County's essential institutions and keep them strong.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are open to the public and are subject to change. Watch here: [YouTube](#) | [Meetings on Demand](#) | [Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD](#)

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

No meeting on the on Oct. 14, 2025
Next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025, 10 a.m.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 175 Main Street, Prince Frederick

Boards and Commissions Meetings

Meetings are held via Teams unless otherwise noted.
Meeting IDs and passwords are available at [calvertcountymd.gov](#).

Student Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee (SSWAC)

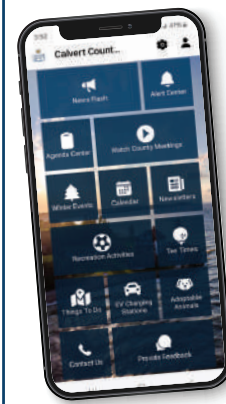
Oct. 15, 2025, 2-4 p.m.
Harriet E. Brown Community Center

Planning Commission Regular Meeting

Oct. 15, 2025, 7 p.m.
Harriet E. Brown Community Center

SSWAC Q4 Public Input Session

Oct. 16, 2025, 6-7:30 p.m.



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WE ARE MOVING!

Throughout October, Calvert County Government will be moving into the new Calvert Administration Building (CAB).

For more information and details on the move please go to [calvertcountymd.gov/NewCAB](#).



UPCOMING COUNTY EVENTS

Columbus / Indigenous Peoples Day

County offices will be closed Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in observance of Columbus Day, also known as Indigenous Peoples' Day.



Ghouls Just Wanna Have Homes

Adoption Promo - Oct. 21-31

There will be a spooky cauldron for the adopters to pull from - it will be waived fee, half off or a trick or treat bag of candy!
Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter - [calvertcountyanimalshelter.com](#)



Walktober is a month-long event focusing on promoting physical activity, particularly walking and raising awareness about pedestrian safety and health.

Thursday, Oct. 16

Physical Activity Challenge:
Set an extra goal, reset and recharge with movement!

Monday, Oct. 20

Red Ribbon Week:
Walk for wellness and awareness

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Halloween Week:
Wear a costume

Noon walks:

Ward Farm Park playground,
Hallowing Point Park pavilion, Solomons Town Center

Park pavilion,
King Memorial Park pavilion
CalvertHealth Medical Center

Annex parking lot

5 p.m. walks:

Ward Farm Park playground,
Hallowing Point Park pavilion, Solomons Town Center pavilion

North Beach boardwalk entrance,
Solomons Medical Center parking lot

DISCOVER FALL FUN AT LOCAL FARMS

For more information, visit [www.CalvertAg.com/FarmFallFun](#)



MASTER PLAN OF TOWN CENTERS

The Calvert County Department of Planning & Zoning invites you to participate in public input meetings to learn about Town Center Master Plan surveys and share your feedback.

Huntingtown Town Center Master Plan Public Input Meeting
Oct. 14, 2025, 6 p.m., 4030 Old Town Road, Huntingtown, MD

Owings Town Center Master Plan Public Input Meeting
Oct. 20, 2025, 6 p.m., 9870 Old Solomons Island Road, Owings, MD

Questions and comments may also be submitted in advance to Tay Harris, long range planner, at 410-535-1600, ext. 2333, or [Tay.Harris@calvertcountymd.gov](#).



HEADS UP, CALVERT COUNTY!

Starting this winter, the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide will no longer be mailed to every household, but don't worry—the guide isn't going away!

Your feedback is always welcome and you can find the latest activity guide anytime at [calvertcountymd.gov/ParksAndRecreation](#).

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Calvert Outpaces State in Most Test Results

Concern About Eighth Grade Math

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Test results of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) show Calvert County outperforming the state average in most metrics. But some school board members aren't sure that is the best measure.

Results were presented to the school board by staff at the Sept. 25 board meeting.

Elementary Mathematics Supervisor Julie Morrison reported:

- Third grade outperforming the state by 18 points ranking fourth;
- Fourth grade outperforming the state by 14 points, ranking fifth;
- Fifth grade outperforming the state by 12 points.

She said "Grades three and five continue to grow in performance with grade five within three points of first place. Very small margin there. Although fourth grade shows a slight dip, it's less than one percent, eight-tenths of a percent.

For secondary math, she said:

- Seventh place is sixth grade, outperforming the state by seven points.
- Ranking seventh is seventh grade, outperforming the state by 10 points.
- Ranking 11th is eighth grade, outperforming the state by two points.
- Ranking eighth is Algebra I, consistent with the state.

She said, (Supervisor of Secondary Mathematics Dr Joe) Sutton and I would

like to highlight that on four out of seven assessments, Calvert County Public Schools demonstrated growth. We strive for measurable growth in all assessments. With continued collaboration between elementary and secondary math, we identified modeling and reasoning standards as an area of focus. The MCAP assessment places significant weight on modeling and reasoning. Modeling and reasoning prepare students for success in higher education and the workforce by developing reasoning, precision and strategic problem solving, leading to increased achievement for our students."

School Board Vice President Lisa Grenis criticized the eighth-grade performance. She said, "Shouldn't this be a major focus since it has the lowest percentage of proficiency?"

Sutton responded, "It is a major focus of ours, but not just at the Math 8 level. What we see happening is at Math six and Math seven, we have honors and accelerated students that are also taking that course. And they tend to score higher than the students that are on the math six, math seven courses. It's kind of masking the same problem that exists in Math six, math seven, math eight, and high school algebra one. That to get all of our students to that 80th percentile has proven to be a really tough challenge for us so far, which is why I think we're seeing state policy being enacted and structural shifts being expected of us."

Grenis responded, "But I also see that we're ranking 11th which means 10 other

counties have figured out something. You know, that to me is one that just stuck out. Have we done anything to kind of collect data from teachers to figure out what's going on?"

He responded, "We have. I want to say Math 8 is a focus of ours, but if you look at the three-year running average, we're still performing at about 150 percent of what the rest of the state is doing. So, we tend to look more at three-year trends than one-year flat lines like that. But we have gathered a lot of teacher data. I'm in classrooms all the time. Teachers are always asking me, I'm always asking them, what's going on, what supports would help. I think one of the challenges that we're facing is in making sure that we're supporting all students throughout this pathway through all the way up through our highest courses. There are now students that are accessing coursework that they never have in the past. And we're looking to see what are the supports that are needed for the teachers to feel successful, because that's frustrating to work that hard with kids all year."

Grenis wanted to know if they have consulted with the higher performing school systems. Sutton said they had, but he observed the top three had math coaches, and Calvert doesn't.

Grenis also said what several others also noted: "I guess I don't put as much weight on comparing us to the state. You know, I look at schools that are outperforming us across the state. Something's going wrong with teaching math."

Sutton responded, "There are things I'm not happy with — a rank of 11th. We have a lot of work to do."

Secondary Supervisor of English Language Arts. Lauren Grimes presented the ELA results:

- Second is third grade, outperforming the state by 18 points.
- Ranking fourth is fourth grade, outperforming the state by 14 points.
- Ranking second is fifth grade, outperforming the state by 15 points.
- Ranked third is sixth grade, outperforming the state by 16 points.
- Ranked fourth is seventh grade, outperforming the state by 13 points.
- Ranked fourth is eighth grade, outperforming the state by 12 points.
- Ranked first for the third consecutive year is 10th grade, outperforming the state by 20 points.

She said, "Ms. (Melissa) Huffman (Supervisor of Elementary ELA) and I would like to highlight that on five out of seven English language arts MCAP assessments, Calvert County Public Schools demonstrated growth. An area of focus for us is collaboration to support growth in writing standards. The writing standards weigh more in the overall calculation of a student's score on MCAP. But more importantly, we know writing is critical to strengthen our students' thinking and learning."

dickmyers@countytimes.net



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Calvert Recognizes Domestic Violence Month

Multiple Options for Help Available

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

"Twenty-four people every minute are victims of domestic violence. It's approximately 12 million people a year in this country."

Those are just two of the many sobering statistics presented by Kathryn Marsh of the Calvert County Commissioner for Women and others during the Oct. 7 recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners.

Marsh said, "We hear a lot of conversations about a disagreement between a husband and a wife, or that domestic violence is just men on women. The statistics actually show that it's one in four women and one in seven men are victims of domestic violence within our country. Eight million lost days of work impact businesses every year from domestic violence and 44 percent of workers have indicated that they have been victims of domestic violence."

"One in four children witness domestic violence in their home. And our current stats have us at one in 10 high school students have experienced violence from a dating partner."

Marsh observed, "And when we look at how this can impact the community, it's not just the impact that it has on our friends, our neighbors, our businesses, we look at our safety as well. Sixty-eight percent of mass shooters in this country from 2014 until today have a history of domestic violence. And so, it's very important that we all understand the risks and take it as seri-

ously as I know our professionals in Calvert County do."

She noted, "The number one thing that we can do is to educate and provide support. On October 19th, the Commission for Women with all of our partners, Unstoppable You, Community Life Center of Southern Calvert County, CalvertHealth, the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, the Maryland State Police and Calvert Safe Housing Network, will be having an awareness and education discussion panel at Middleham-St. Peter's (in Lusby). This is an opportunity for everyone to come learn about the amazing resources we have available in Calvert County and also learn about what you can do if somebody in your life is impacted by domestic violence."

Peg (last name not provided), executive director of the Calvert Safe Housing Network, was established earlier this year. She said, "In the very short time that we've been functioning to provide housing and services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault here in Calvert County, we have discovered a huge need. So, we've been working in partnership with Safe Harbor Shelter to make sure that there's sufficient housing, emergency housing and housing options for survivors and their families."

"In the six months that we have been working with survivors, we have housed 26 individual unique survivors and their 17 children. We have provided almost a thousand safe nights in safe housing for survivors. So, we have learned that there is a tremendous need here in the county for addi-

tional resources and housing for survivors, and we're working as fast as we can to help them escape from the violent situations."

She noted, "We have served primarily women, but we have also served some male survivors. So, we know that happens here in the county as well."

State's Attorney Bob Harvey said, "The state's attorney's office has a unit specifically responsible for prosecuting and investigating domestic violence cases," adding, "the members of that unit consist of two attorneys, two victim advocates, and an investigator that pretty much devote their entire time to these cases."

Harvey observed, "These are very, very difficult cases, very difficult and emotional cases for people to handle. Last year, 2 83 domestic violence cases were handled by this unit. That makes it the second most prevalent type of crime we have in Calvert County behind impaired and drunk driving."

Jeff Gray, cold case homicide investigator for the Maryland Crime Victim Resource Center, also spoke. The organization is the original Stephanie Roper Foundation, named for a young woman murdered in St. Mary's County. Her mother, Roberta, founded the organization.

Gray said, "I'm working with four of the 23 sheriff's departments here in Maryland where we...educate the community about domestic violence." He said he hopes Calvert joins.

Commissioner Catherine Grasso, who read the proclamation, said, "I want the public to know, don't think it can't happen in your family because domestic abuse knows no socio-

economic boundaries. Your abuser doesn't start from day one. You fall in love with them. You become dependent on them. You think you're a unit and the next thing you know, someone who's supposed to love you is abusing you and you feel there's no way out."

Grasso observed, "We had this in our family with a cousin. I was absolutely shocked. My aunt and uncle were a very loving couple. But my cousin said it didn't start the first day. 'And then he had me.'"

"Also, I want the public to know it trickles down. Your children become impacted. People on the outside notice what's going on. Notice a child in need and they're kind to them and they play on the weaknesses that are within the home."

Grasso said, "I was very pleased when I was looking over the proclamation how much we have in Calvert County. It's wonderful. So, any of you all out there, please listen to the proclamation. Please take note. And if you need help, get in contact with someone."

Those providing services, according to the proclamation, are "the Commission for Women partnering with the Calvert County Health Department, Calvert Safe Housing Net Network, safe Harbor, the Calvert County State's Attorney's Office, Unstoppable You Ministries, the Community Life Center of Southern Calvert, the Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy, the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police, and the Calvert County courts."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

Man Sentenced for Child Pornography

On Aug. 27 Sean Luke Peterson, 33, was sentenced to 25 years of active incarceration by Judge Mark W. Carmean of the Calvert County Circuit Court for three counts of sex abuse of a minor and production of child pornography.

On Sept. 26 Peterson was sentenced to a consecutive 25 years imprisonment by Judge S. James Sarbanes of the Wicomico County Circuit Court for six counts of possession of child pornography.

As a result of these two prosecutions, Peterson will be required to serve 50 years in prison. In addition, he will have to undergo lifetime registration as a sex offender.

In February, 2024, Peterson, then residing in Salisbury, MD, was found to be in possession of a USB drive containing multiple images of child pornography. Detectives from the Salisbury Police Department were able to identify three of the children depicted in the videos and determine that Peterson produced the images when he lived in Calvert County.

Calvert County State's Attorney Robert Harvey would like to commend Senior Assistant State's Attorney Rebecca N. Cordero for her work on this case. Mr. Harvey also wishes to thank Wicomico County State's Attorney Jamie L. Dykes,



Sean Luke Peterson

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Michael Calabrese, and Detective Wells of the Salisbury Police Department. As a result of the outstanding efforts of all involved in the investigation and prosecution of this matter, a measure of justice was achieved for the victims of this sexual predator.

Press Release from Calvert County State's Attorney

Marina Fire Damages Storage Shed, Contents



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office is investigating a fire that damaged a storage building and its contents at Spring Cove Marina in Solomons. The fire on Monday morning, Oct. 6 also spread to a nearby camper where an occupant was sleeping but was able to escape without injury.

The fire marshal's office reports that the metal storage building "was used to store vehicles and other equipment."

Estimated damage is \$7,500 to the struc-

ture and \$50,000 to the contents.

The fire was called in by a marina employee. It took 50 firefighters from Solomons Volunteer Rescue Squad and Fire Department 30 minutes to bring the blaze under control. There were no smoke or fire alarms or sprinkler systems in operation.

The fire marshal's office says, "This incident remains under investigation but there are no indications that the fire is suspicious in nature at this time."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Association Official Discusses State Budget, the Blueprint

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

Representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) gave a briefing to the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners on Sept. 7 about the outcome of this year's general assembly session and predictions for next year's legislative session. MACO is the chief lobbying group for the counties.

Queen Anne's County Commissioner and MACO President Jack Wilson and MACO Executive Director Michael Sanderson made the presentation.

Sanderson said, "The fact that this is for most of the state an election year plays a real role in the timing of some of the challenges that we're surrounded by, as much as their magnitude."

He observed that the state budget "is usually the biggest and most obvious connection between state policy affecting you all. You probably saw a chunk of your budget dedicated to paying invoices for state services that you hadn't anticipated. And it abridged your ability to make commitments to other things locally. That's the environment we're in."

The conversation in their last briefing was about "how big is the state's bad news going to be? At what point does it turn into they've really got to make serious budget cuts, raise revenues or combinations of things like that as opposed to sort of one-time fixes that you can sort of nip and tuck your way through a

minor budget difficulty."

It got bad enough to be a \$3 billion shortfall. He explained, "So they closed the \$3 billion about halfway with new revenues, with new taxes and fees and other things along those lines. And then made budget cuts and shifts and so forth to manage the backend. Not a whole lot of shut down the program, but a lot of things like we won't put as much money into a reserve fund that we otherwise would've by our own laws or things like that. They nipped local governments for more than a hundred million dollars."

Sanderson observed, "There just aren't that many programs where they can go and make a cut and just say, we'll do without the thing. Like all the money they give to local health departments, it's about a hundred million. They could zero that out and say, we're just not going to support local health departments anymore. Imagine the headline, right?"

"The cost of teacher pensions has escalated more than we had originally forecasted. We need to come up with \$200 million extra money. Let's send half of that bill to the counties as an invoice," he added.

Sanderson said, "So we know that when the chips are down and things are tough in Annapolis, they look to share the pain across different agencies and different stakeholders. They see local governments as a part of that, right or wrong, and their problem, we inherit it. It just always happens. There was no way we were getting out of a \$3 billion fiscal crisis without taking on some water."

The counties also took on most of the cost of compensation for persons wrongfully sentenced for a crime.

He said the federal impact is going to be less severe than originally anticipated. "Instead, it's going to be more gradual, more incremental. And so, we'll just feel that later."

Sanderson said, "The plan is to get through this coming year without another big round of cuts. Even with a modest write down in state revenues just a week or two ago with their own official forecasts...we now have a \$700-\$1,200 million problem. That would require really tough stuff this year. It should be relatively smooth sailing for the 2026 session, coincidentally, leading right into primaries for an election year."

He did note, though, "A big part of the state's forecast goes bad in the FY 2028 budget."

Why's that? He explained, "It's not just the economy getting slow or spending going up, but they've got an education trust fund that the voters said needed to be pre-funded with casino money and some other targeted revenue for multiple years before the Blueprint existed. So, they've been spending money out of a piggy bank to pay for the Blueprint for their share of the big 10-year education plan. So far, they haven't felt it in their general fund because they've had a balance in this education trust fund. The balance gets them through 2027, but not through 2028. They've got to start paying cash for a big chunk of the Blueprint



MACO Executive Director Michael Sanderson

program starting in FY 28."

An evaluation of Blueprint's success is supposed to happen next calendar year and be delivered late in 2026, Sanderson said. "And that's supposed to look at what are we getting for our money and are we investing the money in the right places and so forth."

"So, we'll see what that yields, but that's already been used as a sort of we shouldn't make changes to the plan now, we're just about to have the big audit. So, we heard that last session. And I would imagine anyone who comes to town asking for big changes in the Blueprint this year are likely to be told, well that's kind of premature."

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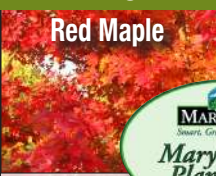
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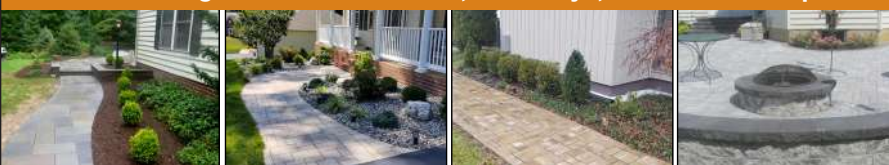
	
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County Celebrates Homegrown School Lunch Week



Calvert County proudly participated in Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, a statewide initiative under the Maryland Farm to School Program, administered by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland State Department of Education.

The program encourages schools to feature locally produced foods (sourced within a few hundred miles or within the same state), highlighting the nutritional benefits of farm-fresh products while supporting regional farmers.

Beach Elementary School hosted a special HomeGrown kick-off event on Oct. 1, giving students a hands-on opportunity to experience the full life cycle of food from field to table. Guests, including Calvert County Commissioner Catherine Grasso, joined students as they rotated through four interactive stations led by local farmers and farm owners. Activities focused on animal agriculture, seed identification, planting and growing crops, as well as harvesting and end products.

Participating farmers included:

- Dawn and Mark Mister, Mulberry Land Farm Market

- Susan Cox, Mrs. Moo/Spider Hall Farm

- Debbie Jones, Windy Willow Farm

- Kelly Swann, Swann Farms

Throughout the week, school districts across Maryland incorporated locally sourced foods into their school meals. In Calvert County Public Schools, students enjoyed local beef from Battle Creek Farm in Prince Frederick for Beef Nacho Day on Oct. 2.

Schools also served leafy greens and cherry tomatoes from Farming4Hunger in Hughesville.

Valarie Parmer, supervisor of child nutrition, expressed her enthusiasm for the program: "We are happy for the opportunity to feature delicious, locally sourced items and to bring back our Homegrown Kickoff Event, hosted this year by Beach Elementary School. We're grateful to Calvert County Public Schools and Calvert County Government for their support, as well as to the incredible local volunteers—without whom this special event would not

be possible. While students enjoy seeing and learning about farm animals, the highlight for many is also tasting the corn-on-the-cob they helped shuck just hours earlier." Beach Elementary Principal Brock Fulton emphasized the impact on students.

"Homegrown Lunch Week is a powerful opportunity for our students to connect with the roots of agriculture through hands-on learning. Watching them explore animal care, seed science, planting and harvesting right here on-site is truly a unique and engaging opportunity for our students. These experiences spark curiosity, deepen understanding and create memories that last far beyond the classroom," he said. Julie Oberg, director of Calvert County Economic Development, noted the broader community benefits.

"Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week is a wonderful opportunity to connect our local farms and our schools. By bringing fresh, local products into the classroom and onto cafeteria trays, we are not only supporting our farmers and strengthening the local economy, but also helping students develop healthy habits and a greater appreciation for where their food comes from," she said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 2022-2023 Farm to School Census, more than 85% of Maryland school districts participate in the Farm to School Program. Across the state, 971 schools and 585,877 students are engaging with local foods through classroom lessons and school meals. Many schools now serve local products weekly, with milk, fruits and vegetables leading the way. Last year, the Calvert County Public Schools Child Nutrition Department was able to incorporate more than 18,000 pounds of local produce into its meal program.

For educational resources—including Harvest of the Month posters, produce seasonality charts, menus, guides to local products and videos with farmer interviews—visit the Maryland Farm to School website at <https://mda.maryland.gov> and search for Farm to School.

Press release from Calvert County Government

Calvert Community Calendar

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

Thu, Oct 9

Fall in Love With Literacy

Calvert High School
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Hosted by Calvert County Public Schools Family Support Services! There will be interactive games and stations to help children foster their love of reading, with food trucks, free books and prizes! Registration is recommended but not required! <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Teen Night: Creepy Cupcake Party

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

Cupcakes, frosting, and candy provided. Create the coolest or creepiest cupcake and enter it into our contest! For ages 12-18. Free event. Please register. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way & Zoom
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by JC Hooker & Rita Ilg. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Library Art League — Paper Mosaics

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

Draw and Learn! Join us in the Makerspace to create colorful paper mosaics! For artists ages 10-18. Registration required. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Fri, Oct10

Pub Quiz

Calvert County Fairgrounds
5-10 p.m.

For one night only, the library won’t help you find the answers. But that won’t stop

us from asking plenty of tough questions. Register for \$120 per team of up to 6 adults. (The team isn’t considered registered until paid.) Cash prize to the top 3 teams! Limited space! Registration required. Doors open and food trucks will be on site at 5pm. Quiz begins at 7pm. Costumes/team uniforms welcome, creative team name required! Sponsorships are available for \$300. Your name will be included in a slideshow at the event and you’ll be recognized by the Quizmaster. Contact Pat Hofmann if interested. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

Annmarie After Hours

Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center
5-7 p.m.

Join us for an adults-only evening to celebrate the opening of two special exhibits: Chronicles: Storytelling Through Imagery in the Kay Daugherty Gallery and Honoring Ann Preston: A Celebration of Art & Impact in the Main Gallery. Enjoy drinks from the Annmarie Cash Bar and Mully’s Brewery, plus food from Mouth of the Bay. Live music (artist TBA) will round out the evening. Admission is \$5; members free.

Sat, Oct 11

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Come celebrate the Patuxent River at the original fall event held since 1978! This event includes live music, food and drink vendors, makers of homespun goods, a petting zoo, FREE boat rides, toy boat building, displays and activities celebrating the river! Explore the museum grounds to visit dozens of nonprofit and community groups that help keep our area a wonderful place to live and play! Museum admission is FREE to all during the event.

Birthday Bash: Celebrating 30 Years of COSMIC

St. Nicholas Lutheran Church
1450 Plum Point Rd. Huntingtown
4-6 p.m.

As COSMIC Symphony enters its 30th year in operation, we open this season with Birthday Bash: Celebrating 30 Years of COSMIC, directed by Will Esterling. This concert will be an appropriate celebration of the orchestra, featuring the music of Stravinsky, Brahms, and Rimsky-Korsakov. This show is FREE and open to the public; join us as we celebrate 30 tremendous years on stage!

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way
9-11 a.m.

Bring your gently used puzzles and exchange them for new-to-you challenges. It’s a fun, eco-friendly way to refresh your collection and connect with fellow puzzle enthusiasts. Whether you’re a seasoned puzzler or just starting, you’ll leave inspired and ready to piece together something new! Registration is not required but will let us know who is interested in other puzzling events! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Sun, Oct 12

Haunted Water Cruise

Calvert Marine Museum
3:10–4:10 p.m.

Step aboard the *Wm. B. Tennison* for a one-hour Haunted Water Cruise. Hear tales of unmarked graves, enduring mysteries along the Patuxent River, and superstitions tied to local landmarks. Families are welcome, though some themes may not be suitable for young children. Cost is \$9 for adults and \$5 for children, infant through 12 years.

Tue, Oct 14

Spooky Campfire Tales

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

Join us for a scary good time around the campfire telling each other spooky stories

and enjoying s’mores! We will hear stories from local author Carol McCabe Booker and Adam Tremper founder of Spooky Solomons a historical ghost tour focusing on Maryland history and folklore. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

OMOB Book Discussion

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

The whole state is being asked to read and discuss this book as the One Maryland One Book initiative. Join us for an evening discussion on the beautiful porch at the Twin Beaches Branch. Hybrid in form, and even more expansive in what it has to say, “Kin: Rooted in Hope” is a book created by, and about, a Black family and its generations. Poet and children’s author Carole Boston Weatherford and her son, artist Jeffery Boston Weatherford, collaborated on this book that gives voice to their earliest enslaved ancestors back to the founding of Maryland. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Wed, Oct 15

AI Workshop: Mind Over Machines

Calvert Library Prince Frederick
850 Costley Way & Zoom
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Please join the Calvert County Department of Economic Development, TEDCO, and Mind Over Machines to learn how AI works, why it matters for you and what skills are important for the future and the workforce. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

Book Discussion

Calvert Library Fairview Branch
Rt. 4 and Chaneyville Road, Owings
2-3:30 p.m.

Join us to discuss “One of Us Knows” by Alyssa Cole. A psychological drama that explores identity, trauma, and the complexities of Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

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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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Exterior Decorating Safety Tips



Decorating the exterior of a home for the fall and winter holidays is a beloved tradition in countless households. In the movie “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation,” Clark Griswold had “250 strands of imported Italian twinkle lights,” each with 100 bulbs per strand. His grand total of 25,000 lights caused a temporary blackout. While driving around to take in holiday lighting displays, many people may see some that emulate Clark Griswold’s vision and be inspired to create their own designs.

Lights are just one type of home decoration. Wreaths, inflatables, metal or wooden structures, and much more are part of holiday displays as well. While decorating can be fun and festive, it’s also important to ensure that it is done safely. The following tips can keep family and friends safe during this wonderful time of year.

- **Plan ahead.** Determine how many electrical outlets you have and plan the display around the accessibility of those outlets. Be sure to calculate the maximum amount of wattage allowed so you do not overload the electrical system. Never exceed the maximum number of strings or devices that may be linked together. Lighting packaging should provide such information. Also, plug all outdoor lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupters to reduce the risk of electric shock.
- **Test the lights.** Only purchase lights that have been tested for safety. Look for a certification mark from UL, ETL, CSA, or another nationally recognized laboratory.
- **Go with LED.** Light emitting diode string lights run cooler, last longer and use less energy than incandescent lights.
- **Inspect decorations.** Make sure all the lights, electrical cords, lighted holiday decor, and inflatables are in good condition before use. Dispose of anything that has frayed wiring or is broken.
- **Use only outdoor-rated products.** Be sure the extension cords and any other

products are rated for the outdoors. Electrical connections should be kept clean and dry before plugging things in, and an extra step of wrapping plug connections with electrical tape can further reduce moisture.

- **Practice ladder safety.** Ladders are often utilized when adding lights or other decor to homes. Always be safe on and around ladders. It’s essential to maintain three points of contact while on the ladder. Don’t risk leaning too hard to one side while on the ladder, and always have a spotter. Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when stringing electrical decor and lights, as metal ladders conduct electricity.
- **Identify where power lines are located.** Be mindful of power lines when decorating outdoors. Keep oneself and decorations at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- **Skip staples and nails.** Nails and staples should not be used when decorating. Nails and staples can puncture the protective layers of a home, allowing moisture to get in and break down the structure of the home. A nail or staple also may accidentally puncture an electrical cord, increasing the risk of electrocution. Use hooks and other attachment devices specially designed for holiday decor.
- **Avoid items that can contribute to roof damage.** Heavy items on the roof can cause unnecessary stress to shingles and result in damage. Only use lightweight and appropriately anchored items on the roof.
- **Dress appropriately.** Before hanging holiday decorations and lights, assess the conditions and wear the proper clothing for the weather. If the weather is especially rough, skip decorating for a safer day.

Decorating safety is of the utmost importance and should be a priority this holiday season.



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Fall Lawn Care for Cool-Season Grasses

Spring is the season most often associated with lawn care, and for good reason. Grass starts growing in spring, and the season is a great time to fertilize many grasses in the hopes lawns can look their best and endure the hotter, dryer weather of summer.

Spring might mark the time when many homeowners begin tending to their lawns each year, but it's important to recognize the significance of fall lawn care as well. Grasses vary, and homeowners are urged to identify which type of grass is in their lawn so they can ensure it gets the care it needs before winter's first frost. Cool-season grasses like perennial ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass are common in various regions, and the following strategies can help homeowners with these types of grasses tend to their lawns this fall.

- **Stick to your recommended fertilization schedule.** Homeowners who have been fertilizing since spring are urged to continue doing so in fall at the recommended interval. It's easy to forget to fertilize in fall thanks to cooler temperatures that don't call lawn care to mind and busier schedules after school starts again and summer vacation season ends. But many fertilizer manufacturers advise users of their products to fertilize several times over the course of the year, including in fall. Stick to the intervals recommended on the packaging of the fertilizer you've been using, making sure not to forget to fertilize this fall.



Cool-season grasses still need watering even after summer gives way to fall.

- **Conduct a soil test.** A soil test can determine if the soil is lacking any nutritive elements it needs to come back strong in spring. Certain amendments can restore pH balance if necessary and foster stronger growth when lawns come back in spring.
- **Aerate, if necessary.** Soil can become compacted over time, and that can

cause a range of problems for a lawn. Compacted soil can make it harder for water to reach the roots of grass, which weakens grass and makes it more vulnerable to damage during adverse weather events like drought. Compacted soil also makes it harder for nutrients in fertilizer to get into the soil. Aerating is best left to profession-

als, particularly in larger lawns, as the job can foster strong root development when done properly.

- **Remove thatch where it's excessive.** Thin layers of thatch can benefit lawns by delivering nutrients from grass clippings and leaves to a lawn. However, when thatch is excessive, it can block air, water and even fertilizer from reaching the soil. Thatch often can be removed with a rake, but lawns with especially thick layers of thatch may need to be scarified. Homeowners can take a DIY approach to scarifying or hire a landscaping professional to dethatch the lawn and remove the thatch from their properties.
- **Continue to water the lawn.** A cool-season grass will continue to require water into the fall. Though the lawn won't need to be watered as frequently in fall as in summer, various lawn care professionals note cool-season grasses still need roughly an inch of water each week in fall.
- **Remove leaves as they fall.** Fallen leaves can affect a lawn in much the same way as excessive amounts of thatch, blocking water and nutrients from reaching the soil. So it's best to remove fallen leaves, especially when they begin to fall in large quantities.

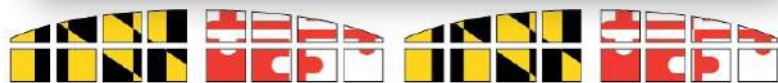
Fall is an opportune time to tend to a lawn to increase the chances grass grows back strong in spring.



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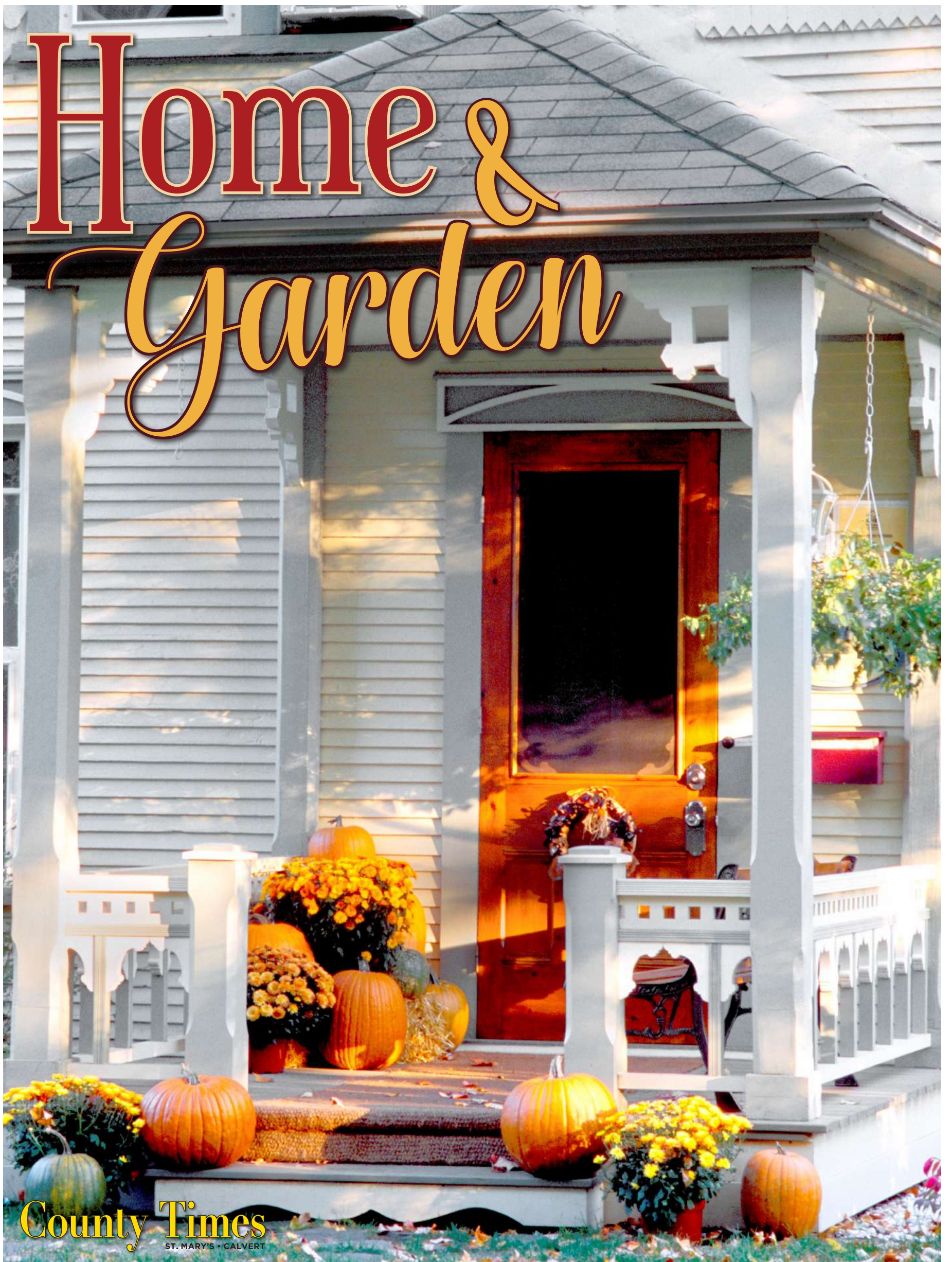
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Home & Garden

St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

Fri, Oct 10

Community Health & Wellness Fair

U. of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd, California
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hosted by the St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services. This event is free and open to anyone.

This year's screenings will include body composition, glucose, skin cancer, hearing, vision, and blood pressure. The Pharmacy at PJ Bean will be supplying flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Bring your insurance card—all insurance agencies are accepted! For more information and to register, please visit www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Aging/HealthFair/.

Sat, Oct 11

Patuxent River Appreciation Day (PRAD)

Calvert Marine Museum
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Come celebrate the Patuxent River at the original fall event held since 1978! This event includes live music, food and drink vendors, makers of homespun goods, a pet-

ting zoo, FREE boat rides, toy boat building, displays and activities celebrating the river! Explore the museum grounds to visit dozens of nonprofit and community groups that help keep our area a wonderful place to live and play! Museum admission is FREE to all during the event

Stride for Change 5k—Stomping out Domestic Violence

Living Word Community Church
39371 Harpers Corner Rd., Mechanicsville
8:30 a.m.

Registration \$25, \$30 at the door. Team discount: \$100 for five members. \$20 each additional member. All participants receive a free t-shirt. Register at bit.ly/strideforchange2025

Motown Night

Mechanicsville Moose Lodge
27636 Mechanicsville Rd.
5:30-11 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6pm. The Groove Spot Motown Band will play from 7-11 pm. Drinks are available for purchase at the bar (cash only). Only those who purchase a table will have a reserved table together. There

will be a 50/50 Raffle and Money Wheel during the event. ATM is on site.
go.rallyup.com/hvfdmowntown2025

Sun, Oct 12

Pride Southern Maryland 2025

Lexington Manor Passive Park
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Pride Southern Maryland (Pride SOMD) is proud to announce its 8th annual LGBTQIA+ Pride Festival. The family-friendly celebration is free and open to the public. This year's theme, "Existence is Resistance," underscores the importance of visibility and resilience within the LGBTQIA+ community. This year's festival will feature a diverse lineup of attractions, including LGBTQIA+ small businesses, community resources, a variety of vendors, delicious offerings from food trucks, a dedicated kids zone, live entertainment from a DJ, captivating drag performances, inspiring speakers, a silent auction, and much more.

Visit www.pridesomd.com for more information

Designer Purse Bingo

Mechanicsville VFD
28165 Hills Club Road, Mechanicsville
12:30-4:30 p.m.

Come join us for an afternoon of bingo fun filled with chances to win designer purses, raffles, door prizes and more! Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Proceeds to benefit the Alzheimer's Association and the Southern Maryland Sabres Hockey 14U Gold Team.

Birthday Bash: Celebrating 30 Years of COSMIC

Nancy R. and Norton T. Dodge
Performing Arts Center
47855 College Dr., St. Mary's City
3 p.m.

As COSMIC Symphony enters its 30th year in operation, we open this season with Birthday Bash: Celebrating 30 Years of COSMIC, directed by Will Esterling. This concert will be an appropriate celebration of the orchestra, featuring the music of Stravinsky, Brahms, and Rimsky-Korsakov. This show is FREE and open to the public; join us as we celebrate 30 tremendous years on stage!

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Charlotte Hall

In Remembrance

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

Charles Archer, 95



Charles Madison Archer, 95, passed away peacefully on September 29, 2025. Born August 2, 1930, in Towanda, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Madison and

Elizabeth Archer.

Charles grew up in Monroeton, PA, and graduated from Towanda High School in 1948. Shortly after, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he began what would be a lifetime of service, innovation, and adventure. He attended the Aviation Electronics School in Memphis, TN, and was designated an Aviation Electronicsman. He was later assigned to Attack Squadron 15 (VA-15) at NAS Jacksonville, FL, where he served on two Mediterranean cruises.

In 1952, while serving aboard the USS Wasp, tragedy struck when the ship collided with the USS Hobson, leading to the loss of 167 sailors—an event that deeply marked his service years. In 1953, Charles transferred to the Naval Air Test Center at Patuxent River, MD, where he specialized in radar and sonobuoy testing. It was during this time that he met Margaret, who became his wife and lifelong partner.

Charles was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1955 and transitioned to civilian life, where he continued his career in aviation and defense. He worked with antenna testing and later became a Range Safety Officer and Project Coordinator at the Chesapeake Test Range. After 39 years of service, he retired from Civil Service in 1987, though he continued working for another decade as a government contractor.

In retirement, Charles pursued his many passions. He was a dedicated bicyclist, racing almost every weekend and even competing in Europe, including races in Russia and Austria. In 2011, he proudly won the Gold Medal for his age group in the Delaware Senior Olympics 20K Road Race. He was also an avid fly fisherman, a lover of jazz and big band music, and a wine enthusiast. His keen interest in collecting stamps grew into an impressive and substantial collection.

Charles is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Margaret Archer, his brother Robert Archer, and his sister Margaret Wood.

He is survived by his son Kyle Archer (Amy), his daughter Jodi Weakland (Paul), and his grandsons Ryan and William. He also leaves behind his sister Jane Kintner, his brother Tim Archer, and many other family members and friends who will cherish his memory.

Charles will be remembered as a devoted family man, a lifelong learner, and a man who approached both service and leisure with passion, integrity, and joy. His legacy of love, curiosity, and perseverance will live on in all who knew him.

Services will be announced at a later date.

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

Arrangements by the Brinsfield Funeral

Home, P.A., Leonardtown, MD.

Georgia Nelson, 78



Georgia Mae Nelson, 78, of Clements, MD, passed away surrounded by her two remaining sisters, sister-in-law (considered sister), and her niece, at Hospice

House, Callaway, MD, on September 30, 2025. The ninth of eleven children to the late Joseph Louis Yates, Sr. and the late Agnes Jeannette Tennyson Yates, she attended St. Joseph Catholic School and Clements Elementary School before graduating from Margaret Brent High School.

In addition to her parents, Georgia is preceded in death by her siblings, Joseph Lewis Yates, Francis Ira Yates, Mary Evelyn Clarke, Alice Jeannette Foley, John Bernard Yates, Dale Yates, Carole Marie Alvey, and Thomas Brent Yates. She is survived by her sisters, Linda Ann Williams and Winifred Jo Kopacko, along with several nieces and nephews.

Georgia's love of dancing (and singing) started as an early teen and her favorite singer was John Denver. She was a fierce pitch card player as well, and enjoyed watching her favorite baseball team, The Washington Nationals.

Traveling the US and other countries was also a big part of her life. She visited all states except for one, Wisconsin. She enjoyed talking with the locals in the states and countries she visited, not necessarily joining the tour guide groups. She felt she got the real feeling of the area she was visiting. No one was a stranger to her. Some of them kept in touch enough after her visit. Some of the countries she traveled to were New Zealand, Australia, Canada, The Virgin Islands, and Indonesia. Georgia had a great love of the ocean. As an adult, she frequented Ocean City at least once a year, sometimes all four seasons.

After graduation, she worked at the FBI, the Leonardtown Dairy, and Nace Mattingly Plumbing. After that, Georgia spent 25 years employed at the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training (Harry Lundeborg) and retired from the center. Students come from all over the United States to learn aspects of and train to work on ships making up the maritime industry.

Unique to Georgia's years employed, were the varied departments of the school she served - student admissions, vocational training, pursers/travel offices, transportation services, and hotel front desk management. Georgia brought to each of the positions remarkable organization and the ability to stay on task. In each, she spent many hours of time planning arrivals, scheduling housing, and relaying information to the students arriving, as well as co-workers. Students became treasured friends and extended family. She retired in 2006 allowing her more time to care for her beloved brother, Brent.

Georgia donated to so many charities and any friends and family who needed a little help. She organized fund raisers for the then, Ripple Center, an Adult Daycare Center, at which Brent stayed while she was working. Georgia used her organizational skills to put together a family reunion that brought together four generations of extended family including cousins.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM, in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, Leonardtown, MD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 11:00 AM, in St. Joseph's Church, Morganza, MD, with Father Drew officiating. Interment will be private. Serving as pallbearers will be Dale Yates, JD Clarke, Chris Yates, Roy Williams, Darren Alvey, and Timmy Yates.

Memorial contributions can be made to Hospice of St. Mary's, P.O. Box 625, Leonardtown, MD 20650 or online at www.medstarhealth.org/locations/hospice-of-st-marys and/or The American Cancer Society at fightcancer.org.

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

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

Dolores Gardner, 96



Dolores Wilma Gardner, aged 96, of St. Ingoes, MD (formerly of Valley Lee, MD), passed away on October 3, 2025. She was born on April 11, 1929, in Chicago, IL, to the late William and Martha Baatz. Dolores was the devoted wife of the late Joseph C. Gardner, whom she married in Spokane, WA.

Dolores is survived by her four sons: Joseph Gardner, Jr. (Donna) of Piney Point, MD; Thomas Gardner (Cathie) of Drayden, MD; Richard Gardner (Kathy) of St. Mary's City, MD; and James Gardner of Leonardtown, MD. She was a cherished grandmother to six grandchildren: James, Warren, Tricia, Eric, Holly, and Joanna, and a loving great-grandmother to three great-grandchildren.

Dolores graduated from Whitworth College with a bachelor's degree in medical technology. She began her professional journey as a medical technician at St. Mary's Hospital, serving in the laboratory from 1958 to 1975. After moving to San Diego, CA, she advanced her career to the Head of Hematology at the Scripps Institute of La Jolla, CA, where she worked until her retirement and return to St. Mary's County in 1985.

Dolores was a long-term member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday School for many years. Dolores had a deep passion for art and history. She enjoyed gardening, cooking and was known for her excellent sewing skills. Her dedication to researching her family's genealogy was a source of great pride and fulfillment. Dolores had a love of animals, and she had a particular fondness for the Sheltie dog breed. She treasured hosting her family for holidays and spending summer vacations with them in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home in Leonardtown, MD. A funeral service will follow at 11:00 AM in the funeral home chapel, officiated by Pastor Matthew Borrasso. Interment will take place at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham, MD, at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.mgfh.com.

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

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Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



Football Confusion

By Shelby Opperman
 Contributing Writer

I don't know if I will understand football. I do get excited when the Commanders play, but I can't remember all the rules or why things happen or what they are called. I'm sure I ask my poor husband the same questions whenever I watch a game with him. It's hard not to get caught up in the game, especially the last half when everything is on the line. I find myself yelling and jumping up when they get touchdowns or getting upset when there is a fumble.

These are the things I wonder about some things my husband would answer and the others I had to ask good old Google.

After a punt return, yes, I had to look this up, I always wondered why the players kind of dance around the ball while it wobbles to a stop, and why sometimes they just catch it and kneel down. I'm always thinking why don't they just try and run with it. Sometimes it looks like they do chance running with the football. There are just so many rules.

And why do football players grab another guy's helmet or neck when they know they are going to get a flag and penalty? When I looked that up it says face mask penalty. They have to know this is wrong. I bet the other teammates are mad. My husband had said once that they either figure they might be able to get away with it or it's a heat of the moment thing.

The players pile-ups, or I like the other term dog pile, looks like they are all going to get hurt. Players keep jumping on the pile. Is that fun? The players on the bottom of the pile probably can't breathe, and what if they have a leg or an arm going the wrong way. EEEK! Yes, I worry too much. My husband said when he played football this was all fun. I asked my husband about that too - if players ever intentionally hurt each other. He said yes, there is a lot of grabbing, biting, and hitting going on under there.

Do kickers ever break their ankle? Yes, they have, though mostly they get sprained ankles. All I know is that when I look at them kicking and actually hear the kick I just cringe. I have no idea what kind of ankle exercises they do to strengthen their ankles and feet. It just looks painful. I always feel so bad when they miss. The look on their faces is awful. I always worry about how they are doing after the game.

I feel just as bad when a Commanders opposing team loses. It's definitely not that I want the Commanders to lose. It's just that the cameras focus on the losing team's faces, and same as for the kickers, I hope they are okay when they go home. I'm sure their parents are concerned and reach out to them. I don't know if I could take the stress of having a professional sports player as a child. I worry enough about my sons even though they are grown and doing fine.

It's pretty obvious that I would never have been cut out to play any sports other than the miniature golf and air hockey I loved so much when I was young. I did have a killer instinct to win back then, but as I got older I worried more about the other players. It must be a mom thing where you worry about all the players on both teams, though I know moms who play on sports to win. I guess I'll just stick to my happy shows, and root for the Commanders when they are playing, while secretly hoping no one gets hurt or feels bad at the end.

To each new day's adventure, Shelby.

Please send your comments or ideas to: shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com or find me on Facebook.



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Ding Dong, the Witches are Dancing



The Witches of Southern Maryland are flying off the handle again this October! Join us for a free evening of witchy fun and frivolity at the Leonardtown Wharf on Friday, October 31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.!

Anyone and everyone is invited to be a witch or wizard for the witching hour at the Witches of Southern Maryland afternoon of fun. We'll dance, donate and decorate! It's a little light family fun for ages 0-102. The event is hosted by a group of Southern Maryland residents who enjoy dancing and just happen to have a few sets of brooms lying around.

Dress in your best spell-casting costume and join these fabulous ladies and gents for the witch dance. Dancing is not required, of course, but you might find yourself Dancing Through Life with the fun!

There will be free candy for our junior witches and wizards. Bring a decorated broom and enter a fanciful broom decorating contest (enchanted brooms may be

disqualified!)

The event will also feature free Tarot readings by Ann Loker.

The event is free to attend, and the group is collecting nonperishable food items for the St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen in Great Mills. In lieu of an entry fee, the witches request that you bring an item for donation like juice, condiment bottles, crackers, seasoning packets, and more.

This is the third annual gathering of the Witches of Southern Maryland! The organizers host this just-for-fun event each year in SoMD to celebrate togetherness with family, friends, and neighbors in the Halloween season. You can find the Witches of Southern Maryland's 2025 event by searching on Facebook.

Dust off your brooms, friends, and join us for one short day in the Emerald City. It's time to fly!

Press release

Citizens Academy Holds Completion Ceremony



Pictured, left to right: Donald Sheehan, Jackson Hicks, Kathryn Juneke, Mary Anderson, Malia Wills, Sheriff Steve Hall, Adyson Bond, Sean Richie, Paula Dickens, Stacey Dickens, Kurt Prescher, Rowena Bossio. Not pictured: Lawrence Stauffer

The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office held the final session and completion ceremony for the 2025 Citizens Academy on Thursday, Oct. 2, marking the completion of an eight-week program designed to give residents a closer look at local law enforcement.

Participants visited Sheriff's District Stations and toured the Emergency Communications Center, Detention Center, and Crime Lab. The group also traveled to the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy for an overview of officer training. Classroom instruction covered topics including traffic safety, collision reconstruction, and special operations.

The program provided participants with the

opportunity to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the Sheriff's Office. "I want to be informed... Now I understand what is going on behind the scenes, whereas before I didn't understand police work," said participant Sean Ritchie.

Fellow participant Jackson Hicks added, "Ensuring the safety of the public is the most critical function of government, and I was incredibly thankful to learn more about all that this county does for its citizens and the people who make it possible."

Press Release from SMCSO



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EXPLORE Leonardtown



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Events Calendar

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OCT 3-31	Scarecrow Stroll in Leonardtown www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/ScarecrowStroll
OCT 11	Coastal Arts Market 9am - 3pm www.coastalartsmarket.blogspot.com
OCT 19	Monster Mash Bash 1pm - 4pm www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar
OCT 25	Ace's Angel Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness 9am - 12pm www.AcesAngelsInc.com
NOV 7-9	November First Friday / Passport to the Holidays www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar

Leonardtown is falling into fun – For more events & activities, visit:
www.VisitLeonardtownMD.com/EventsCalendar

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MEET HEGGIE

Heggie is a handsome boy with a silky white coat. He's a little reserved at first but quickly warms up into a loving, loyal companion. Visit www.animalrelieffund.org or stop by the Well Pet Clinic in Lexington Park during adoption days—Saturdays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.—to meet him!



St. Mary's College Hosts Send Silence Packing® Exhibit

For more than a decade, Active Minds' acclaimed Send Silence Packing® exhibit has traveled the country to end the silence that surrounds mental health and suicide and connect visitors with resources for support and action.

The 2025 display will be at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the lawn in front of Montgomery Hall.

"Want to learn more about how to help someone who is struggling? All you have to do is A.S.K.," said Jess Jolly, LCSW-C, director of counseling for SMCM. "Acknowledge them and let them know you're there for them; Support by asking what they need; and Keep in Touch by checking in consistently."

The all-day exhibit features personal stories from individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide and is designed to raise awareness about the impact of suicide, connect individuals to mental health resources and inspire action for suicide prevention. Passersby are invited to walk among the Send Silence Packing backpacks to view the photographs and read the stories attached to them. Many of the backpacks were donated by families who lost a loved one to suicide.

Since its inaugural display on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in 2008, Send Silence Packing has reached over a million visitors and counting with messages of hope and help. Evaluation data attests to the display's impact: most visitors leave wanting to learn more about mental health and the

majority tell three or more people about the display and may reach out to a friend in need or seek help for themselves as a result of experiencing it.

"I founded Active Minds as a freshman in college following the death of my brother, Brian, by suicide in order to end the stigma around mental health. Stigma is shame, shame causes silence, and silence hurts us all," said Alison Malmon, founder and executive director of Active Minds. "Send Silence Packing is a highly visible way to combat that stigma, increase openness, and inspire action for suicide prevention. Thank you, St. Mary's College of Maryland, for bringing the 2025 exhibit to your community to help continue to spread awareness and inspire action around mental health and suicide prevention efforts."

More information about Send Silence Packing can be found at activeminds.org/ssp.

About Active Minds

Active Minds is the largest nonprofit in the United States mobilizing youth and young adults to transform mental health norms across society. For more than 20 years, we have equipped the next generation of peer mental health advocates through a variety of programs, including the Active Minds Chapter Network, A.S.K. and Send Silence Packing. To learn more about Active Minds, visit activeminds.org.

Press Release

Classical Pianist Presents PianoTalk

St. Mary's College of MD Musician-in-Residence Brian Ganz will resume his popular PianoTalk series at the college on Wednesday Oct. 15 at 11:30 a.m. with a free PianoTalk featuring Fryderyk Chopin's two most popular Polonaises, the "Military" Polonaise Op. 40, No. 1 and the "Heroic" Polonaise, Op. 53.

The program, which will take place in the recital hall of the Dodge Performing Arts Center on the college campus, is entitled "PROUD CHOPIN: The Sunlit Polonaises." Ganz will discuss the two polonaises and perform them both.

For more information call (240) 895-4229. "Chopin composed his first polonaises at the age of 7, and his final polonaise almost 30 years later, near the end of his creative life," Ganz said. "Almost without exception, Chopin's polonaises express his deep pride in being Polish, many with a large helping of musical joy and festivity. But none are more joyful than the two I will play and discuss in this PianoTalk," he continued. "Most of Chopin's music has plenty of shadows to balance out the sunshine. But not these works! They are about as sunny as his longer works get. If you want music to put

a bounce in your step, a smile on your face and a song in your heart, this PianoTalk is for you."

Ganz is on a quest to perform all of Fryderyk Chopin's 240 works. "Chopin's music is the language of my soul, and I have dreamed since childhood of someday performing all of his works," said Ganz, who is widely regarded as one of the leading pianists of his generation. He is expected to be the first to perform every piece of music Chopin ever wrote.

Ganz's PianoTalk series at the college will continue this semester on October 28, November 6 and November 18, and will feature Chopin's 3rd Scherzo, the Mazurkas Opp. 63 and 67, and the great Barcarolle, respectively.

Ganz has appeared as soloist with such orchestras as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the National Philharmonic, the Baltimore and the National Symphonies, the City of London Sinfonia, and L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo. He has performed in many of the world's major concert halls and has played under the baton of such conductors as Leonard Slatkin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Pinchas Zukerman, Jerzy Semkow and Yoel Levi.

Press Release

Sacred Heart Church

ANNUAL OCTOBER

Drive-Thru Dinner

23080 MADDOX ROAD, BUSHWOOD, MARYLAND 20618

Sunday, October 26, 2025

11:00 a.m. 'til

MENU:



Fried Oysters



Stuffed Ham



Turkey w/Dressing

\$30.00

(Make Checks Payable to Sacred Heart Church)
Cash or Checks Only
(Sorry, No Credit Card Service Available)

Parsley Potatoes,
Candied Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw & Rolls

Drive-Thru & Carry Outs Only

Cake Table Available

SMECO Offers Relief During Government Shutdown

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) recognizes that the ongoing federal government shutdown is creating financial hardships for many local families. SMECO is offering multiple protections for residential members who may be experiencing hardship due to the shutdown. To assist members facing temporary financial strain, the cooperative is:

- Offering extended payment arrangements for members having difficulty paying their electric bills
- Waiving otherwise applicable late payment fees, and good-faith payments normally required to establish a payment plan
- Suspending disconnections for non-payment for impacted members
- Providing referrals to local energy assistance programs

In addition, if service to an impacted member is disconnected for nonpayment without

SMECO's knowledge of the member's eligibility status, upon request by the impacted member, the cooperative will reconnect service without requiring any reconnection payment, reconnection fees, or deposit.

"Many of our members work for the federal government or contractors, and we understand that a disruption in income can create real stress," said Sonja Cox, SMECO President and CEO. "As a cooperative, we are here to support our members and our community."

Members who need assistance are encouraged to contact SMECO's customer care team at 1-888-440-3311 to explore available options. SMECO will accept a verbal statement from the member confirming their federal and furloughed status. Cooperative representatives will work with each member individually to determine the best solution for their situation.

Press Release from SMECO

County Announces Columbus Day Operations

All St. Mary's County Government (SMCG) administrative offices will be closed on Monday, October 13, 2025, in observance of Columbus Day. Offices will resume normal operating schedules on Tuesday, October 14.

The October 13 closure includes:

- All three St. Mary's County Libraries (Charlotte Hall, Leonardtown, and Lexington Park)
- All three Senior Activity Centers (Garvey, Loffler, and Northern), and there will be no home-delivered meals
- The St. Mary's Transit System (STS)
- The Animal Adoption & Resource Center

The following SMCG operations will be open on October 13:

- Department of Recreation & Parks indoor programs and facilities
- St. Clement's Island Museum*, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, and the Old Jail Museum

- Wicomico Shores Golf Course (normal operations; Riverview Restaurant closed)
- The six Convenience Centers and the St. Andrews Landfill

Note: the St. Clement's Island Museum is operating on a limited basis due to construction. Additional details can be found here: <https://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/pio/docs/2025-163NewsReleaseSCIMuseumConstructionClosure.pdf>

For more information on SMCG programs and operations, visit: www.stmaryscountymd.gov or follow St. Mary's County Government on Facebook, X, and Instagram for regular updates.

Press Release from SMCG

Legal Notices

COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE TO BIDDERS Stormwater Improvement Projects Redesign

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are seeking bids for improvements to stormwater facilities at three locations within the Town.

The job will consist of installing inlet structures, HDPE pipe, riprap and site grading. A site map and revised specifications for the work is available from The Commissioners of Leonardtown, 22670 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday or by emailing Leonardtown.commissioners@leonardtownmd.com. An optional pre bid meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2025 at 10 a.m. Interested parties will meet at Town Hall at 22670 Washington Street to review the revised scope of work.

Sealed bids labeled as "Stormwater Bid Revised" will be accepted until 10:00 a.m. on October 30, 2025. Bids are intended to be awarded November 10, 2025. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, vary the specifications of those set forth, and impose such additional or further specifications as, in its discretion, it determines to be in the public interest.

By Authority of: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

Sell it - Buy it at Auction

Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad
Community Auction

(Chicken Dinners Available)

27636 Mechanicsville Rd – Mechanicsville, MD (Moose Lodge)

Friday, October 17, 2024 – 6 pm

(Doors Open at 4:30 pm)

Expecting Framed Hunting/Sports Prints, Tools, Crafts/Housewares and Homemade Cakes!

Coming Soon!

Online Antique & Collectible Auction

Oyster Cans – Nautical Items – Decoys – Collectibles – More

Including Oyster Cans from the Banagan Collection

Auction expected to be online in mid October

Southern Maryland
Farm & Country Christmas Auction

Live, Evergreen Wreaths – Poinsettias – Handcrafted Quilts – Furniture & Crafts – New Tools, Toys & Other Items

Saturday, December 6, 2025 – 9 am

Westfield Farm Arena & Auction Barn

26689 Laurel Grove Road - Mechanicsville, MD

www.FarrellAuctionService.com

301.904.3402

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2025
October
15

2025
December
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Leonardtown
301-475-4200 ext. 1654
Great Mills
301-475-4200 ext. 3104
Charlotte Hall

Lexington Park Man Arrested on Gun, Assault Charges

At around 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to an establishment located in the 22000 block of Three Notch Road in Lexington Park for the report of a disturbance between several individuals and a subject with a gun.

When deputies arrived, they did not find anyone involved in the reported disturbance. A short time later, however, a group of individuals returned to the scene and told deputies they were the victims of an alleged assault in which a man broke the rear passenger window of their vehicle and pointed a firearm at them.

Deputies canvassed the area and located a vehicle matching the description provided by the victims. A traffic stop was conducted, and a loaded handgun was recovered during the investigation.

The suspect, identified as Lonnell Belcher, 49, of Lexington Park, was arrested and transported to the St. Mary's County Detention and Rehabilitation Center in Leonardtown. Belcher was charged with the following:

- Three counts of first-degree assault
- Three counts of second-degree assault
- Two counts of knowingly transporting



Lonnell Belcher

- a handgun on public roadways
- Two counts of carrying a loaded handgun on or about their person
- Use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and a crime of violence
- Malicious destruction of property

Press Release from SMCSO

Two Businesses Fail Alcohol/Tobacco Compliance Checks

On Tuesday, Sept. 30 the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Alcohol Enforcement Unit conducted a series of alcohol and/or tobacco compliance checks at businesses across the county.

The operation involved the use of a 20-year-old Confidential Informant (CI) from the Sheriff's Office. The CI, dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt, was instructed to enter stores and attempt to purchase alcohol and/or tobacco products to test compliance with state laws.

The CI was accompanied by Deputy Alex Sams of the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, who was dressed in civilian attire and observed all attempted transactions.

A total of 13 businesses were visited during the operation. Of those, 11 passed the compliance check by properly requesting identification and refusing the sale. However, two businesses failed to request identification and sold alcohol and/or tobacco products to the underage CI.

Businesses that asked for an identification from the CI:

- Wawa: 30320 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall
- Exxon: 30100 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall
- Charlotte Tobacco & Vape: 30090

- Three Notch Rd., Charlotte Hall
 - 7 Eleven Store #21067: 29969 Three Notch Road, Charlotte Hall
 - New Market Spirits: 29233 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville
 - Shivas Smoke Shop LLC: 29015 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville
 - 7 Eleven Store #20835: 28240 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville
 - DJ's One Stop Shop: 28035 Three Notch Road, Mechanicsville
 - The Toasted Foot Lounge: 20845 Callaway Village Way, Callaway
 - Sheetz: 20760 Old Great Mills Road, Great Mills
 - Stop'N Shop: 21036 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park
- Businesses that failed to ask for identification from the CI:
- Leonardtown Wine & Spirits: 25470 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown
 - Smoke Shack: 46925 S Shangri-La Dr., Unit B, Lexington Park
- The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office remains committed to promoting public safety and ensuring compliance with state laws regarding the sale of tobacco and alcohol to underage individuals.

Press Release from SMCSO

STAUFFER FEED MILL

COVER IT WITH TARPS

Storage Covers, Camping, Boat Covers, Tent Flys, Pool Covers, Wood Pile Covers

**28150 POINT LOOKOUT RD
LEONARDTOWN, MD**

(On Route 5 In Loveville - Just Outside Of Leonardtown)

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 7AM-6PM
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Animal Feed & Supplies

*SIZES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
* ACTUAL SIZE A LITTLE LESS, AFTER SEAMING
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SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31st, 2025

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Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price	Cut Size	Sale Price
5x7	\$1.95	12x25	\$15.75	9x12	\$11.55	30x40	\$111.70	8x10	\$12.15	16x20	\$46.45
6x8	\$2.70	15x20	\$15.75	10x12	\$12.80	30x50	\$134.55	10x12	\$18.20	20x20	\$58.05
8x10	\$4.45	15x25	\$19.65	10x15	\$16.00	40x60	\$215.25	10x20	\$30.30	30x40	\$152.95
8x12	\$5.35	15x30	\$23.60	10x20	\$21.35			12x12	\$21.80	30x50	\$191.15
8x15	\$6.70	16x20	\$16.80	12x12	\$15.35			12x16	\$29.10	30x60	\$229.40
8x18	\$7.55	20x20	\$20.95	12x16	\$20.50			12x20	\$34.85	40x60	\$305.85
8x20	\$8.40	20x30	\$31.45	12x20	\$25.60			12x25	\$43.55		
9x12	\$6.00	20x35	\$35.15	12x25	\$32.00						
10x12	\$6.70	20x40	\$40.15	15x20	\$32.00						
10x15	\$7.90	24x36	\$43.35	15x25	\$38.35						
10x16	\$8.40	25x45	\$56.45	16x20	\$34.15						
10x20	\$10.50	30x40	\$60.20	20x20	\$40.85						
12x12	\$7.55	30x60	\$82.30	20x25	\$51.10						
12x14	\$8.80	40x50	\$91.45	20x30	\$61.30						
12x16	\$10.10	40x60	\$109.75	20x35	\$65.20						
12x20	\$12.60			20x40	\$74.50						

State Road Show Pulls into Leonardtown

TJ Bridge Still the Gorilla in the Room

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The annual visit to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County by representatives of the Maryland Department of Transportation occurred Sept. 30. Often dubbed the "road show," this year Acting Transportation Secretary Samantha Biddle and her staff updated the commissioners on local and state projects. Delegate Matt Morgan and Leonardtown Mayor Dan Burris also attended the meeting.

Biddle noted that she met with some of the commissioners this past summer at the Maryland Association of Counties convention. She said, "This past summer we were asked about the status of modifying the signal at the intersection of Point Lookout Road and Maryland 242 from a control beacon to a full traffic signal. The State Highway Administration's District 5 is coordinating with many of you to provide updates and will continue to do so."

Biddle added, "Turning to the draft CTP (Consolidated Transportation Plan), we are utilizing every dollar to make strategic investments, along with three key priorities. And those priorities are enhancing safety, maintaining our systems so that it's in a state of good repair, and driving economic growth across the state. Our draft CTP is an exciting follow-up to a productive legislative session this past year. And I want to thank all of our partners both in the general assembly and through the governor's leadership because we were able to secure approximately \$400 million in additional transportation revenues. With these dollars we're stretching the funding by combining it with federal resources and financing options to turn that \$400 million into approximately \$700 million in additional transportation funding. Without these additional resources the department would've seen sustained and deepened cuts to transportation. And thankfully those cuts are not necessary."

Biddle noted, "Instead, I can share that the draft CTP includes investments in St. Mary's County and all across Maryland. The program is a six-year capital budget that is balanced in approximately \$21.5 billion. This is a modest increase of approximately \$300 million additional from the last year's

final CTP published in January. The additional dollars are also being used to take significant action to further maintain the system and ensure that millions of Marylanders can get where they need to safely and reliably."

Plan highlights, Biddle said, include "enhancing pedestrian safety along Three Notch Road where one of State Highway Administration's pedestrian safety action plan projects is taking place. We're also funding a study to make Patuxent Beach Road and the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge safer."

She added, "The department is very much serious about safety, and the draft CTP reflects safety as a top priority. We're continuing to push forward to expedite progress, to sharply bend the curve on roadway fatalities across the state and leading the way to deliver both policy changes and projects needed to improve safety outcomes."

State Highway Administrator Will Pines further elaborated on the Route 235 pedestrian safety project from Great Mills Road to Chancellor's Run Road. He said, "Following the workshop we held in January, we'll be back soon with concepts to get more public feedback on that project." He also noted the new signal on Route 245 at Leonard's Grant Parkway in Leonardtown, and the MD 5 bridge replacement at Hilton Run, which is nearing completion.

The state announced recently the \$32.4 million project on MD 5 between Maryland 471 and Great Mills Road, in which "we'll replace the 112-year-old bridge at that site, widen the road, and add biking pedestrian facilities that meets our Complete Streets goals. Utility relocations are ongoing at that project and design will be complete next summer. And we expect the start of construction in 2027."

He also said, "In the Leonardtown area, the MD 245 Sidewalk Project from Baldrige Street to Town Run Drive is expected to start construction in 2026 pending the right-of-way acquisition."

But the commissioners made sure that Biddle understood the importance of a new Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge, despite its projected cost and not being in the six-year CTP.

A litany of traffic changes since the bridge was built was used to underscore the need for both Naval Air Station Patuxent River and the Calvert County energy infrastructure.

Included in the data was the fact that the MD 4 at 235 intersection is the worst rated p.m. rush hour intersection in the state of Maryland, she was told.

Commissioner Scott Ostrow, who recited the statistics, observed, "DOD Pax River Resilience Review identifies the Solomons Bridge as 'a critical transportation artery' and calls the replacement 'a regional top priority project.'"

Biddle said, "We have been listening. I think one of the things that even as we were talking about, in preparation for meeting with you over the summer and meeting today, is that we wanted to come back with some updated tangible progress. And while it's not tangible progress that results in the full funding of a replacement structure, I think that the team is making really strong efforts to use the resources that are available to us."

She said the state funding progress this year. "I think is going to lead towards kinds of meaningful next steps towards that."

Pines said, "There is a lot of discussion about the safety of the bridge, and we do want to emphasize to the public that it is safe, that it's not restricted to loads in any way. A fair rating is one of the most common ratings that we have on all of our bridges statewide. So, it is not poor rated, which is a relevant factor in the determination on replacement."

He added, "Big picture on Thomas Johnson, the last two CTPs that I've been here with you, we talked about working through the process to get the earmark actu-



Acting Transportation Secretary Samantha Biddle

ally obligated. The good news is we actually have that done now. We have work underway. The Coast Guard has provided us a letter of entry into the permitting process. They've assigned an officer to the project for the Coast Guard preliminary determination.

"We are currently procuring a solar powered mast height measuring system that will actually measure the height of vessels that travel underneath. The hope is that will allow us to possibly change the height and clearance of the span and thereby reduce the cost of the structure."

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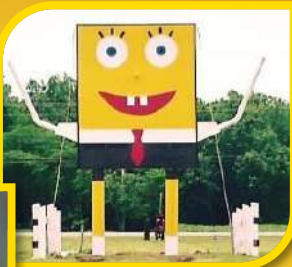
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What's Happening this Weekend:

Saturday, October 11: Senior Citizens (60 & over) receive \$1 off admission • Bluegrass music with Spoon Creek Band from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, October 12: Southern Knights Rod & Custom Car show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Fall Season runs through
Sunday, October 26th**

Saturdays: 10:00am – 6:00pm

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Admission: \$15 per person (kids 3 & under free)

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Commissioners Meet with County Delegation *Legislators Share Their Priorities*

By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the county legislative delegation huddled Oct. 7 for their annual confab that includes presentation of the county's legislative package. This year that list was short, with only two items.

The entire delegation was present, with Sen. Jack Bailey and Delegates Matt Morgan, Brian Crosby, and Todd Morgan. The legislators used the occasion to explain things they are working on.

The package included the second year of trying to get passed legislation prohibiting soliciting on roads. The second item was a relatively perfunctory list of corrective changes proposed by the Metropolitan Commission.

Deputy County Attorney John Sterling Houser explained the first request was "to add St. Mary's County to the list of counties...in which solicitations are prohibited when being done in the meeting of a vehicle. It was the same proposal we requested last year. Status of that last year was it got out of committee, heavily amended, but did not advance further than that."

Houser said, "This type of activity is a potential danger to motorists and those performing the solicitations themselves, should something untoward or unfortunate ever happen as a result of the activity that's being engaged in here."

Del. Todd Mrgan, the delegation chair, said, "There's obviously a number of first amendment freedom of speech issues that my committee looked at and the transportation committee chair added a bunch of amendments to it that really significantly limited what this bill would be able to do. That the person who would be doing the solicitation would have to be actually leaving a median going into the street, banging on a car window, causing all kinds of other issues. So, I've already started to speak to committee about this. I understand what we're trying to do. I support what we're trying to be able to do. However, it takes more than just me to get things through that committee up there. And since there are court cases currently pending regarding roadside solicitation, we have to wait to see how it goes."

He said his intent was to file a bill "and then we'll have to just fight it out on the committee."

There was no specific data on accidents involving solicitations, Del. Crosby was told.

"I'm not saying I don't understand, but to have the restriction, there's going to have to be something that's going to justify that. That's all I'm saying," said Crosby, the only Democrat on the delegation.

Nobody from the public spoke on the two proposed bills.

In talking about their individual issues, Sen. Bailey said, "Obviously we have some, local issues that need to be addressed, but one that's come to my attention rather, recently is those of you that are familiar with the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, it's been told by the state that they can no longer use their electronic gaming devices that they've had in place for now over 30 years. Currently our office is working to find out what has happened and why this issue that was favorable not only to the Moose, but it provided our community about \$4,500 a month that they were able to provide to nonprofits. How, did this consideration come from the state lottery, and we're looking into it, we've got a lot of questions out there."

Del. Todd Morgan said, "The other piece of local legislation that we're going to be looking at this year is what's called Living Shorelines. It was a very heated discussion two sessions ago, and the idea was that MDE (Maryland Department of the Environment) could get their act together on the Living Shoreline bill and how it is going to be utilized. Right now, the law basically says that if we tell you're going to put a living shoreline you're going to do it whether you like it or not, whether it be county property, state property, or private property."

He said the topography of the state doesn't indicate a one-size-fits-all solution and living shorelines are very expensive.

Del. Matt Morgan said, "There is a recent poll that 53 percent of Marylanders...are looking at possibly moving from the state. And it's because of the taxes; it's because of the crime. It's because of our education system. It's because of our energy bills."

"And this year I'm going to be focused predominantly on state legislation. One of the problems that we had, and I think there needs to be great clarity brought is to nonprofits. There's a lot of money that gets spent by the taxpayers into nonprofits. And I think there needs to be some greater accountability and maybe some transparency on how that money is getting pushed out and who is spending it."

Del. Crosby said, "I am the vice chair of economic matters and oversee the public utilities subcommittee. It'll be energy focused and this year it'll be really tied into data centers. And for anybody who is really following the situation, Virginia has built a ton of these data centers with very little economic benefit. And Marylanders have paid the price for it. And frankly, the entire region, if you are a part of what's called the PJM grid, which we are, you're subsidizing the costs on your energy bills every single solitary month for these data centers."

"And so that is what we are going to be extraordinarily locked in on and focused on this upcoming session."

dickmyers@countytimes.net

County Feels Impact of Government Shutdown



By Dick Myers
Staff Writer

People are noticing that all of a sudden rush hour traffic in St. Mary's County is not what it used to be. Blame it on the federal government shutdown, entering its second week.

While Naval Air Station Patuxent River remains fully operational, all civilian employees of NAVAIR have been sent home.

A posting on their website says, "The most recent appropriations for the Department of War expired at 11:59 p.m. EDT on Sept. 30, 2025. Military personnel will continue in a normal duty status, without pay, until such time as a continuing resolution or appropriations are passed by Congress and signed into law. Civilian personnel not engaged in excepted activities will be placed in a non-work, non-pay status."

NAVAIR has about 400 military, 1,900 civilians, and 1,100 contractors on base.

Those who are working on base can expect not to receive their regular paycheck on Oct. 15. Back pay probably will be paid once the shutdown ends.

Naval Air Station Patuxent River Public Affairs Officer Patrick Gordan said that some of their personnel have been furloughed, although he was not able to provide a number.

Gordan did note that the base is still seeing traffic.

Patuxent River Naval Air Station issued the following statement: "During the lapse in government appropriations, services will not be interrupted at NAS Patuxent River MWR and FFSC facilities. This includes the Drill Hall gym, golf course, Center Stage Theater, Auto Hobby, NRC Solomons, childcare facilities, unaccompanied housing, Community Recreation Office, Marina, Liberty Programs, NEX (to include food court/Subway/Sea Wings/food trucks), and commissary. Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River services are also uninterrupted."

The impact on the civilian government contracting community is unclear. It appears dependent on the funding stream they receive. One contractor told The County Times they are unaffected because they had already received the money for their contract.

Commissioner Eric Colvin reacted to the situation at the Sept. 7 commissioner meeting. He said, "It has impacts locally

to some of our coworkers on the base, to just people who commute to work jobs in DC. It's unfortunate, there's no reason for it. Their (Congress') number one job is to pass a budget and they haven't passed a budget since Clinton was president but at least get a continuing resolution. Let's get something going here."

Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Counties on Oct. 7 discussed local impact with the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners. He said, "The current federal shutdown is going to affect Maryland more than most states. Typically, federal employees who go without pay get compensated back at the end of the line. I guess there's no guarantee that whatever resolution we'll see and whenever that happens. But most stakeholders expect that's the case."

"You still will have contractors and other businesses that are built on and around federal presence who don't get the benefit of back pay and so forth. If your pizza restaurant is empty today because it's right next to a federal facility and no one's there, you don't get to make up that six-week's worth of time or whatever. So, we'll see how much that affects the economy and our neighborhoods."

There's a lot of political finger pointing. In a blue state, Democrats have been extremely active blaming the Republicans.

Gov. Wes Moore asked, "Why did Washington look at us and say, 'You're on your own?' The answer is equal parts simple, and frustrating. The President of the United States couldn't close a deal on making health care more affordable. Right now, the country is barreling toward enormous spikes in health care costs. As many as 190,000 Marylanders could see their monthly premiums go up by an average of 68 percent."

Congressman Steny Hoyer said, "This is a sad day, but not a surprising day. It's a sad day because we are doing something that is stupid, harmful to the people who make our government work, who serve the American people every day. It is a sad day. It is a stupid day because this is costing the taxpayer a lot of money. It's costing individual federal workers and federal contractors economic pain and loss."

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They Said Yes!

Congratulations to the happy couples who applied for marriage licenses
in St. Mary's County during the month of September. Best wishes to all!

Clive Roy Sangster, 56, St. Thomas, Jamaica
Caroline Eleith Mitchell, 58, Lexington Park, MD

Natalie Tamara Tippet-Hayes, 25, Mechanicsville, MD
William Tyler Skasanuti Morris, 29, Mechanicsville, MD

Walter Cory Ivanov, III, 37, Lusby, MD
Sarah Kathleen D'antuono, 38, Lusby, MD

Dale Stephen Herbert, Jr., 46, Mechanicsville, MD
Tina Marie Shannon, 46, Mechanicsville, MD

Jacoby Michael McConahay, 22, California, MD
Madeline Mariah Tice, 21, California, MD

Keshawn Amir Banks, 23, Saint Albans, WV
Auntumn Marie Thompson, 23, Saint Albans, WV

Dominique Teresa Frascoia, 31, Mechanicsville, MD
Patrick Aaron Michael Nichols, 34, Mechanicsville, MD

Kasey Taylor Russell, 34, Hollywood, MD
Mark Andrew Thompson, II, 40, Hollywood, MD

Kimberlie Alison Duehring, 27, Chaptico, MD
Charles Gerad Taylor, 28, Charlotte Hall, MD

Joseph Michael Tennyson, 25, Mechanicsville, MD
Makenzie Ann Vandevander, 25, Mechanicsville, MD

Daryl Clinton White, 44, Great Mills, MD
Sariesha Waynette Dyson, 48, Great Mills, MD

Kristina Darliene Case, 35, Lexington Park, MD
David Corey Walker, 38, Lexington Park, MD

Selena Alexis Butler, 27, Waldorf, MD
Rick Dylane Mbankeu Djeuhon, 28, Waldorf, MD

Robert Theodore Oliver, Jr., 52, Avenue, MD
Dana Marie Nichols, 43, Chaptico, MD

Marissa Mackenzie Murray, 26, Lusby, MD
Alexander Charles Sledge, 26, Lusby, MD

Xin Lu, 37, Lexington Park, MD
Xiao Yi Zhang, 33, Scarborough, Ontario

Leah Nichole Jackson, 25, Warrenton, VA
Chett Patrick Lavin, 25, Warrenton, VA

Kaitlyn Elizabeth Klahr, 25, La Plata, MD
Darius Eastep Humphries, 27, La Plata, MD

Tyler Clay Adkins, 28, Leonardtown, MD
Regina Kay Baker, 28, Leonardtown, MD

Destiny Renee Christensen, 25, Leonardtown, MD
Scott Taylor Graves, 28, Leonardtown, MD

Marshall Lee Stackhouse, 31, California, MD
Samantha Marie Schmidt, 36, California, MD

Sean Russell Lemmon, 26, Mechanicsville, MD
Shanye Elisabeth Burch, 23, Mechanicsville, MD

Kenneth Horst Stauffer, 21, Leonardtown, MD
Velma Zimmerman Stauffer, 21, Leonardtown, MD

Skylar Jo Maddox, 22, Mechanicsville, MD
Jack Michael Davis, 23, Mechanicsville, MD

Melanie Ann Hartenstein, 28, California, MD
John Everett Bouchard, 30, California, MD

Brittany Ann Bodnar, 37, Hollywood, MD
Jonathan Patrick Scully, 40, Hollywood, MD

Hunter Dakota Magill, 27, Hollywood, MD
Emily Ann Long, 28, Hollywood, MD

Luke William Weikert, 26, Lexington Park, MD
Lindsay Marie Wilkinson, 26, Lexington Park, MD

Jason Ray Yoder, 24, Hartly, DE
Kerri Ann Thompson, 21, Hartley, DE

Danielle Kristina Seifert, 28, Baltimore, MD
Robert Grant Durst, 29, Baltimore, MD

Christine Marie Bauk, 30, Alexandria, VA
Jude Gregory Hetrick, 29, Alexandria, VA

Keith David Murchison, 37, Frederick, MD
Margaret Mary Adams, 26, Frederick, MD

William Gerald Conrad Kersch, 25, California, MD
Daniela Victoria Rocafuerte Pasquel, 26, California, MD

Robin Lea Combs, 29, Leonardtown, MD
Christopher Andrew Michael, 29, Leonardtown, MD

Brooke Elizabeth Heishman, 23, Hughesville, MD
Collin James Fournier, 24, Brandywine, MD

Shelby Lynn Thompson, 26, Bushwood, MD
Dylan Wade Bowling, 28, Charlotte Hall, MD

Thamires Xavier Do Nascimento, 29, Scotland, MD
David James Sanborn, 35, Scotland, MD

Jeda Marie Yurko, 24, Lusby, MD
Hunter Nash Lohr, 25, Lusby, MD

Austen-Ryan McCarter Johnson, 28, Mechanicsville, MD
Amanda Michele Ault, 29, Mechanicsville, MD

Gianna-Rose Acosta, 35, Lexington Park, MD
David Anderson Collins, 34, Lexington Park, MD

Bethany Grace Yeh, 23, California, MD
Scott Martin Stevenson, 27, California, MD

Julia Lynn Brown, 24, Hollywood, MD
Brian Austin Williams, 25, Hollywood, MD

Emily Grace Russell, 25, Mechanicsville, MD
Zachary Thomas Murphy, 27, Huntingtown, MD

Matthew Baron Peacher, 39, California, MD
Jessica Ann Merkle, 31, California, MD

James Taylor Raber, 24, Dearing, GA
Shawnie Larie Daugherty, 21, Lexington Park, MD

Makayla Nicole Fowler, 24, King George, VA
Jeremy Craig Dougherty, 26, King George, VA

Vickie Lynn Quade, 58, Callaway, MD
Randolph Scott Mays, 64, Tall Timbers, MD

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“THIS IS A SAD DAY, BUT NOT A SURPRISING DAY.”

REP. STENY HOYER ON GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN



LOCAL 6
Commissioners meet with legislative delegation



LOCAL 7
MDOT road show visits Leonardtown



ON THE COVER
St. Mary's feels the effects of the federal government shutdown

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, OCT 9 Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 47°	FRI, OCT 10 Partly Cloudy Hi: 67° Lo: 54°	SAT, OCT 11 PM Showers Hi: 71° Lo: 59°	SUN, OCT 12 Rain Hi: 66° Lo: 55°
MON, OCT 13 Rain Hi: 65° Lo: 55°	TUE, OCT 14 AM Showers Hi: 72° Lo: 56°	WED, OCT 15 Partly Cloudy Hi: 72° Lo: 51°	THU, OCT 16 Mostly Sunny Hi: 68° Lo: 50°



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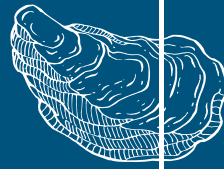
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Commissioners Meet
with State Legislators

Mental Health Exhibit
Visits St. Mary's College



FEDERAL SHUTDOWN IMPACTS ST. MARY'S