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# Calvert County Times

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

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**School Board Presents  
Budget Priorities**

**County Seeks Input  
on Election Plan**

**Shelter Promotes  
Senior Pets**



**HONORING LOCAL  
VETERANS**



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THU, NOV 6	FRI, NOV 7	SAT, NOV 8	SUN, NOV 9
Sunny Hi: 58° Lo: 39°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 64° Lo: 56°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 69° Lo: 51°	Rain Hi: 68° Lo: 39°
MON, NOV 10	TUE, NOV 11	WED, NOV 12	THU, NOV 13
Partly Cloudy Hi: 46° Lo: 31°	Mostly Sunny Hi: 49° Lo: 38°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 61° Lo: 41°	Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 38°



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# School Board Lays Out Budget Priorities

## Union Representatives Log In

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education at their Oct. 23 meeting gave their first crack at budget priorities for the next fiscal year. Interim School Superintendent Dr. Marcus Newsome will be presenting his proposed budget in January.

Member Paul Harrison suggested math coaches and “SROs (School Resource Officers) at the remaining elementary schools.”

Member Joseph Marchio advanced the need for additional Safety Advocates and SROs at the elementary schools.

School Board Vice President Lisa Grenis said, “I want to start with the absolute priority, and that’s honoring all negotiated agreements with CEA, CAESS and CASA.”

She added, “I also think we need to hire more special education teachers, IEP (Individual Education Plan) facilitators, and instructional assistants to help support with the IEP and 504 process.

Grenis said, “I talked to Dr. Newsom about this. We started with gifted and talented teachers this year, and it looks like we would need two more for next year. But I think that decision needs to be a data-based decision and perhaps a survey to see how it’s working. I don’t want to just say hire more without evidence that what we’re doing is efficient and productive in the schools.”

She added, “I really would like to see reimbursement for extra work, extra pay for the staff that are responsible for the Purple Star schools. I’m hearing it as a tremendous work. And, I don’t think we’re talking a huge budget item, but they should be reimbursed.

“We also have pre-K teachers who are preparing for Excel visits that is high intensity, high overtime, and they’re not getting reimbursed for that.”

Grenis said, “We talked about Blue Ribbon schools. If a teacher is stepping forward to do something like that, once again, highly time consuming, they should be reimbursed.”

Grenis observed, “One that I think is a very low budget item but should be a priority is to ensure quality and differentiated staff development for all staff, not just teachers. It should be at all levels.

“And I think the only other one we haven’t discussed was adding a shared dean position between Mount Harmony and Huntingtown Elementary. I’m hearing that they are grossly understaffed at those two buildings, so perhaps one could be hired and shared between the two.”

Board member Melissa Goshorn said, “I don’t disagree with anything anyone has said, but we all were a part of this process last year, and I didn’t get a money tree recently, so I just want to bring some realism to this process.”

She added, “There are three main areas that are focus for me generally. Student safety — we talked about advocates and SROs. Direct to student support -- we

talked about math coaches. Every position you mentioned, I think, supports direct to student support.

“And then I think the other area we need to focus on is operational effectiveness. In order to be able to fund the budget, because again, none of us got a money tree... I think we need to do two things as we approach this budget process. I think we need to do a staffing adequacy and utilization assessment in whatever way you want to think about that. We have a lot of people and a lot of needs.”

She added, “People are working way too much. We already know we have supervisors doing four and five jobs. We need to look at all of our people, all of the positions and figure out what everybody’s doing. And then we need to figure out what really needs to be done. And everything that we do and everything we prioritize should be how are we supporting students?”

In that regard, she said, “We might want to consider investing in a process optimization specialist so that someone can just take a look around.”

“I’d also like to add a hundred more teachers,” Goshorn said, “But in order to do any of those things, we need to do some assessing first.”

Goshorn observed, “We have a lot of long-term subs that have been long-term subs for a long time. If we could get a dollar amount of what it would add to the budget to convert those to full-time positions, I would like to see what that impact would be.”

School board President Jana Post looked back a hundred years and what school systems were required to do. “And then you fast forward to today, and the list is vastly different, and it is incredibly long.”

So, she said, “It would seem that we have to prioritize what the most important things are based on all of these things.”

Student Member of the Board Allison Jones said, “I especially agree with the need for teachers in the special needs departments, and instructional assistance as well as the assistance to our students. Coming from a military child perspective, I know when I came back to the States, I was far behind in math, because they had a far different curriculum from what they do in the States, and it took a lot of time for me to catch up.

“So, any assistance that can be provided to students to really catch them up, and this can be for students that are new, that are behind, that have been homeschooled, it can be very challenging. So, the assistance is greatly appreciated, and it is greatly needed for those students who are struggling.”

At the public forum, Calvert Education Association (CEA) President Jason Oates said, “I want to thank our elected board for prioritizing some of the budget requests we made last year. Thank you for restoring the fourth assistant principal at both Calvert and Patuxent high schools.

Thank you to the board staff and building administrators and the HR department

for your efforts to fill counselor vacancies. Thank you to the elected board for continuing to make staff and student safety a top priority. Without safety, learning can’t happen. Thank you for your understanding of the value of learning for our gifted and talented students. The addition of GATE teachers both fixed an equity issue and filled a hole that has existed for years.”

Oates said, “I recognize that balancing cost is challenging. I respect that budgeting is your responsibility. I ask that you remember that my responsibility is to advocate for what’s best for educators and in turn, our students. Earlier this week, I sent you an email with eight requests... I want to draw your attention to my first request, which I’ve also heard tonight. I’m asking you to continue to honor all negotiated agreements with CEA CASSE and CASA, including steps, Colas, and incentives without cutting staff and without increasing class size.”

His budget priorities other than honoring the agreements, as presented by email, are:

1. Add IEP Facilitators: Please consider adding IEP facilitators to reduce the workload currently falling on administrators, deans, counselors, and special educators. This would allow these professionals to focus more fully on supporting students and instructional needs.
2. Add a Shared Dean Position: We need an additional dean split between Mt. Harmony Elementary and Huntingtown Elementary. The increased demands administrators make shared leadership support essential for effective school management.
3. Increase Learning Specialists: Increase learning specialists for departments such as visual and performing arts, health and PE, and science, where current supervisors are managing multiple programs simultaneously. Some are doing the equivalent of four to five positions compared to similar roles in neighboring counties.
4. Hire More Special Educators and Speech-Language Pathologists: To truly support inclusive practices, we must ensure appropriate staffing levels — and that means hiring SLPs, special education teachers, and Instructional Assistants, not relying on long-term substitutes.
5. Prioritize Mental Health: Fully staff every building with their own counselors, psychologists, and social workers, and improve recruitment and retention for these critical roles. Mental health support for students and staff is no longer optional — it’s essential.
6. Expand Safety Staffing: Expand safety staffing by adding elementary and more middle and high school safety advocates. Every school should have the personnel necessary to ensure a safe and supportive environment for learning.
7. Fund the Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) Program: Last, the CEA and



CEA President Jason Oates

CCPS teams are in the planning phase of the Peer Assistance and Review program — a Blueprint-mandated initiative. Fully funding this program will help us recruit, support, and retain the very best educators here in Calvert County.

Calvert Association of Education Support Staff (CASSE) President Stacy Tayman asked the board to “prioritize filling vacant positions. “We have heard at several board meetings that CCPS has realized significant savings due to unfilled positions and that of the original \$17 million of the fund balance we thought we’d need to use to balance the budget, less than \$7 million has been needed. Most concerning is that the largest underspending came from employee benefits, like retirement health insurance and group life insurance. Because positions weren’t filled, salaries were also under-spent. Staff are absorbing the workload, while the monies are being used to cover other expenses.

“CASSE agreed to the lowest pay increase of our current contract for this fiscal year, understanding the financial challenges from past budget issues. But now with \$10 million in underspending and ongoing vacancies, we must prioritize staffing and support. Reduce the number of long-term substitutes and roles meant for instructional assistants, hire and train permanent staff.”

She asked the school board to evaluate secretarial support. “Elementary schools typically have two secretaries while middle schools have three, but nine out of the 12 elementary schools have comparable or higher enrollment than middle schools. Elementary school students often require more hands-on support from front office staff than their older peers. From managing parent communication or transportation changes, providing emotional reassurance, the demands on elementary front office staff are both frequent and intensive, and this support significantly increases the workload and complexity of front office responsibilities.”

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



# School Board Considers Student Telehealth Access

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The Calvert County Board of Education is considering a policy that allows students to access telehealth services at school under some very strict requirements.

At the Oct. 23 school board meeting, Director of Student Services Cecilia Lewis said, "This policy responds to House Bill 522, which mandates that each local educational agency, or LEA, develop a telehealth policy for secondary students aligned with state guidelines. These guidelines were developed by a work group led by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health to enhance and expand student access to telehealth services during the school day. The law allows each LEA flexibility in developing policies that suit local needs and resources provided they are consistent with state guidelines. LEAs also have the authority to determine which type of school-based telehealth appointments they will offer."

Lewis said, "The proposed policy allows parent-student initiated telehealth services, which are appointments between students and external healthcare providers, without formal agreements. With our LEA, the focus

is on behavioral health services for students in grades six through 12 to address limited local access and reduce time away from instruction and other school experiences."

She said once the policy is approved "we will develop corresponding procedures. The procedures will address all essential elements of the legislative requirements, including details regarding equity and prioritization of access, confidentiality, parent and student informed consent, in-person support protocols and provision of services. The procedures will also include guidelines regarding appointment scheduling, coordination and availability of school schedules, consent, physical space, staff roles, crisis response, and academic impact surrounding expectations for missed instruction and makeup work. We believe this policy will enhance student well-being while supporting academic continuity."

Lewis said regarding impact on staff, "We certainly have evaluated the necessary resources as well as time, which is why we are proposing a limited access with some scheduling restrictions. The schools would determine, based on their calendar with testing schedules, and limit how many telehealth appointments would be available per week."

Lewis observed, "In addition to that, because we were not allocated any addi-

tional staff to support the supervision of students throughout this, we're requiring parents to be present to supervise their child during these appointments."

School Bboard President Jana Post wanted to know what would happen if a student wanted a private session.

Lewis responded, "It is your policy, so certainly you can help drive any final decisions, but we are recommending that the parent is present throughout that session. And that is because in a traditional setting, a doctor is physically present with that child. So, you have supervision with another adult in a telehealth situation, particularly in a school setting where they're under our care and custody. When you're working with behavioral health, we would not want a child to be at risk with potentially the person on the other side being virtual and not seeing potential self-harm."

"There could be cases where a child could be cutting themselves and someone on the other side of the screen is not able to see that," she said."

A room for telehealth would be allocated although not necessarily exclusively.

Lewis added, "So I think it's an additional layer of support so that in cases where a parent may find a provider in Annapolis, but



Director of Student Services Cecilia Lewis

their child attends Southern Middle School, that's quite a distance for them to have to leave and come back. So, it's going to at least minimize some travel time, a lot of travel time, missed instruction and other school experiences."

The record will be left open for 30 days for comment.

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

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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 subject to change. Watch here:  
YouTube | Meetings on Demand | Comcast channel 99 or 1070 HD

### Board of County Commissioners Meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, 10 a.m.  
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 150 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](http://calvertcountymd.gov).

### Board of Appeals Hearing

Nov. 6 2025, 9 a.m.  
175 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Courthouse, Prince Frederick  
or via Teams or phone.



## Free Paper Shredding Event

Saturday, November 15, 2025

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Huntingtown High School  
4125 Solomons Island Road, Huntingtown



## Cove Point Park Playground



**Calvert County Parks & Recreation  
is gathering feedback for the  
new Cove Point Park Playground!**



Share your feedback by taking the survey,  
open now through Nov. 19.



*Thanks for Giving Me a Home!*

**Celebrate National Adopt a Senior  
Pet Month from Nov. 1-30  
Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter**

In honor of National Adopt a Senior Pet Month and  
Thanksgiving, all adoption fees will be waived from  
Nov. 1-30. Animals of all ages and personalities are  
available for adoption, but fees are waived for those  
8 years and older.



The CAB is currently open to the public by appointment only.

Calvert County Government has  
now settled into the new Calvert  
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**RESULTS ARE IN**

The latest community survey results are here!  
Residents continue to give high marks for  
Calvert County's strong sense of safety.

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## Residents Invited to Chart Future of Open Space

The Calvert County Department of Parks & Recreation invites citizens to provide input on the Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan (LPPRP), a five-year strategic plan that guides land conservation, park improvements, recreation opportunities and open space priorities throughout the county.

Citizens can provide input by taking a survey addressing the conservation and development of outdoor recreation opportunities in Calvert County over the next five years. The survey is available online at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LPPRPSurvey](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LPPRPSurvey).

"We're excited to set in motion a plan to capture Calvert County's goals for future recreation development and land preservation," said Parks & Recreation Director Bob Branham. "This plan cannot move forward without public input, and we encour-

age all residents to take the survey and help us shape the county's future together."

The county's most recent LPPRP was adopted in August 2022 and used similar public input to identify community priorities and guide investments in new facilities, park upgrades and land preservation initiatives.

Information on the 2022 LPPRP can be found online at [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LPPRP](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/LPPRP).

For updates on Parks & Recreation services, park availability, field closures and more, visit Parks & Recreation at [www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks](http://www.Facebook.com/CalvertCountyParks) and follow @CalvertCountyParksandRec on Instagram.

*Press release from Calvert County Government*

## Solomons Sidewalk Project Begins

The Calvert County Department of Public Works will begin a sidewalk reconstruction project in Solomons on Wednesday, Nov. 5, weather permitting. This project will enhance pedestrian safety and improve walkability along South Solomons Island Road.

Construction will occur southbound on South Solomons Island Road, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., between Lore Road and 14320 South Solomons Island Road. Work will include the removal of trees located between the sidewalk and curb, demolishing sidewalk

sections displaced by tree roots and the installation of new concrete sidewalks.

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

For more information on the project, call Public Works at 410-535-2204.

*Press release from Calvert County Government*

## St. Leonard Sidewalk Construction Continues

The Calvert County Department of Public Works will continue a sidewalk reconstruction project in the St. Leonard Town Center on Monday, Nov. 3 weather permitting. The project will enhance pedestrian safety and improve walkability along Calvert Beach Road.

Construction will occur on both sides of Calvert Beach Road, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., between St. Leonard Road and the entrance to the St. Leonard Firehouse. Work will involve the removal of trees located between the sidewalk and curb, demolition of sidewalk

sections displaced by tree roots and the installation of new concrete sidewalks.

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

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

*Press Release from Calvert County Government*

## Comments Accepted on Election Plan

The Calvert County Board of Elections is accepting written public comments on the 2026 Election Plan through Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. Comments may be emailed to [elections@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:elections@calvertcountymd.gov) or by mail to: Calvert County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 798, Prince Frederick, MD 20678.

Several proposals for the 2026 Election Plan were presented at the Oct. 22 meeting. View the meeting at Election Board Meeting Oct. 22 video.

Proposed changes include:

- Changing the location for Election Day voting for the Dunkirk area of precincts 3-6 and 3-7 from Northern High School, 2950 Chaneyville Road, Owings, to Ward Farm Park, 10455 Ward Road, Dunkirk.
- Combining precincts 3-6 and 3-7 into one precinct (3-6) and adjusting

boundaries accordingly.

The Board of Elections will consider approving the Election Plan at its Nov. 19 meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. at the Board of Elections office, located at 30 Duke St., in Prince Frederick.

The meetings are open to the public. To provide comment during a meeting, contact Kristen Scott at 410-535-2214, ext. 4 or email at [kristen.scott@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:kristen.scott@calvertcountymd.gov).

Written comments must be submitted by 4 p.m. the day before the meeting for the board's consideration.

For additional information, contact the Calvert County Board of Elections at 410-535-2214 or visit [www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/elections](http://www.CalvertCountyMd.gov/elections).

*Press Release from Calvert County Government*

## County Announces Veterans Day Schedule

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners announces county offices will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day. In addition:

- The Appeal Solid Waste Facility, which includes the landfill and transfer station, and all county customer convenience centers will be open with normal hours of operation on Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- The Water & Sewerage billing and customer service office will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- The Solomons Septage Receiving Facility will be open Tuesday, Nov. 11, with normal operating hours.
- Calvert County senior centers will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, and Meals on Wheels will not be delivered. Meal delivery is set to resume on Wednesday, Nov. 12.
- All community centers will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- There will be no county bus service Tuesday, Nov. 11. Regular service will resume Wednesday, Nov. 12.
- Calvert Library locations will be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11. Downloadable materials and virtual services are available at [Calvertlibrary.info](http://Calvertlibrary.info).
- The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and Animal Control Division will

be closed Tuesday, Nov. 11. Animal Control Officers will be available for emergencies at 410-535-3491.

- The Calvert Marine Museum and Museum Store will be open with normal hours on Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center will close at 4 p.m. on Nov. 11.
- Edward T. Hall Aquatic Center will be open with normal hours on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Kings Landing Pool and Cove Point Pool are closed for the season.
- All recreation parks including Dunkirk District Park, Ward Farm Recreation & Nature Park, Hallowing Point Park and Cove Point Park will be open with normal fall hours on Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Chesapeake Hills Golf Course will be open Tuesday, Nov. 11, with normal hours.
- Kings Landing Park will be open with regular hours on Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Battle Creek Cypress Swamp and Sanctuary and trails are open Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Flag Ponds Nature Park is closed Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Breezy Point Beach is closed for the season.

*Press release from Calvert County Government.*

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## Legal Notices

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., located at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss a proposed amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 881 5571 1494, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88155711494>

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. Recommendations to the Council will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov). All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization TAC at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the documents may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov), or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Council will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss the proposed amendments to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to the MD 5 Great Mills Study Project, which reflects an increase in funds and changes in funding sources, changes to the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83110085666>

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. Decisions will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov). All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the documents may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov), or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

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# Optimist of the Year Award Presented

On September 28, much to his surprise, Dave Spigler was presented with the Solomons Optimist Club's annual "Optimist of the Year Award" by Club President Candace Milcarzyk at an impromptu meeting that came about when the actual presentation at this year's annual picnic had to be cancelled due to the weather.

With no notice or hint of what was about to take place, President Milcarsky handed Dave a package containing a beautiful blue Optimist plaque for his volunteer contributions in caring for the youth of the community and support of the club's ongoing efforts during the past year. He was recognized for organizing a very successful Essay Contest and an Awards Dinner that followed. His efforts to draw great interest in this program by visiting several English classes at local public schools and a parochial school in southern Calvert County succeeded in attracting more than 50 submissions from students in grades 7-12.

This was the largest participation ever and led to a very difficult selection for the top three entries.

Additionally, Dave served on the Club's Board of Directors and was involved in many of the club's efforts during the year.

He provided support to club leadership, offering expert suggestions and ideas for tackling issues as they occurred. He proved especially helpful in the promotion of this year's Kenny Hoofnagel Scholarship Program.

He played a pivotal part in the planning and holding of this year's Annual Optimist Dinner held at the Calvert Marine Museum. He served as this year's Master of Ceremonies and recognized several club members for their long time support of the organization. Their efforts were publicized with a photo on the front page of the Calvert County Times and in the story he prepared

for that edition of the paper. Further, he played a part in putting together plans for the club's annual picnic, but unfortunately this big community event was cancelled at the last minute due to weather.

Dave has earned a reputation for his many various efforts to help those less fortunate than himself over the last several years. With his wife Deborah, he has involved himself supporting the youth as a Sunday School teacher at his parish, and Religious Education Director. A charter member of Knights of Columbus Council 9258 in Solomons, he has held most officer positions within the organization, and his efforts were recognized when he was selected by the Maryland State Council as the Maryland Citizen of the Year 2010-2011.

Further, he was especially thrilled to learn his selection by the County Commissioners as "The Most Beautiful Person of Calvert County" in 2013 for his many volunteer efforts.

Many folks in the community know Dave by his nickname "Spiggy" and are fully aware of his 20 years of supporting local charities as one of the infamous Washington Redskins "Hogettes." These 15 fun guys were known for their hilarious efforts in supporting their team, but their true purpose was to support Children's Hospital. They are credited for having help raised \$130 million for the sick kids during their 25 years of existence. Dave claimed to be the "cute blonde in the blue granny dress!"

Dave has always stated he never set out to accomplish any of these efforts for recognition or award. He has always looked out for folks less fortunate than himself to offer a hand where possible. It's just the way he was raised. These honors go to his parents.

*Press release*

# November Features Shelter Adoption Promo

The Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter's November adoption promotion, themed "Thanks for Giving Me a Home," runs through Saturday, Nov. 29. In celebration of National Adopt a Senior Pet Month and Thanksgiving, adoption fees will be waived for animals eight years and older.

Animals of all ages are available for adoption, including dogs, cats, rabbits, roosters, pigs and more. Adoptions include spay or neuter surgery, microchipping, age-appropriate vaccinations and a starter care package to help pets transition into their new homes.

Standard adoption protocols still apply. All potential adopters will go through the shelter's usual screening process to ensure each animal is placed in a safe, loving and appropriate home.

"We're thankful for every adopter who opens their heart and home to a senior

pet," said Crystal Dowd, deputy director of Public Safety. "Older animals make wonderful companions and deserve a loving family to call their own."

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

Follow the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter on Instagram at @calvertcountyanimalshelter and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyAnimalShelter](http://www.facebook.com/CalvertCountyAnimalShelter). For more information about adopting from the Linda L. Kelley Animal Shelter and to view adoptable pets, visit [www.calvert-countyanimalshelter.com](http://www.calvert-countyanimalshelter.com).

*Press release from Calvert County Government*

# Partnerships Highlight of Burnett Center Open House



Oct. 16 event at Burnett House

There was a joyful spirit on a perfect fall evening as people from the Calvert County community came together to bless the newly restored Labyrinth at Calvert Homestead and celebrate the Burnett Center for Hope & Healing's growth as a vital resource for those living with illness and loss.

Community members, local leaders and members of the health community attended the event that was held Oct. 16 at the center at 4559 Sixes Road in Prince Frederick, which is part of the Hospice of the Chesapeake family of services.

Guests first enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and the opportunity to learn about the integrative arts programs the organization offers. This includes veterans care, pet therapy, art therapy, and healing energies, including Compassionate Touch and reiki.

Hospice of the Chesapeake President and CEO Becky Miller stepped onto the portico to express gratitude to the Calvert County community and shared the organization's vision for the future — including expanding partnerships with local healthcare providers and county agencies to ensure more residents have access to hospice, supportive and grief care services.

"Good news, bad news: We are living longer, but we are living longer with advanced illnesses and diminishing resources. This phenomenon is going to require communities to band together, get creative and pool resources to allow our older population to remain independent and healthy in the community," Miller said. "This is something community-based organizations have always done. We are able to do so much because of our partnerships and friendships, old and new."

One such partnership is with CalvertHealth. Kara Harrer, CalvertHealth Associate Vice President of Ancillary Services, shared how intertwined the medical center is with Hospice of the Chesapeake, from palliative and end-of-life care to having representation on the hospice organization's board. "Beyond the bedside, our partnership extends into the community. Through initiatives like the Community Health Improvement Roundtable, we are engaging leaders and organizations to address key health needs, including end-of-life care," Harrer said.

Then, all of the guests followed the path that leads to the labyrinth next door. Special guest Barbara Burnett, who generously donated the Burnett Center property in memory of her husband, Robert Burnett, shared her gratitude to Hospice of the Chesapeake and the Calvert County community for helping her to realize her hopes that both the labyrinth and the Burnett Center would provide a peaceful space for reflection, healing and community connection. With the help of a youth organization from North Carolina, Burnett created the labyrinth in 2001 to help her cope with the grief of losing her husband. "I can only hope that all that walk or just stand inside will find their peace and answers as I did," she said.

The labyrinth is open to the public during daylight hours. For how to access the labyrinth, visit <https://labyrinthlocator.org/labyrinth/the-calvert-homestead/177/>.

*Press release from Hospice of the Chesapeake*



# Calvert Community Calendar

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

## Thu, Nov 6

### Awful Artworks: Pass It On

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

Have you ever looked at an art project and thought “I could do that,” but you in fact could not do that? Let your creativity flow without worrying about an end product! This will be a collaborative art venture! Every seven minutes, you must pass your art on to the person on your left, and they will continue adding to your art piece! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

## Sat, Nov 8

### Handling the Holidays

Burnett Center for Hope and Healing  
4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick  
10 a.m. to noon  
\$10 per person or \$20 per household

This is a workshop to help people facing the holiday season after a loss. Offered through Hospice of the Chesapeake’s Chesapeake Life Center, it offers support, opportunities to honor memories and time to explore coping strategies. There will be time for discussion and a creative project. Everyone will go home with a resource packet and a remembrance item. Adults and teens and children ages 6 and older are welcome.

Registration is required and can be completed by calling 888-501-7077 or emailing [griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org](mailto:griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org). Visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org/events](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/events) for a complete listing of in-person and virtual groups and workshops for adults and children.

### Jellyfish Day

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

In November, we celebrate jellyfish, the amazingly tentacled invertebrates of the Chesapeake Bay! Stop by to check out the Moon jellyfish exhibit and discover fun facts about the bay’s other jellyfish species through activities in our River to Bay Gallery. Included with museum admission. CMM members are free.

### 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! In partnership with Calvert Co. Puzzle Swap. 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>.

### Holiday Magic with Chesapeake Garden Club

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

Discover seasonal creativity with Chesapeake Garden Club! Enjoy demos on how to make a pinecone wreath, fresh and dried flower arrangements, oyster shell decoupage and bow making. There will be prize giveaways along with a free kids’ Thanksgiving craft. 410-257-2101. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Sun, Nov 9

### Southern Maryland Bluegrass Concert Series

Calvert Elks in Prince Frederick  
2 p.m.

The legendary band Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out will take the stage. They have more than thirty-four years of performing and over fifty industry accolades. Tickets are \$23. For details and contact information, visit [www.somdbluegrass.com](http://www.somdbluegrass.com)

### “On-Watch” Memorial Service

End of Dowell Road in Dowell  
2 p.m.

Join us in thanking all our veterans for their service at the site of the “On Watch” statue. Refreshments will be served on-site following the program.

## Mon, Nov 10

### Resumes and Interviewing

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

Offered by Maryland Department of Labor, American Job Center, this is an interactive workshop for resume and job interview help. Looking for a first job, or a better job? Don’t miss this free class. Registration closes 3 days before the event. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Proven Program to Prevent or Delay Diabetes

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

Take charge of your health! Join our free, fun and support.ve year-long diabetes prevention program for those at risk of diabetes or looking to lose weight. Learn how small changes in eating, activity, and mindset can lead to big results. Connect with others, build healthy habits, and reduce your

risk together. Presented in partnership with the Calvert County Health Department. To register or learn more information, call 410-<https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Tech Help Drop-in Hour

Calvert Library Prince Frederick  
850 Costley Way  
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Learn how to troubleshoot and fix your tech problems with Calvert Library! Need help with your devices? Drop in to Calvert Library’s open tech hours! We are pleased to offer personalized assistance with basic tech requests, computer and internet basics, e-Readers, Libby, Microsoft Office or Google apps, personal devices and ore! 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Book Discussion

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

Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, “Beneath a Scarlet Sky” is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man’s incredible courage and resilience during one of history’s darkest hours. 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>

## Tue, Nov 11

### Veterans Day Feature with Friends and Artifacts

Calvert Marine Museum  
10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Join CMM staff and local friends of the museum in this special event honoring the rich military history of Southern Maryland. This oral history event will allow attendees to hear firsthand accounts from veterans and community members, bringing to life the sacrifices and triumphs of those who have served. In addition, selected artifacts from the CMM collections will be on display, providing a tangible connection to our local military heritage. We invite visitors to write a letter thanking veterans for their service, which will then be delivered to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Free museum admission for active-duty military and veterans all day.

## Wed, Nov 12

### NAMI Family Support Group

St John Vianney Catholic Church  
105 Vianney Lane, Prince Frederick  
7 - 8:30 p.m.

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Southern Maryland offers a free, confidential, and safe support group for individuals and families who have a loved one living with mental illness challenges. Group participants help each other by utilizing their

collective lived experiences and learned wisdom. Participants may achieve a renewed sense of hope for their loved one living with mental health challenges. No registration required. Walk-ins are welcome. (This group is not faith-based or affiliated with the church.)

### Calvert County Veteran Services Program

Southern Pines Senior Center  
20 Appeal Lane, Lusby  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

### Brain Games: Mahjongg, Scrabble & More

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

Games are a great way to keep your brain sharp while having fun! Join us! Please register. 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Job Seeker Resources

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

MD Labor Workforce—Veterans Services will be available in person to meet with those seeking employment-related support and community service information. This event focuses on Veterans Services. More job-seeker help is available on [mwejobs.maryland.gov](http://mwejobs.maryland.gov). 410-535-0291 or 301-855-1862. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Alzheimer’s Caregivers Support

Calvert Library Southern Branch  
13920 H. G. Trueman Road, Solomons  
3-4 p.m.

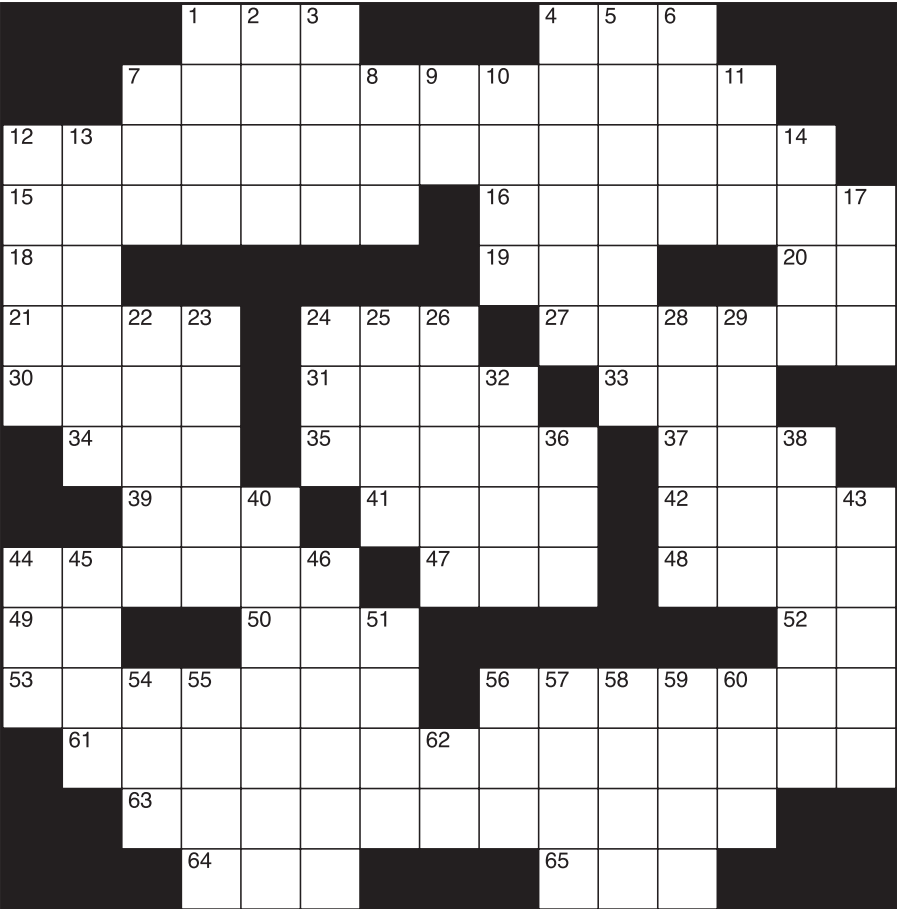
Get tips and support from other caregivers. Facilitated by Charles Harrell and Dennis Poremski of the Alzheimer’s Association. 410-326-5289. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.

### Bilingual Conversation Hour: Spanish-English

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

Come join us for a fun hour of bilingual conversation! We will get to practice our English and Spanish Conversation Skills! It will be a time for community members to help each other out with their language needs! Did you take Spanish in HS or 410-257-2411. <https://CalvertLibrary.info>.



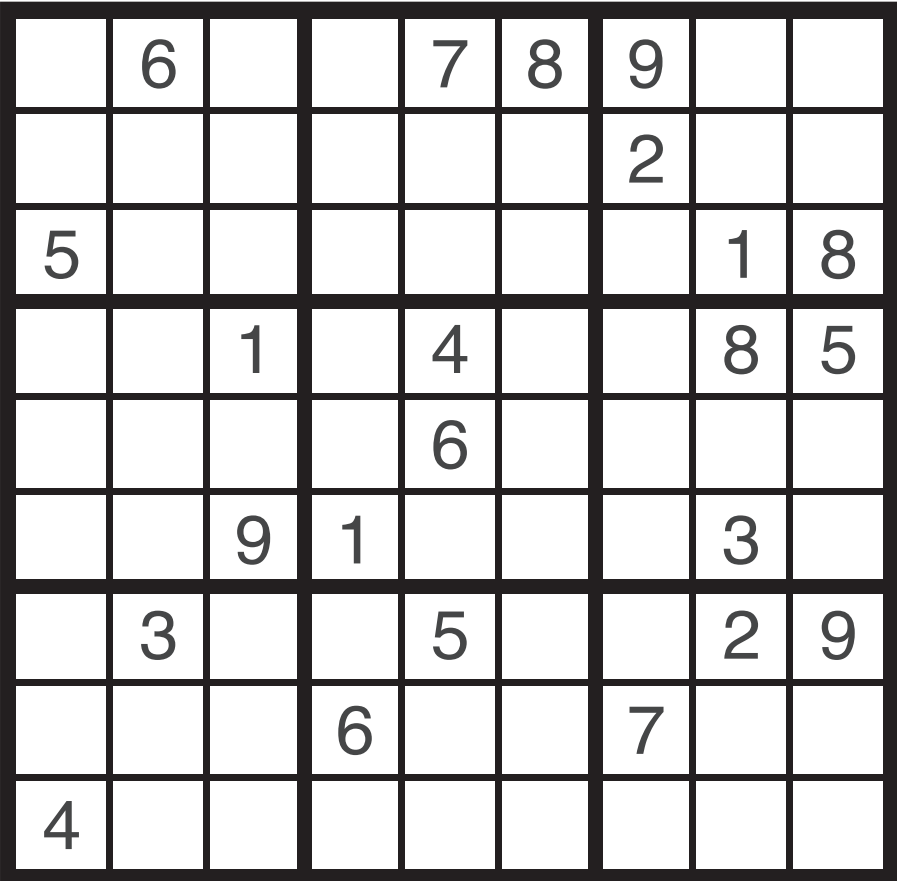


CLUES ACROSS

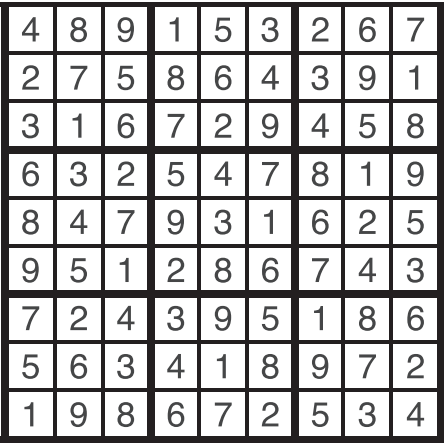
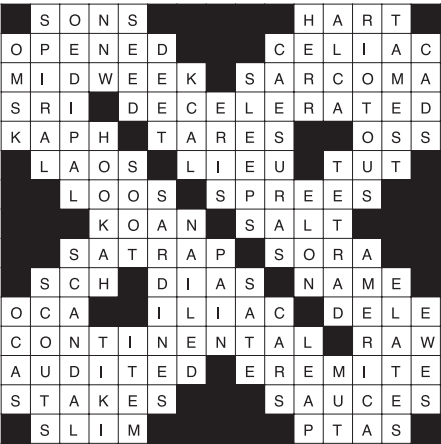
- 1. A way to drop
- 4. Bits per inch
- 7. Ghosts
- 12. Presents
- 15. Noises
- 16. Honorable fourth name in ancient Rome
- 18. Elevated railroad
- 19. A way to drench
- 20. The Tarheel State
- 21. Lilly and Manning are two
- 24. Where golfers begin
- 27. Harvester
- 30. Unit of subjective loudness
- 31. Jewish calendar month
- 33. Dash
- 34. Armed conflict
- 35. Daisy \_\_: Broadway actress
- 37. Jump
- 39. Get free of
- 41. A written proposal or reminder
- 42. Organic chemistry reactive structure
- 44. African country
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Used to treat Parkinson’s disease
- 49. \_\_ route
- 50. Ed Murrow’s home
- 52. Lethal dose
- 53. Give cards incorrectly
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Famed R.L. Stevenson novel
- 63. In an incisive way
- 64. Mark Wahlberg’s screen partner
- 65. Criticize

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Mountain in the Julian Alps
- 2. A domed or vaulted recess
- 3. Trade agreement
- 4. Larger
- 5. Edged
- 6. Data
- 7. Something curved in shape
- 8. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 9. Farm state
- 10. Pre-1917 emperor of Russia
- 11. Short-term memory
- 12. Indigenous peoples of central Canada
- 13. Honor as holy
- 14. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 17. Company that rings receipts
- 22. City in Finland
- 23. Small finch
- 24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- 25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 26. Very willing
- 28. Partner to “oohed”
- 29. Turntable
- 32. Major Hindu deity
- 36. Move head slightly
- 38. Plain-woven fabric
- 40. Die
- 43. Shipped as cargo
- 44. Something highly prized
- 45. Individual thing or person
- 46. Humbled
- 51. Speak indistinctly
- 54. No seats available
- 55. Financial obligation
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Troubles
- 60. Singer Charles
- 62. Camper



OCTOBER 30 SOLUTIONS



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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,

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# Leonardtown Celebrates 50 Years of Veterans Day Tradition

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

Leonardtown's Veterans Day parade celebrates its 50th anniversary this year on Nov. 11 with over 2,000 people participating, including color guard, active duty military groups, service member scouts, marching bands, and local businesses.

The parade will begin at 10 a.m., starting at Ryken High School and ending at the Leonardtown Middle School. A memorial ceremony will take place in the town square after the parade.

With 5,000 to 8,000 spectators expected to turn out, Leonardtown businesses extend their hours to accommodate visitors. Some businesses have themed promotions and discounts for veterans and service members.

The event is able to be held thanks to the support of dozens of Leonardtown community volunteers.

"The parade is not a fundraiser or a revenue-generating event. It's a completely free celebration dedicated to the community," said Aris Molina, Leonardtown's public relations and event coordinator. "The parade organizer and all of the support team are all volunteers making a difference in their community."

The Veteran's Day parade began in 1975. It was held in Lexington Park until 1993, when it was moved to Leonardtown. Since then, the event has grown exponentially.

The original organizer was the late veteran Clancy Lyall, who served in World War II and the Korean War. In 2005, his longtime assistant and fellow army veteran Tom Warren briefly took over in organizing.

In 2007, the current event organizer Connie Pennington took over. Pennington is a veteran herself, and her family is full of veterans. Outside of this event, she runs the organization "Southern Maryland Vacations for Vets," which provides free local week-end retreats for recovering service members and their families.

"I have hosted hundreds of recovering vets with all levels of injuries, several of which have passed away," Pennington said. "We owe this honor to all of our Veterans, alive or deceased, healthy or ill. Freedom is not free."

For the parade, Washington and Fenwick Street will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon. Downtown parking and traffic will be limited to residents, business owners, and employees only.

Visitors are encouraged to park at the College of Southern Maryland, the St. Mary's Fairgrounds, or the St. Mary's County Governmental Center. Parade volunteers will assist with parking and street detours.

In the event of inclement weather, the parade will not take place, and the memorial ceremony will be moved to the Leonardtown Town Hall. The cancellation decision would be posted day-of at 8 a.m. on the town's Facebook page and the St. Mary's County government website.

"With a large military and military-affiliated population in our community, this event provides a meaningful way for everyone to come together in appreciation and celebration," said Molina. "It's a cherished tradition that fosters community spirit, gratitude, and pride."

## Lighthouses to Join 'Bells of Peace'

The bells at St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, two historic sites overseen by St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, will toll on November 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. to honor the 116,516 Americans, including the 27 St. Mary's County natives, who died in World War I.

**BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE**, launched in 2018 to commemorate the centennial of World War I, is a collaborative program announced by the World War I Centennial Commission in coordination with the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whereby American citizens and organizations across the entire country are invited to toll bells in their communities twenty-one times on November 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. local time. The bell tolling provides a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and service of veterans of World War I, and all veterans.

Bells will be tolled in communities across the nation, in places of worship, schools,

town halls, public carillons, and cemeteries, to mark the anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to hostilities, in what Americans fervently hoped had been "The War to End All Wars."

This nationwide program is designed to honor those American men and women who served over one hundred years ago during World War I. The war ended by an armistice agreement between the warring countries at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918. World War I took place between July 1914 and November 1918 and was one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war.

The United States officially entered the war on April 6th, 1917. Some 4.7 million Americans stepped forward to serve in uniform during the war; two million of them were deployed overseas to fight, and 116,516 of them never made it home.

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



[www.wmdavis.com](http://www.wmdavis.com) • [info@wmdavis.com](mailto:info@wmdavis.com)

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# Veteran Reflects on Service, Sacrifice and Brotherhood

By Marcia Hart  
Contributing Writer

For Navy veteran and St. Mary's County staple Thomas Chayka, service to his country wasn't just a duty. It was a calling shaped by faith, family and a lifelong sense of camaraderie.

"I grew up in Brooklyn, New York," Chayka recalled. "Our parish had what we called Sea Cadets, like young Navy. We wore uniforms and learned all about the Navy. So by the time I finished high school, I knew what I wanted to do."

At just 17 years old, with his father's signature, Chayka enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1962, beginning a career that would span more than 20 years. His role as an aviation maintenance administration specialist placed him at the heart of Navy aviation operations, keeping meticulous records to ensure the safety and readiness of every aircraft.

"My job was to take care of all the paperwork and logbooks on the aircraft," he said. "No part that was due for replacement ever got past its time limit. It was all part of the safety program."

Over the course of his career, Chayka worked on P-3s, A-4s, A-7s, F-4s, helicopters and even the old SP-5M seaplane. His service took him around the world from Great Lakes, Illinois to Memphis, San Diego, Vietnam and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he served three years with his wife and eldest son.

"I spent five different tours in Vietnam," he said. "Only two of those were in-country, but every tour was different. You learn to trust the people you serve with."

That sense of trust and friendship remains one of the most meaningful parts of his service. "The best thing about being in the military is the camaraderie," Chayka said. "You get to know people, you trust them and even 40 years later you still run into each other. I bowl every Thursday night with someone I was stationed with in Gitmo (Guantanamo Bay) in the 1970s."

After retiring as a First Class Petty Officer (E-6) in 1983, Chayka and his wife Barbara made St. Mary's County their home. They raised three children, Tommy, Bobby and Chrissy, who all attended local schools and participated in choir, cross country and other activities.

Today, Chayka continues to serve through a group called the Band of Brothers, a local



Thomas Chayka early in his Naval career

organization dedicated to helping veterans navigate VA claims and give back to the community.

"One of our members, Harry, helps veterans file for VA claims," Chayka explained. "He's been doing it 12 to 15 years, and he knows what he's doing. We meet every two weeks and we also give back, like buying hoodies for local elementary school kids around Christmas."

While he won't be walking in this year's Veterans Day Parade due to mobility issues, Chayka will still proudly represent as part of the Knights of Columbus.

Reflecting on how far the country has come in recognizing veterans, Chayka's voice softened when he shared about his return from Vietnam. "When we came back from Vietnam, we didn't get a lot of thanks. Nobody did," he said quietly. "So it feels good now for people to recognize the sacrifices that were made. A lot of people gave up more than I did, legs, arms, eyes, ears."

For younger generations considering the military, Chayka offers practical but heartfelt advice. "It's a good career. There are road bumps but the military takes care of you. My medical issues are covered by TRICARE and Medicare. You don't find many jobs that do that."

As this Veterans Day approaches, St. Mary's County honors heroes like Thomas Chayka, men and women who served not for recognition but for love of country, faith and one another.

"It's all about giving back," he said with a smile. "Once a Sailor, always a Sailor."

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# Vietnam Veteran Finds Peace After War

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

During his service in the U.S. military, William "Bill" Crawley was adored among a Vietnam village for bringing extra ice cream to the kids. When he returned home, he was denied help from a VA hospital and labeled a baby killer.

Crawley, now 76, served in the Army from 1969 to 1971, including his year of training. He was first deployed in Cam Ranh Bay alongside his brother, Samuel Crawley, who worked as a chef for fellow soldiers during his three years deployed.

Crawley was a foot soldier with no official title, a truck driver who picked up supplies and food, a guide for convoy operations, and a coordinator for shifts at smaller communication compounds.

"I've seen some things that I shouldn't have seen. I got shot at," Crawley said. "It's all part of being in Vietnam."

Crawley recalled his time with a sense of nostalgia. He would sneak out of the compound at night with friends, staying out so late that he would barely make formation the next morning. Some nights he would use the supply truck to sneak women back into the compound.

One night, tension among soldiers turned violent, and a knife was pulled. A friend of Crawley's who had gone through basic training with him, George Frank, jumped in the way of the knife.

"He got stabbed instead of me," Crawley said. Frank survived the attack, but the moment stuck with Crawley.



Bill Crawley

After being discharged, Crawley attended school in D.C. and learned to weld. He became an ironworker, creating functional pieces like chairs and tables. He still crafts metal art today from his home in Lusby, and says working with his hands keeps him grounded.

"Everybody got to do their part, whether you like it or not. Because if we didn't, America wouldn't be America," he said. "I move when I want to move, and I go when I want to go. So I'm happy, you know? I think this is a great country."

As Veterans Day approaches, Crawley says he's grateful to have made it home, and grateful for every day ahead of him.

"Every day I wake up, I say it's a great day in the morning," he said. "And it is, because I made it this far."

# Chesapeake Beach Mayor Relates Veteran's Service

Chesapeake Beach Mayor Bruce Wahl has shared his service record for this Veteran's Day to The County Times.

"I served in the United States Army from 1968 until 1971. I was an Infantry Lieutenant and served in Vietnam from December 1969 until January 1971.

"My first assignment was as a Training Advisor for the Vietnamese Infantry Officers' Candidate School in Thu Duc, near Saigon. After four months in the country, I was transferred to American Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN), which provided radio and television to support the American (and other nationality) troops with a 'Taste of Home.' I was the commander of Detachment 3 in Pleiku, which was in 2 Corps, and very near the Cambodian border.

"Upon my return from Vietnam in January 1971, I secured a job as a broadcast engineer at a company just being created, 'National Public Radio.' I worked at NPR as either employee or consultant unit 2019, when I finally retired.

"I moved to Chesapeake Beach in 1985, and soon thereafter became a member of the



Chesapeake Beach Mayor Bruce Wahl

Town Council. I served on the Council for nearly 20 years, then served as Mayor from 2008 until 2016. After an eight year hiatus, I successfully ran for Mayor again in 2024. My current term will expire in 2028.

"I am very honored to be back in service to the citizens of this beautiful waterfront town!"

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# Veteran Turned Veterinarian Honors Service and Camaraderie

By Vada Mercer  
Contributing Writer

For 20 years, Navy veteran Herb Yee served our country around the world. Now, he serves our community through his on-call veterinary practice.

Yee, now 65, filled many roles in his 20 years of service, including duties as naval flight officer, navigator, tactical coordinator, and mission commander.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982, he began flight school and was assigned to a P-3 squadron, whose mission was focused on anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance.

While flying a routine surveillance mission over the Sea of Japan in 1986, Yee and his crew made a remarkable discovery. They were the first to spot Russia's newest fast-attack submarine, the Akula class, previously unseen by U.S. forces.

"It was the highlight of our six-month deployment," he said.

Another mission in 1994, when Yee served as operations officer for his squadron, involved answering an emergency distress call made from a Ukrainian merchant vessel. After several days of search and rescue efforts, two merchant sailors were rescued at sea.

One of Yee's earliest memories as a navigator came during a training flight to Midway Island, a remote Pacific atoll known for its population of Laysan albatrosses, more com-



Herb Yee on Midway Island in 1984

monly known as "Gooney birds."

He saw thousands of these birds on the island, and found their behavior humorous. To take off, the birds took a "running start." When coming down, they would crash-land on top of each other.

"This now quiet atoll island is a stark contrast to what it was 41 years ago when the island and airfield were protected by sailors and marines manning anti-aircraft batteries," he said. "To think that I was standing on a little sandy beach in the middle of the Pacific Ocean that was a turning point in the war in the Pacific was quite surreal."

During his career, Yee deployed aboard the USS Nimitz during Operation Desert Storm and earned several honors for his service, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal with a gold star.

Yee met his wife, Christinia Yee, at a crew member's wedding in Treasure Island, CA.

"I have enjoyed many years, many deployments, many different duty stations and a life of great experiences," his wife said. "All because of Treasure Island."

Christinia Yee faced the struggles of being a wife to a service member, but she looks

back on those moments with fondness.

"The best, very best option is to take the orders and look at it as an adventure. A chance to meet new people and see places you might otherwise not see," she said. "Sometimes you may wish to wipe away those orders, but hey, it's only two years, or maybe with a little luck, less."

After two decades of service, he felt it was best to return to civilian life, and went back to school to earn a doctorate in veterinary medicine at Virginia Tech, graduating in 2010 at 49 years old.

Today, he is self-employed in St. Mary's County, taking veterinary work on-call. He and his wife care for more than 15 horses and several sheep on their farm, Arabesque.

Every Veterans Day, the Yees celebrate the past veterans and current active duty members.

"I'm proud of the service Herb put in and the work he did. Others are continuing in this tradition and we should all be proud of them," Christina Yee said. "But also understand that it isn't just the service member, but the family that also serves!"

Herb Yee will always remember the camaraderie he felt with his fellow service members, many of which he has kept in contact with.

"It's a good way to commemorate everybody who has served or is still serving in active duty," he said. "All my brothers and sisters in arms that I've had the pleasure of working with over the 20 years I served."



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## *Serving Those Who Served*



# World War II Veteran Remembers His Service



By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

Malcomb Gordon Grahame is one of Calvert County's few (if not the only) surviving World War II veterans. At 100 years of age, Grahame lives on the family farm in Owings. Still affable and chipper, he has vivid memories of his three years of service as a Navy Seabee.

Grahame enlisted while still in high school in St. Petersburg, FL but was allowed to finish his high schooling before being called to active duty in June 1943.

Because of his eyesight, he was "designated for special assignment," according to an interview conducted ten years ago by Fred Bumgarner of American Legion Post 206 in Chesapeake Beach. The article was published by the post.

While in Jacksonville he received his orders for that special assignment in the Navy's Construction Battalion (CB), thus becoming a Seabee member, and he spent his time building things, in the States and then Pearl Harbor, ending his career in Okinawa, Japan.

Bumgarner reported, "As the war progressed, particularly in the Pacific theater, there was a great need for men with construction skills to build aircraft runways, roads, barracks, port facilities, and the infrastructure to support them."

Bumgarner reported that one of Grahame's stateside stops was Camp Peary near Williamsburg, VA "for his combined Seabee boot camp and initial training. He learned the Navy way of simple construction techniques associated with building Quonset huts and oil tanks. While he hoped to learn more specialized skills, Gordon said his role at this point was more like that of a construction laborer. His group was designated "Super 8" at Peary which resulted in their being formed into CBMU 523, a maintenance unit."

Grahame said, in an interview with the County Times on Nov. 5, that he always aspired to more construction training, but always ended up doing the hammer and nails stuff instead.



He said he once asked for more training and instead ended up with 30 days' worth of extra KP (Kitchen patrol) duty.

Grahame's ship arrived in Japan from Hawaii after the Japanese surrendered but before the peace treaty was signed, so instead of getting on the battlefield that he had hoped for, he helped with construction of roads in Okinawa before being sent home.

Grahame was an only child. Being around dozens of other men on ship and in the bases he served was perhaps the most lasting impression that the war left. He missed that camaraderie so much that he almost decided to re-enlist.

While on duty he received word that his father, who had lived in Calvert County on an ancestral farm before moving to Florida, had passed away. His father had left the Maryland farm to him.

After working in groves in Florida for a while, where he insists he wore out his legs climbing ladders to pick fruit, he moved to Calvert to take over the farm he inherited from his father.

It was a tobacco and corn farm, but the corn proved so unprofitable he switched to cattle and it remains a livestock farm today, operated by his son-in-law.

That move from Florida to Calvert with his wife also proved to be a lonely one, as he didn't know anyone here. But he soon began to fit in due to congregation at his family's ancestral church, All Saints in Sunderland.

He also joined American Legion Post 206, which was then in Huntingtown and has continued to be a member of the post after it moved into new quarters in Chesapeake Beach.

Grahame hopes to attend the annual Veteran's Day ceremony in Chesapeake Beach this year as the day has become a big one for him as he remembers his comrades who have passed away.

Grahame's daughter Martha Hyde attributes her father's longevity to several factors. One is his diet. He eats a complete breakfast (bacon and eggs) daily along with lots of vegetables throughout the day and a glass of wine at night. He has, however,

continued a long-term habit of chewing tobacco, although he doesn't smoke.

She also attributed his good humor. He is always laughing, mostly at himself. He also is a voracious reader, including histories and two newspapers every day.

Veterans Day is also important for Hyde. She is the All Saints Church chair of the national organization called Wreaths Across America, which lays wreaths on graves of

veterans at Christmas time.

This Sunday Nov. 9, weather permitting, All Saints will have a special ceremony, in conjunction with Wreaths Across America, in which veterans buried in their graveyards will be remembered. She said, so far, more than 40 have been identified.

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



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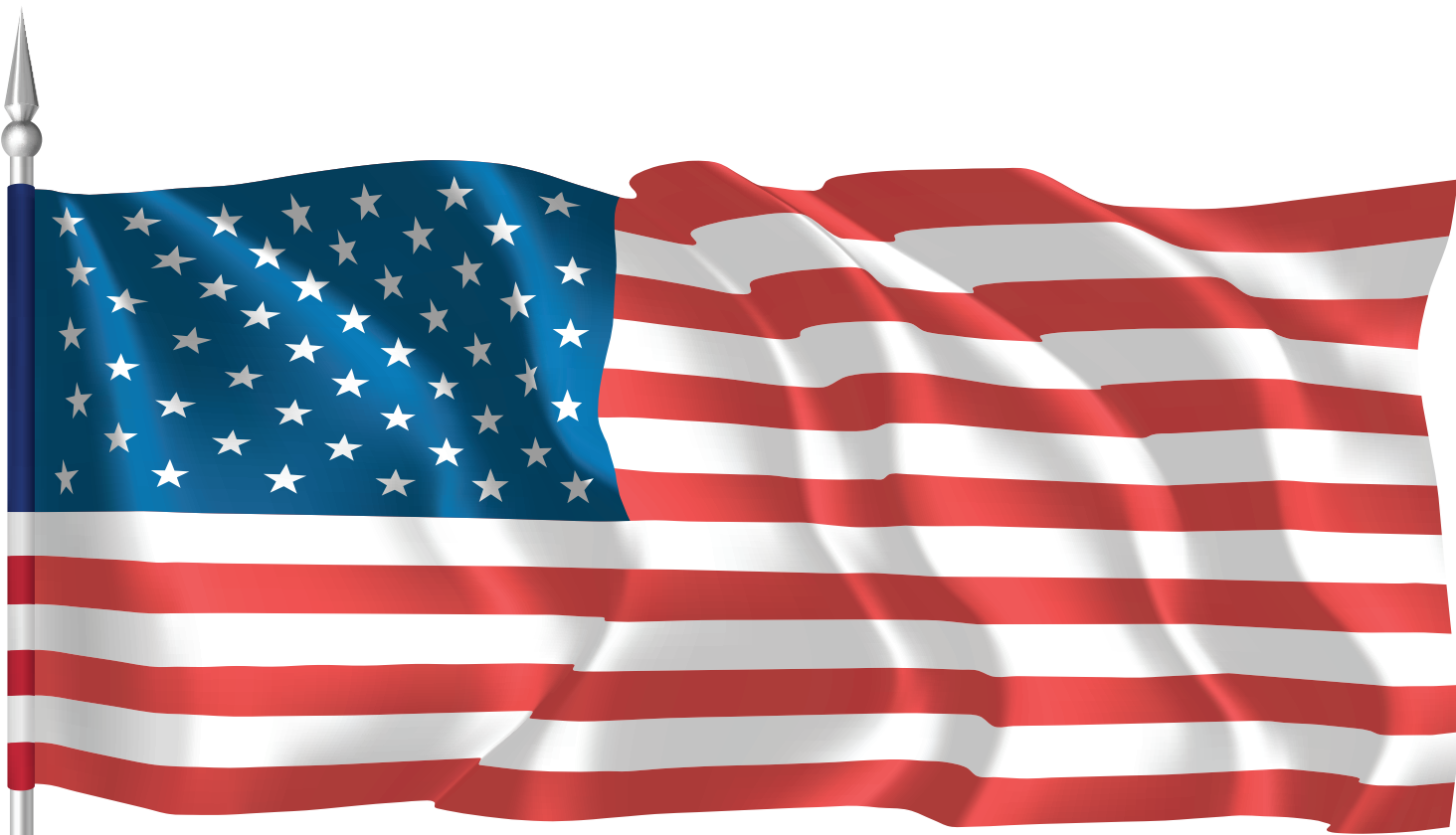
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WHO SERVED



# St. Mary's Community Calendar

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

## Fri, Nov 7

### Veterans Resource Day

U. of Maryland at Southern Maryland  
44219 Airport Rd, California  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Department of Aging & Human Services is proud to host Veterans Resource Day on Friday, Nov. 7. There will be more than 20 organizations serving Veterans and service members on-site. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) will be on-site from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to answer questions and assist with claims processing.

Free lunch will be provided at noon by Mission BBQ.

This event is free and open to the public. Veterans, all service members, their friends and their families are all welcome to attend Veterans Resource Day.

Want to skip the registration line? Register online at [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/aging/veterans). Online registrants will be eligible for a special prize.

For more information, please contact Community Programs & Outreach Manager, Nicoletta Pollice, at 301-475-4200, ext. 1074, email [nicoletta.pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:nicoletta.pollice@stmaryscountymd.gov).

## Sat, Nov 8

### Hearth Cooking Workshop

Historic St. Mary's City  
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Cook with apples and seasonal fruits using 17th-century recipes at Van Sweringen's Inn. Ages 8+. Advance registration required. Info and registration: [hsmcc.groups@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:hsmcc.groups@stmaryscountymd.gov)

[maryland.gov](http://maryland.gov)

### Annual KCA Community Carnival, Craft, & Vendor Fair!

King's Christian Academy  
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## Sun, Nov 9

### Benefit Pitch Tournament

Potomac Gardens  
Colton Point  
2 p.m.

Seventh District VRS Auxiliary. Entry fee is \$25. 1st place \$100; 2nd place \$50; 3rd place \$25. Prize money donated by Murphy's Country Store. 50/50 raffle – tickets \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00. Appetizers, snacks and desserts available. Contact Bobbie at 301-481-1510 for information or to make reservations.

### SOMD Pride: Existence is Resistance

Lexington Manor Passive Park  
21675 Coral Dr. S., Lexington Park  
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Join Southern Maryland Pride as we celebrate our 8th Annual Pride Festival! This year's theme, "Existence is Resistance" underscores the importance of visibility and resilience within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Our festival will feature a diverse line-up of attractions, including LGBTQIA+ small businesses, community resources, a variety of vendors and independent creators, delicious offerings from food trucks and food stalls, a dedicated Kid's Zone, live entertainment from a DJ, captivating drag performances, aerial artists, inspiring speakers, a silent auction and more!

Let's stand together and continue building a safe, inclusive community where everyone belongs and is celebrated. Visit [www.pride-somd.com](http://www.pride-somd.com) for more information.

### Family & Friends Craft & Vendor Fair

Mechanicsville Moose  
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Craft and Vendor Fair to benefit Family and Friends Relay for Life Team. Over 40 vendors will be in attendance. There will be food available and basket raffles.

## Tue, Nov 11

### 40th Annual Veterans Day Observance

Monument Site Helen  
29945 Point Lookout Rd., Mechanicsville  
2 p.m.

The event is open to all veterans and the public. Our guest speaker is not yet confirmed. There will be food and refreshments available for sale following the ceremony along with some good old bluegrass music

by Spoon Creek. Sponsored By The Veterans of Helen In Honor of its mamesake and citizenry and all who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

## Wed, Nov 12

### Book Club: *Madam Secretary*

Historic St. Mary's City  
Visitor Center Auditorium  
2 p.m.

Discuss Stephanie Dray's *Madam Secretary*, exploring the life of Frances Perkins, the first woman in a U.S. presidential cabinet. Free.

## Upcoming

### Scuba with Santa

College of Southern Maryland Wellness & Aquatics Center (WAC)  
22950 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown  
Saturday, Dec. 6; 12 – 4 p.m.

St. Mary's County Government's Department of Recreation & Parks (R&P) is hosting Santa Claus for an unforgettable holiday experience. Join the professionals of Southern Maryland Divers for a short Discover Scuba course to learn the basics of scuba diving, then have your photo taken with Santa—underwater!

Registration is required, and participants must be age 8 or above. Anyone under 18 will need to have a parent on site to sign waivers. To register: [www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate](http://www.stmaryscountymd.gov/Recreate)

## ST. MARY'S COUNTY Library

### UPCOMING EVENTS



### Friends of the St. Mary's County Library Fall Book Sale

Gently used books and other materials for all ages, great for gift giving! Leonardtown Library on Saturday, November 8.

- Members Only: 10 a.m. - 12 noon
  - Open to the Public: 12 noon - 3 p.m.
- Memberships available at the door or online in advance on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Jane Austen Celebration

Don your finest regency inspired apparel in celebration of the classic works of Jane Austen! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, November

8, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of all things Darcy, Lizzie, Anne, Emma, and more! Make a Regency-inspired craft, answer thematic trivia questions, and celebrate with fellow fans! Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Seed-Saving Smarts Workshop: How to Save Native Seeds

Learn the tricks of the trade for collecting, cleaning, and storing native plant seeds for your home garden or to share! Lexington Park Library on Saturday, November 8, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Molly Moore will teach you the difference between shakers, beaks, cone-

heads, and more, and will guide you in cleaning and packaging seeds to take home. After the presentation, samples of native plants will be available for practice your new skills! Attendees are invited to the Lexington Manor Passive Park Native Gateway Garden to further their learning after the program. This program is made possible with support from University of Maryland Extension Master Gardener Program and the LMPP Community Garden. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).

### Library Closed for Veterans Day

All locations of St. Mary's County Library will be closed on Tuesday, November 11

in observance of Veterans Day. All locations will be open regular business hours on Wednesday, November 12.

### Wicked: For Good Release Party

Choose Team Green or Team Pink and celebrate the theatrical release of *Wicked: For Good*! Charlotte Hall Library on Saturday, November 15, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Enjoy an immersive, Oz-erific afternoon with a witchy craft, thematic trivia questions, and celebration with fellow fans. Costumes welcome! This event is for adults and older teens. Register on [www.stmalib.org](http://www.stmalib.org).



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Condolences to the family may be left at  
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### Minor Buckler, 76



Minor William Jennings Buckler, 76, of Mechanicsville, MD, passed away peacefully at home on November 2, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Minor was born on December 7, 1948, and was the son of the late William Jennings and Eleanora Buckler. He married his beloved wife, Melva Rita Buckler (Wood), on June 2, 1968, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Minor's devotion to his wife and his faith could not be measured. During their 57 years of marriage, they were blessed with their three sons: Minor (Dwayne), Dale (DJ), and Dennis, and a special daughter, Margaret (Monkey) Buckler-Ford.

Minor proudly served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971. He was stationed in Germany and served during the Vietnam War. Minor was a well sought after electrician for 60 years and his incredible wealth of knowledge led him to start his own company, Minor Buckler Electric, in 1992. From installations to estimations of jobs, you would always be greeted with a "Top of the Morning!" Minor's sons worked along his side for many years and now all have followed in his footsteps and have their own electrical companies. Minor loved playing cards, eating dinner at Sandgates Inn, and traveling with friends and family. Minor and Rita were known to take spontaneous trips, which turned into the best of stories of all. Minor's greatest joy was spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and on the hill with his Buckler Family. While the memories were priceless and will be cherished, the time was way too short.

Minor is preceded in death by his parents, William Jennings and Eleanora Buckler, along with his siblings, William (Sonny) Buckler, Joseph (Joe) Buckler, and Brenda Tucker.

Minor is survived by his wife, Melva Rita Buckler (Wood); children, Minor (Dwayne) Buckler (Laura), Dale (DJ) Buckler (Wendy), Dennis Buckler (Jenny), and Margaret (Monkey) Buckler-Ford; grandchildren, Courtney Brady (Paul Jr.), Hayden Buckler (Karly), Anna Buckler, Colton Buckler, Camdyn Buckler, and Cohen Buckler; great grandchildren, Raelynn Buckler, WillaDean Brady, and Riggins Buckler, and siblings; Loretta Alvey, Betty Weddle, Ronald Buckler (Pearl), James (Jimmy) Buckler (Eleanor), Laffayette (Laffy) Buckler, David Buckler (Sissie), Wayne Buckler (Tammy), Glenn Buckler (Karen), Mark Buckler (Wanda), Myron Buckler, Shelia Buckler, Kevin Buckler (Jackie) and Deborah (Debbie) Johnson (Mitch).

The family will receive friends for visitation on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with prayers recited at 7:00 PM in the Mattingley-Gardiner Funeral Home, 41590 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A Mass of Christian Burial will be

celebrated on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 29119 Point Lookout Rd, Morganza, MD 20660, with interment to follow at St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659. Serving as pallbearers will be Dwayne Buckler, DJ Buckler, Dennis Buckler, Monkey Buckler-Ford, Courtney Brady, Hayden Buckler, and Colton Buckler. Honorary pallbearers will be Anna, Camdyn, Cohen, Raelynn, WillaDean, Riggins, and Paul.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Wounded Soldiers Project and the Clements Cuties Foundation for their fight against cancer.

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

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

### George Bean, 89



George Leo Bean, Sr., "Captain George", 89, of Valley Lee, MD, passed away on November 1, 2025, in Leonardtown, MD. Born on July 17, 1936, in Valley

Lee, MD, George was the son of the late Helen Genevieve Redman Bean and the late Joseph Leo Bean. He married his loving wife, Kathrine Caywood Bean (deceased), on December 31, 1978. They made their home in Valley Lee, Maryland over a span of 47 years and hosted many New Year's Day dinners for family and friends. George is survived by his children, Cathy Gossett (Kim) of Etowah, Tennessee, Patty Hancock of Mechanicsville, Maryland, Glenda Fritz (Joe) of La Plata, Maryland, George Leo Bean, Jr. of Valley Lee, Maryland, and Tim Bean (Mike) of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware; as well as eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great great-grandchild. George is also survived by his brothers, Andrew Bean, Robert Bean (Diann), and Francis Bean (Gloria), all of Valley Lee, Maryland, as well as his sisters, Leona Unkle (Bennie) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Gennie Williams (Wayne) of Tall Timbers, Maryland, Joan Sebring (Dick) of Valley Lee, Maryland, and Evelyn Bean of Leonardtown, Maryland. He was preceded in death by his brothers, William Bean, Bernie Bean, David Bean, Gregory Bean, and Johnny Bean, his sisters, Lucy Bean, Neadurra "Sissy" Hall and Sister Rosalie Bean CSSJ.

George was the third born of sixteen children. He grew up in Valley Lee, Maryland, helping his parents on the family farm. At the age of 16, he started work at the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (A&P). He went on to have a successful career working as a store manager and retired in 1996 after 44 years of service. After retiring, George and Kathy spent much of their time fishing and hosting family members and friends on his boat, the Cathy Lynn. They traveled the Intercoastal water ways to the Florida Keys on the "Cathy Lynn" several times. They had a home in Marathon, Florida, where they fished and made lifelong friends and memories.

The family will receive friends on Monday, November 10, 2025, from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, in St. George's Episcopal Church, Valley Lee, MD, where a funeral service will

be held at 10:30 AM. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Andrew Thornton, Jason Hancock, Kenny Sebring, Jason Bean and Jessie Bean. Honorary pallbearers will be Andy Bean, Francis Bean, Robert Bean, Francis Cullison, and sisters, Gennie Williams, Leona Unkle, Joan Sebring, and Evelyn Bean.

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

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

### Tony Knight, 89



George Anthony (Tony) Knight, residing in Princeton, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on October 23, 2025 surrounded by family in The Linda E. White Hospice

House in Evansville, IN.

Born in Leonardtown, MD on April 6, 1936, he was the son of the late Harold Knight and Janet (Duke) Knight.

Tony was a graduate of the St. Mary's Public School System. Following graduation, he would join the Army and serve in Korea. He would then work until he retired from Dyn Corp Patuxent Naval Air Warfare Center where he worked in the tool's distribution department.

Tony was a kindhearted, caring, and prayerful man who was loved by everyone who knew him.

Tony loved being in service to the Holy Catholic church and community. He served through the choir, the food pantry, and ushering. He had also been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 30 years.

Along with his parents, Tony is preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth "Betty" (Guy) Knight and four siblings: Katherine VanDevanter, Kiloh, Johnny, and Harry Knight.

He is survived by his four sisters: Mary Klug, Norah Gerstmyer (Tim), Sarah Obniski, and Jane Dombroski (Jim) and his six children: George A Knight, Jr. (Linda) of Holt, FL, Kathy G Bennett (Robert) of Princeton, KY, Harold M (Mike) Knight (Viviane) of Front Royal, VA, Donna M Knight (Robert Huntsberry) of Winchester, VA, Nancy L Luttrell of Winchester, VA, Susan E Schlitter (Dennis) of Crestview, FL. He is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his beloved dog Hammy.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for Monday, November 10th with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM and a service starting at 11:00 AM at Brinsfield Funeral Home, 22955 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650. A graveside service will be held at Charles Memorial Gardens, 26325 Point Lookout Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650 immediately following the services.

Memorial contributions may be directed to The Knights of Columbus, SPCA, or a charity of choice.

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

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

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# In Remembrance

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

## Josh Warner, 33



Joshua James Warner, beloved son, brother, nephew, friend, and cherished member of the Lexington Park community, passed away peacefully at his home in Lexington Park, Maryland, on October 20, 2025. He was 33 years old.

Josh was born on August 20, 1992, in Tucson, Arizona, the cherished son of Samuel Daryl Warner and Angela Michele (Bray) Warner. From an early age, he brought warmth and kindness into every room he entered. His life was marked by an abiding loyalty to family, a generous heart toward friends, and a quiet strength of spirit.

Josh grew up in a military family where he had the opportunity to travel the world. His travels began at an early age in Tucson, Arizona where he was born. At six months old, he moved to Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. From there, at the age of two, he moved to Elmendorf AFB, AK. At the age of ten, he moved to Mountain Home AFB, ID. During his time at Mountain Home, he had the opportunity to visit Korea for a month with his parents and sister. From Mountain Home, at the age of 13, he moved to Spangdahlem AFB, Germany. During that time, he traveled to various countries, some of those included Spain, Greece, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Italy. From Germany, he moved to Nellis AFB, NV at the age of 16. After his dad retired from the military, he moved to Lexington Park, MD. After a couple years, Josh moved to Pullman, WA to attend Washington State University (WSU) to pursue his medical degree. In 2017, Josh moved back home to Lexington Park, MD. Josh made Maryland his home and rooted himself in the community of Lexington Park, where he loved his neighborhood, his home, and making meaningful connections with those around him. He had a talent for making each person feel seen and for turning simple moments into lasting memories.

Josh's passions were many: He loved cooking, kayaking, hiking, biking with his nieces, swimming, boating and jet skiing — anything that put him outdoors in motion, near water or trails. He adored his dogs, and cherished the pure, uncomplicated joy they brought. His playful spirit and appreciation for the natural world helped shape the way he lived and loved.

He is preceded in death by his loyal dog, Arkto — a faithful companion whose presence brought laughter, comfort and unwavering devotion.

Josh leaves behind his loving parents, Samuel Daryl Warner and Angela Michele (Bray) Warner; his dear sister, Taylor Grace Warner; his grandmother, Marlene Henrickson; his nieces, Brooklynn Allen and Maddisen Allen; and a wide circle of family and friends who will carry his memory in their hearts. Josh's departure leaves a hole in many lives — but his legacy of kindness, warmth and love will live on.

A celebration of life for Josh will be held

at a later date by his family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that those wishing to honour Josh's memory might consider donating to an Animal Shelter or Run for the Wall (RFTW) as those were very near and dear to Josh himself. His family would also ask for those to reach out to someone in need, extend a hand of friendship, or simply offer kindness — small acts that reflect his gentle spirit.

Joshua James Warner will be remembered for his adventurous heart, his love of nature, his love for his family, and the light he brought into so many lives. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing.

Condolences to the family maybe left at [www.brinsfieldsfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldsfuneral.com).

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

## Joyce Cuffley, 79



Joyce S. Cuffley, 79, of Hollywood, MD passed away at the University of Maryland Charles Regional Hospital Center in LaPlata, MD on October 9, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her father Robert W. Sutton, mother Christine T. Sutton, and brother David W. Sutton.

She is survived by her husband Charles W. "Bill" Cuffley, son Brian W. Cuffley, daughter Janet E. Smith (Gordon); two beautiful grandchildren Findlay and Caroline; and her sister, Gayle E. Sommers.

Joyce was born in Washington D.C. Her family moved to the suburbs of Maryland early in her life, where she attended Montgomery County schools. After graduation from Northwood High School, she earned her Bachelors Degree from Frostburg State College, where she met the love of her life, Bill Cuffley, Jr. On June 9, 1967, they married and enjoyed 58 years of marriage. She earned a Master's Degree from the University of Maryland.

She was a dedicated elementary education teacher for the Board of Education, St. Mary's County, teaching at Frank Knox, Ridge, Piney Point, Lexington Park, Park Hall, and Lettie Dent Elementary schools. She taught kindergarten, first and second grades. Later she became a reading resource teacher for many years before returning to Park Hall Elementary School to finish her career as a second-grade teacher. During her teaching career she influenced many children who have become pillars of the community.

Joyce was an avid reader, enjoyed travelling with friends and family, and loved her many pets throughout her life. She was a member of Lexington Park United Methodist Church for over 50 years.

A Memorial Service will be celebrated by Reverend Anna Schwartz on November 15, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Lexington Park United Methodist Church, 21760 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow in the church social hall. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a memorial contribution in Joyce's

name to the National Kidney Foundation Headquarters for Maryland, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016 or Lexington Park United Methodist Church, 21760 Great Mills Road, Lexington Park, MD 20653 or The American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704 Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Condolences to the family maybe left at [www.brinsfieldsfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldsfuneral.com).

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

## Fred Sypher, 79



Fred R. Sypher passed away on September 13, 2025 after a 15-month battle with Alzheimer's disease. Fred was born December 5, 1945, in Washington DC to Justin (Ted)

and Thelma Sypher; raised in Montgomery and St. Mary's County until 1956 when the family moved permanently to "The County" to live in his Grandparents' house on the water in Mill Cove. Fred's days were spent waterskiing, flying remote controlled planes in the field, exploring and making memories with lifelong friends, Tippy and Ken Berry, Gardner Strickland, Ricky Letcher and the "Summer Boys" Steve, Rocky and Don Emery. Fred graduated from Ryken High School in 1963 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the US Air Force. He was selected to attend the Sans School of Languages in DC and six months later spoke North Vietnamese like a native. Stationed in Okinawa Japan he flew missions over North Viet Nam, tracking the movements of the Viet Cong soldiers and translating their plans. It was in Okinawa that Fred discovered Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Matsumura Karate achieving the honorific title of "SENSI" and a 5th Degree Blackbelt. Returning to St. Mary's County Fred began his lifelong love of teaching Karate. He taught classes at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station at the Drill Hall and opened a Karate Dojo in Lexington Park in the "Underground" at Millison Plaza, the first Dojo in southern Maryland. After providing an opportunity for kids and adults, including students at Ryken, to learn Karate skills, Fred realized he needed a real job and returned to work at the C&P Telephone Company in the DC area, first as an installer and then customer service representative. He graduated from UMD with a Degree in Technical Writing and an Engineering Minor and moved into the military contractor arena with AAI in Hunt Valley. As President of ESI a subsidiary of AAI he opened a contract support office in Lexington Park with Joe Anderson as the onsite manager. Fred worked in this career area until his retirement. In recent years Fred could be found teaching once a month at the Wayne Dean School of Shorin-Ryu Karate in Hollywood. Wayne was a former student; Fred valued his friendship of over 50 years. Fred is survived by his wife, Darla Tewell, of Westminster, MD; sisters Pat Johnson of Erie, PA, Jane Sypher (Larry Tierney) of California, MD; nieces and nephews Richard Sypher (Angela), Shannon Tierney (Kent Wood), Carey, David (Julie)

and Eric Johnson. A celebration to remember Fred will be at Bugeye Grill, Solomons MD, December 7th from 2-5. Please feel free to join us. Any questions please email [sypher-jane2@gmail.com](mailto:sypher-jane2@gmail.com) for more information.

## Alden Crecelius, 95



Alden F. Crecelius of Great Mills, MD passed away peacefully on Sunday November 2, 2025 at his home, surrounded by his family.

Alden was born in Battletown, Ky on May 8, 1930 to the late Minnie and Craig Crecelius. Alden was married to his loving wife for 66 years.

After Attending Meade County High School, Alden joined the United States Navy August of 1947, where he proudly served for 23 years. While serving in USN he performed a variety of duties and was stationed and traveled around the country and world proudly fulfilling his duties. Alden was very proud of his accomplishments while in the Navy. He retired from the Navy in 1969.

After retiring from the Navy, he went on to have a successful career in the civil service on Patuxent Naval Base. Working as an electrician and many other roles finally retiring in 1993 as a supervisor for the maintenance department on the Naval Base.

After retiring Alden kept busy traveling with his wife (Sarah) to many parts of the world and country. He volunteered many hours to his church and to the Shriners. He would drive a bus to Philadelphia taking children for their much needed treatment, making over 122 trips, numerous hours, for this he received awards for the hours and time he devoted.

Alden enjoyed time with his family and friends just talking for hours on a variety of topics. He loved to listen to the old time country music, going boating and waxing a car.

Alden was a proud member of the Masons, Shriners, VFW, American Legion and many others.

He is survived by his children Dennis Crecelius and wife Dottie Meinhardt Crecelius of Baden, Md; Paulette Hill and husband Steve Hlafka of Eldersburg Md; Wayne Crecelius and wife Wendy Crecelius of Lewisberry, Pa.

Grandchildren, Christopher Crecelius and wife Michelle, Ryan Crecelius and wife Lindsay, Daniel Crecelius, Lauren Hill, Courtney Hill, Austin Crecelius, Amanda Crecelius Peyton Crecelius and eleven great grandchildren.

Family will receive friends for a Life Celebration visitation on Monday, November 10, 2025 from 9:30am to 11:00am at Lexington Park United Methodist Church, 21760 Great Mills Rd, Lexington Park, MD 20653, with a funeral Service beginning at 11:00am. Burial will follow immediately after services at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Cemetery, 22381 Three Notch Rd Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Contributions may be made to Lexington Park United Methodist Church or Shriner's

# Wanderings of an Aimless Mind



## Like a Mouse Caught on a Hamster Wheel

By Shelby Opperman  
Contributing Writer

A funny thing happened on the way home from my husband's cardiology appointment in mid-October. It was a beautiful day, and we decided to stop at National harbor to find some shoes for me (no easy feat – yes, I had to do the pun) and also get some appetizers and a drink at the Walrus Oyster and Ale House. If you've been there you know that they have some great seafood appetizers. I ordered a smoked Old-Fashioned.

After the Walrus, we headed over to Tanger Outlets where I went to the trusty Skechers, but that's where the fun stopped. I thought wow, it was getting really hot in that store, and as the minutes wore on I started noticing a red rash and hives creeping all over my body. And these weren't just any hives they were big and lumpy, and I was itchier than I had ever been with poison ivy. I was getting scared, and my ears were burning and felt like they were going to explode.

As we were driving home and trying to find a place with Benadryl pills and Benadryl liquid, I was looking up possible interactions of alcohol or seafood with a new biologic medication I had started on that Monday called Nucala that had been added to my other meds regimen of Cimzia biologic injections every two weeks, and all my other RA and OA meds. What I found that made my draw drop was that "Nucala is a fully-humanized monoclonal antibody produced in Chinese hamster ovary cells" Yes, you read that right, it is made from Chinese hamster ovary cells.. The creepy factor in finding this out is about enough to have me end Nucala after one month. The funny part (I guess) is that when I read that part in the car to my husband about the creepy hamster, my husband started saying, "Oh no, I see hamsters coming out of your ears!" I think he did that to get me started laughing instead of panicking.

The following night at home on Saturday, Robert said, "Do you want me to make you a smoked Old-Fashioned to see if it was the seafood or the bourbon?" And yes, he is on my life insurance policy. I said sure, let's eliminate possibilities. That smoked bourbon tasted so good...right up until the hives and itching started all over again. Back to the Benadryl and another night of no sleep. On Sunday, we were heading to our favorite winery, Robin Hill in Brandywine, and I must admit that I was a little worried about trying anything. I got my wine slushie first, no problem, then I switched to the Pi'goat Blanc Rose wine, and thank goodness, I had no problems. We probably have 100 bottles of wine at home so at least I can drink that.

On the 24th, I had my pain management appointment for cortisone shots and told Nate about what happened with the allergic reactions and about the creep factor about the hamster thing. He looked at me and said, "Well you know, your Cimzia is also a Monoclonal Antibody treatment that is made using mice or rats." All I could get out was, "Oh no, I didn't need to hear that, 'squeak', oh no, 'squeak, squeak'". I told him that Robert was making fun of me about the hamsters, so I knew it was going to get worse now about the mice. I think Nate snickered at that point.

This morning Robert asked if he could make me a bourbon and ginger beer or ginger ale onight. I thought about it and said, "Well, I have all the Benadryl pills and lotions, 'squeak', I guess we could try it, 'squeak. We have the Clements Cuties/Dueling Keys event at the Moose lodge on Friday night, and I'd like to know what I will be able to 'squeak' drink". Or it could end up that the mice and hamsters are fighting inside me all night, 'squeak, squeak'. I need cheese!

To each new day's 'squeak' adventure, Shelby.

Please send your comments or ideas to: [shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com](mailto:shelbys.wanderings@yahoo.com) or find me on Facebook.

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# Interlocking Building Bricks Lighthouse Challenge Announced



The Friends of St. Clement's Island & Piney Point Museums, the nonprofit organization that supports the St. Mary's County Museum Division, is announcing an exciting competition this holiday season in honor of the oldest lighthouse on the Potomac River.

For the challenge, participants will create a lighthouse model using interlocking building bricks and bring it to the Piney Point Lighthouse Museum for display and judging.

The challenge has two age group categories: ages 12 and under and ages 13 and up.

## Challenge Rules:

- **Materials:** All entries must be made with interlocking building blocks (any variety or brand). *Note: No electronics or other materials are allowed.* All components must be interlocking building blocks/bricks.
- **Size:** The final size of your entry must be no bigger than 12 inches wide x 12 inches deep x 20 inches high.
- **Base:** Entries must be placed on a sturdy base, such as plywood, foam core, or heavy cardboard. The base should be able to support your entry's weight without bowing.
- **No kits may be entered.** The entry must be constructed as a completely unique creation.

To enter, models should be brought to the main museum building (44720 Lighthouse Road in Piney Point) any day from November 22, 2025, to November 28, 2025, (closed Thanksgiving Day) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Models will be on display between November 29, 2025, through January 4, 2026, for voting. All who visit

Piney Point on those days will receive a voting ticket. Models can then be picked up any day from January 5, 2026, to January 10, 2026, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Participation is FREE. Registration is required by calling (301) 475-4200 ext. 1832 or emailing [janet.cooper@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:janet.cooper@stmaryscountymd.gov).

"To really celebrate Piney Point Lighthouse during the holidays, we thought making this competition a yearly occurrence would be a fantastic way to get families and the community involved," says Karen Stone, Manager of the St. Mary's County Museum Division. "What's even more fun is that everyone will be able to see their creations on display at the museum!"

The selection of winners will be done by popular vote. All who attend the Evening Tides event, Holiday Open House at Piney Point, or visit the museum during the month of December 2025 (regular admission applies; closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. will receive a ticket to cast their vote. Additional tickets may be purchased at the museum store at 5 tickets for \$1, with proceeds benefiting the museum. Winners will be notified on January 5, 2026. The overall winner in each age group will receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and bragging rights as 2025's best lighthouse builder!

For more information about the contest, holiday events, or Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, please call (301) 994-1471 or visit [www.Facebook.com/1836Light](http://www.Facebook.com/1836Light).

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

# Annual Holiday Food Drive to Continue

For 45 years, Mike's Food Fund has brought both food and hope to local families, demonstrating the profound impact one person can have on many lives. As Mike's Food Fund concludes this year, Zion United Methodist Church, Mike's longtime partner, is honored to carry forward this legacy and provide essential support to thousands of families this holiday season.

We invite you to join us and keep this vital mission alive. Here are ways you can make a difference:

- **Volunteer for food transportation:** Assist in picking up, sorting, and delivering food.
  - **Help at distribution sites:** Distribute meals directly to families during our holiday drive.
  - **Give financially:** Your donation enables us to continue purchasing and distributing food to those in need.
- How to donate:**
- Send checks payable to Zion United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 341, Lexington Park, Maryland 20653. Write "ZUMC Food Fund" on the memo line.
  - Donate online at [zionumclexpk.org/giving](http://zionumclexpk.org/giving) and select "Food Fund."

Please consider giving soon. Our food distribution will be held on December 16 and 17, 2025. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Shell Jackson at (240) 281-



Pastor Andrea Cummings of Zion United Methodist Church (ZUMC) with St. Mary's County Commissioner Scott Ostrow following the Nov. 4 public forum where Cummings announced ZUMC's continuation of the holiday food drive. Photo by Ceandra Scott.

5626 or Alonzo Gaskin at (301) 904-5235.

Thank you for your generosity. With your continued support, we can ensure every family experiences hope and a holiday meal this Christmas. We deeply appreciate your help in continuing this important work.

*Press release from ZUMC*

# Extended Fall Water Taxi Service Set



St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division has announced that the water taxi service offered at St. Clement's Island Museum will operate an extended season in November 2025, while the main museum building is being reconstructed and temporarily closed to the public.

The water taxi will operate daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but it will be closed on November 6, 19, 21, 22, 23 & 27. Cost is \$4 per person, all ages. The museum encourages all who are interested in joining a cruise to call (301) 769-2222 before visiting to ensure boat operations, as extenuating circumstances and adverse weather may prevent operation.

The museum store at St. Clement's Island Museum will also be open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the winter, featuring a curated selection of items (limited inventory).

The other museums operated by the Recreation & Parks Museum Division, including the Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center in Leonardtown and the Piney Point

Lighthouse Museum & Historic Park, will continue to be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with regular admission, except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, when they are closed.

The Drayden African American Schoolhouse, the fourth historic site run by the Division, will be closed until spring 2026, when it will reopen for special open houses.

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

- St. Clement's Island Museum: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](http://Facebook.com/SCIMuseum)
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](http://Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: [Facebook.com/1836Light](http://Facebook.com/1836Light)
- Drayden African American Schoolhouse: [Facebook.com/DraydenSchool](http://Facebook.com/DraydenSchool)

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

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# Dodge Performing Arts Center Celebrates Milestone



The Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center

The Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center is thrilled to announce it welcomed its 100,000th patron days short of the third anniversary of the grand opening on Sept. 24, 2022.

This significant milestone was reached on Sept. 20, 2025 during an Open House event welcoming many prospective students to the campus to learn more about SMCM, which holds a special meaning since the performing arts center hosted its first event on Sept. 17, 2022, with an Open House event.

"We are deeply humbled that so many people from across the region have journeyed to this campus, to this spectacular building, tucked away in a relatively remote part of Maryland, where their humanity has been nurtured, educated, entertained and restored by some of the world's most brilliant artists, lecturers, historians and educators," said Keith Hinton, executive director of the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center.

The crown jewel of St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center, has featured acclaimed performers, renowned public figures, student-based events and local favorites for the past three years. The mission to host global talents on a hometown stage for the Southern Maryland community is surpassed each program year at the Dodge Performing Arts Center. The multi-platinum and Grammy-nominated R&B/soul superstars Average White Band set the bar high by giving a sold-out performance at the grand opening of the performing arts center in 2022.

Other great public figures who have graced the hometown stage and sold out the concert hall include Kelly Bell Band, The King's Singers, journalist Nina Totenberg, comedian and author Rainn Wilson, '80s tribute band The Reagan Years and many more.

"The Dodge Performing Arts Center was the product of a visionary partnership between SMCM and the state of Maryland, reinforced by the philanthropy of Nancy Dodge, and we're forever thankful for that support," said SMCM President Rhonda Phillips. "That we've achieved this remarkable milestone in just three short years is due to the work of many across campus and in our extended community, starting with Executive Director Keith Hinton and his dedicated staff."

Not only is the Dodge Performing Arts Center celebrated for its amazing performances, but it has also been awarded for its outstanding design. In 2023, the Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center was named American Institute of Architects (AIA) Maryland's Public Building of the Year at the organization's annual Excellence in Design Award.

The celebration comes at an exciting time for the performing arts center, which has two blockbuster upcoming performances for the 2025-2026 season: the dynamic trio The String Queens on Nov. 15, 2025, and bluegrass legend Dan Tyminski on Feb. 14, 2026. These dynamic performers accentuate a season of musical and cultural events from student ensembles, community partners and distinguished guests.

The Nancy R. & Norton T. Dodge Performing Arts Center also houses the College's Music Department and includes classrooms, music labs, rehearsal rooms and a 125-seat recital hall. The building also showcases a 700-seat concert hall for music performances, lectures, colloquia, other large gatherings; a floor-to-ceiling curved glass lobby area for receptions; and a public art installation.

Press release from SMCM

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Hi there, I'm Booker. I've been told I'm an ear-resistible goofball! At 18 lbs of pure energy, I'm a 2-yr-old mix who's ready to party! I came from a home with lots of other animals, so I'm used to having company. Somewhere along the way, I lost the top of my ear. We don't know what happened, but we're pretty sure it just made me 10x more dashing!

My motto? "Why walk when you can bounce?" I'm always excited and always up for a good time. Meet me Mon-Fri 11am-4pm and Sat 10am-3pm.

To see my amazing friends also available for adoption, "like" us on Facebook @ Charles County Animal Care Center or at <https://www.charlescountymd.gov/services/animal-care-control/animal-care-center>



### MEET AVA



This gorgeous 5-year-old Lab mix is as sweet as she is chatty — she loves to "talk" and share her opinions. Ava is a total people-lover, but she has a special soft spot for the fellas! She does well with most dogs and enjoys playtime, though her confident personality can come off a little bossy. Ava is also okay with cats and is learning great manners in her foster home. She's working on sharing food and treats with other animals — she's a little protective of her goodies sometimes,

but she's improving every day. If you're looking for a loyal companion with lots of love (and personality!) to give, Ava might just be your perfect match.

If you are interested in meeting with Ava or learning more about her please contact Animal Relief Fund (ARF) at 301-866-0303 or visit [www.animalreliefund.org](http://www.animalreliefund.org)



**PAX RIVER  
JOB  
FAIR**

**@ Naval Air Museum (near Gate 1)  
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# St. Michael's School Celebrates First Annual Harvest Festival

By Marcia Hart  
Contributing Writer

The crisp autumn air and joyful laughter filled the grounds of St. Michael's School on Saturday as families from across Southern Maryland gathered for the school's first-ever Harvest Festival.

From pony rides and cotton candy to games, raffles and local vendors, there was truly something for everyone. Children raced from booth to booth with painted faces and sticky fingers, while parents and neighbors caught up with friends old and new during the family-friendly celebration.

"This was such a wonderful day," one attendee shared. "You could really feel the sense of community. It was like Ridge came alive."

The event featured hayrides, crafts, local DJ and recording artist Jeff Barickman and delicious treats, showcasing the creativity, energy and dedication of St. Michael's staff, students and parish volunteers. The smiles said it all; the inaugural Harvest Festival was a resounding success.

Amanda Cullison, event organizer and St. Michael's parent, said the goal was to create a day that truly reflected the heart of the school.

"The Harvest Festival was our way of bringing the community together and inviting everyone to see what St. Michael's is all



Photos by Christie Wood

about," she shared. "We wanted our neighbors to experience the warmth, joy and connection that make this place so special."

Cullison, who has two sons at St. Michael's — Tucker in first grade and Ellis in Preschool 3 — said her family's experience inspired her to help organize the event.

"I chose St. Michael's because of what it represents — faith, family and community," she said. "It's more than just a school; it's truly a family."

Principal Mary Van Ryswick, now in her first year leading St. Michael's after three decades of teaching there, said the festival is just one of many exciting things happen-



ing on campus.

"It's going great," she said. "We have happy students, dedicated teachers and a community that supports everything we do. We've added wonderful new opportunities this year — including our Junior National Honor Society and the return of our school band. There's such a positive energy here."

Van Ryswick said she hopes the Harvest Festival inspires more families to visit and see what makes the school special.

"We're inviting everyone to our Open House on November 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.," she said. "Whether you're a prospective family, a community member, or



a current parent, you're welcome to visit classrooms, meet our teachers and see the amazing things happening at St. Michael's."

The Harvest Festival will now become an annual tradition, bringing together faith, fellowship and fun for the entire community.

The St. Michael's community invites everyone to join them next year for another day of celebration — and to experience for themselves why St. Michael's was voted Best of Southern Maryland in Private School, Preschool, Summer Camp, Place of Worship and Education Services for 2025.

For more information about St. Michael's, visit [smsridgemd.org](http://smsridgemd.org) or call 301-872-5454.

## CSM to Launch New Aviation Maintenance Technology Program

The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) is helping students fill critical workforce gaps in the region with a new associate degree program in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has approved the CSM Associate of Applied Science degree in Aviation Maintenance Technology program, making the college the first institution in the state to offer the associate degree with the FAA Part 147 Airframe and Powerplant certificate.

In a region populated with military facilities, aerospace businesses, and regional airports, the aviation industry plays a key role in the Southern Maryland economy. As these institutions grow, so will the need for skilled workers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects aircraft mechanic occupations to grow by five percent nationally by 2034. In Maryland, that growth is expected to be more than 12 percent.

CSM president Dr. Yolanda Wilson says the new program graduates will be making a significant impact on the workforce development of the region.

"The Aircraft Maintenance Technology program is one example of how CSM is committed to creating new, innovative opportunities for students to succeed in order to meet the talent pipeline needs in Southern Maryland," Dr. Wilson said. "We are excited to welcome the future aviation maintenance technicians who will fill these

important roles in our regional workforce and are grateful to our many community partners who shared their input during the program development phase."

According to the Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) 2025 Pipeline Report, the aviation maintenance industry posted its second largest year-to-year increase in new mechanic certificates, but it still won't be enough to fill the demand for skilled workers.

Dr. Bernice Brezina, Dean of the School of STEM and Professional Studies, said the new program represents a significant opportunity for CSM students to gain advanced technical skills while meeting critical workforce needs across Southern Maryland.

"This program represents a major step forward for CSM and the region," said Dr. Brezina. "As aviation technologies advance, so must the training that prepares the next generation of technicians. Our graduates will be ready to keep aircraft safe, support innovation, and strengthen the Southern Maryland workforce."

During the summer of 2024, CSM worked with an FAA consultant to form a regional Aviation Program Advisory Board, comprised of 30 local representatives from aviation businesses, local government, military installations, public and private school systems, and community groups.

Several board representatives submitted letters of support to MHEC illustrating

a need for the program to meet growing employment needs. The backing from community partners, as well as the letters of support, were instrumental to the program getting off the ground.

In a letter from the St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, representatives said the program will be a significant step in addressing the workforce gap and build a pipeline of skilled professionals to the region's growing aviation sector.

The FAA consultant, whose involvement was recommended by Director of Grant Development Tora Wright, worked with CSM faculty to shape the program curriculum and course syllabi, and helped design the lab to ensure it is outfitted with all necessary equipment and technology. Wright said the consultant played an essential role in getting MHEC approval, and will also be a critical resource when CSM applies for FAA approval for the program. Curriculum approval from the FAA is required for students to earn recognized certifications. Once obtained, CSM will launch the first semester of courses.

CSM is working closely with industry experts and community partners to make sure students are prepared to fill the positions needed to meet growing industry needs. This partner support is a vital part of making the program successful.

"Industry engagement is essential for workforce development. It's important to

hear all voices, from industry leaders, to organizations, and the voices of students," Wright said. "It shows the community is behind you and we're meeting a need. Having that community support from those different voices makes our program stronger and helps our students."

The program will train students to diagnose problems with airframe components, identify and maintain propulsion systems used in aircraft, perform aircraft maintenance and inspections, understand Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulation and guidelines related to aircraft maintenance, and be prepared to test for a mechanic certificate and associated ratings.

Graduates will be prepared to step into several different roles in the aviation industry, including Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanic and other entry-level maintenance technician positions, airframe or powerplant specialist, quality control or quality assurance inspector, and maintenance planner or scheduler.

Once established, CSM anticipates more than 20 students will graduate each year. Credits will be transferable to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), which recently launched a bachelor's degree program in Aviation Maintenance Technology.

*Press Release from CSM*



# Passport to the Holidays

November 7-9



## Weekend Specials

**Shop & Stroll Passport to the Holidays:** Visit our participating businesses, find the hidden rubber ducks, and have your passport stamped for a chance to win a prize. The more businesses you visit, your chances at a bigger prize increases.

First Friday **Hometown Holiday kickoff sale** at Shepherd's Old Field Market

## Friday, November 7

**5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Color & Light Society, Ink Stamp Gift Card Workshop and Watercolor Demonstration at the St. Mary's Arts Council

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Opening Reception - Color & Light Society of Southern Maryland at the St. Mary's County Arts Council

**5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** North End Gallery Alison Barry Opening Reception

**5 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Ride the FREE Leonardtown Trolley

**5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Enjoy live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Josh Airhart with Mouth of the Bay food truck

**6 p.m. - 9 p.m.** DND Role Playing Night at Crafts N Stitches

**8 p.m.** DJ Night at the Rex Theatre

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



## Evening Tides: Candlelight Christmas

at Piney Point Lighthouse  
Museum & Historic Park

Saturday, November 29  
5PM-8PM

Food & craft vendors | Carolers  
Kids' activities & storytime

Facebook.com/1836Light | 301-994-1471

## Saturday, November 8

**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Coastal Arts Market at the wharf

**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** First Saturday at Town Market, shop a variety of vendors

**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** Fall Book Sale by The Friends of the Library at the Leonardtown Library

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Enjoy live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Wildgood Duo and Heidi's Eats

**6 p.m. - 9 p.m.** The Last of Us - Role Playing Night at Crafts N Stitches

**7 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Sound Bath Event at the Sound Flow studio, tickets online

**8 p.m.** - Sabbath Tribute at the Rex Theatre, re-creation of Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne

## Sunday, November 9

**12 p.m. - 3 p.m.** D&D - Humblewood Campaign at Crafts N Stitches

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Family skate at Leonard Hall Recreation Center

**2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Enjoy live music at the Port of Leonardtown Winery featuring Jack McNutt and Nick's DC Pizza

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November 7 - November 9, 2025

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Craft Guild Shop

Shepherds Old Field Market

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Crafts N Stitches

\*St Mary's Arts Council

☐☐

Fenwick Street Books

\*The Good Earth Natural Foods

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Happy & Zen

The Griffon's Court

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at the Rex

Town Market

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Marie & Nash

The more stamps you receive the bigger the prize you will be entered to win. Turn in your passport at any of these locations.  
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Family Pack Ground Beef \$3.98-Lb.

Boneless Sirloin Tip Steaks \$7.98-Lb.

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 <p>Fresh Made Shrimp Skewers <b>4.99</b> <small>Ea.</small></p>	 <p>16 To 20-Ct. EZ-Peel Shrimp <b>6.98</b> <small>Lb.</small></p>	 <p>5 To 8-Oz. Snow Crab Clusters <b>11.98</b> <small>Lb.</small></p>	 <p>Delicious! Catfish Fillets <b>4.98</b> <small>Lb.</small></p>	 <p>5 To 8-Ct. Dungeness Crab Clusters <b>16.98</b> <small>Lb.</small></p>

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 <p>750mL, 6Yr Rye Whistlepig Piggyback 6-Year Whiskey <b>45.99</b></p>	 <p>1.75L Bulleit Kentucky Straight Bourbon <b>49.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL, With Glass Jack Daniels Gift Set <b>22.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL, The Classic Six, Gold Roast Or Bib &amp; Tucker Double Char Bourbon <b>44.99</b></p>	 <p>1.75L Wild Turkey 101 Bourbon Whiskey <b>45.99</b></p>	
 <p>1.75L Smirnoff Vodka <b>18.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL The Deacon Blended Scotch <b>39.99</b></p>	 <p>1.75L Patron Tequila Silver <b>84.99</b></p>	 <p>1.75L Sailor Jerry Spiced Rum <b>26.49</b></p>	 <p>750mL D'usse Cognac Vsop <b>57.99</b></p>	
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 <p>750mL Benton Lane Pinot Noir <b>18.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL Freakshow Chardonnay <b>13.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL, All Flavors Luc Belaire Sparklings <b>27.99</b></p>	<div> <h3>Wine of the Month</h3>  <p>750mL Gen 5 Wines <b>9.99</b></p> </div>		
 <p>750mL Chateau D' Esclands Whispering Angel Rose <b>19.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL La Luca Prosecco Or Prosecco Rose <b>11.99</b></p>	 <p>750mL Cook's Brute Extra Dry <b>8.99</b></p>			 <p>1.5L All Flavors Barefoot Wine <b>10.49</b></p>

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## Legal Notices

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 4:15 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Resolution No. 2-25 request for Annexation of a parcel of real property consisting of 16.35± acres of land shown on Tax Map 32, Parcel 96, which property is contiguous and adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the Town

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodation will be provided for people with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

### COMMISSIONERS OF LEONARDTOWN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Leonardtown Mayor and Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall, 22670 Washington Street, Leonardtown, MD to hear comments on Resolution No. 3-25 request for Annexation of a parcel of real property consisting of 52.18± acres of land shown on Tax Map 4, Parcel(s) 235, and a parcel of real property consisting of 3.21 acres of land shown on Tax Map 41, Parcel(s) 266, which properties are contiguous and adjacent to the corporate boundaries of the Town.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend or to submit written comments by 3:00 p.m. on December 8, 2025, to the Commissioners of Leonardtown, P.O. Box 1, Leonardtown, MD 20650. Special accommodation will be provided for people with disabilities upon request.

By Authority: Laschelle E. McKay, Town Administrator

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., located at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss a proposed amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) for the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 881 5571 1494, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88155711494>

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. Recommendations to the Council will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov). All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization TAC at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

An electronic copy of the documents may be requested by contacting Karly Maltby by phone (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507, via e-mail: [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov), or by visiting <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

Public Hearing Guidelines are subject to change. For more information on viewing, listening to, or submitting comments via telephone or video clip, please call (301) 475-4200 ext. 1507.

All content of these proceedings is subject to disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act. Photographic and electronic audio and visual broadcasting and recording devices are used during the meetings. These are public meetings and attendance at these meetings automatically grants St. Mary's County Government permission to broadcast your audio and visual image. Any person requiring special arrangements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall notify the C-SMMPO no less than 72 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting so that necessary special arrangements can be made in order to facilitate participation.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) Council will conduct a public meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at the Calvert Marine Museum's Waterfront Lounge, located at 14200 Solomons Island Rd. S., Solomons, MD 20688. The purpose is to discuss the proposed amendments to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on behalf of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) to the MD 5 Great Mills Study Project, which reflects an increase in funds and changes in funding sources, changes to the Areawide Congestion Management Project, which reflects a shift in funding and the addition of a new project phase, and review the Public Participation Plan Update with changes to the public notice period and improved readability of the Plan. The agenda can be viewed at <https://www.calvert-stmarysmpo.com/>.

The Meeting ID is 430 427 6617, the call-in number is (301) 715-8592, and the link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4304276617?omn=83110085666>

This public meeting is required by law to allow all interested parties the opportunity to present evidence and public comment regarding the C-SMMPO documents. Decisions will be made solely on evidence and testimony presented during the public hearing. Public meetings are open to the public. Members of the press may attend.

Written comments, questions, and suggestions may be submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2025, to C-SMMPO, P.O. Box 653, Leonardtown, MD, 20650 or [Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov](mailto:Karly.Maltby@stmaryscountymd.gov). All timely submissions will be considered by the Calvert – St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization Council at the Public Hearing. Information submitted after the public hearing record is closed will not be considered.

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## LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWS

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**County Times**  
ST. MARY'S • CALVERT



# Six Members of Sheriff's Office Complete Crisis Training



(Left to right, back row): Correctional Officer First Class John Edelen, Deputy First Class Anthony Cucinotta, Deputy First Class Alexander Tasciotti, Deputy Joseph Senatore, Deputy Phillip Davis, Captain Stephen Simonds.  
(Left to right, front row): Correctional Officer First Class John Edelen, Captain Sarah Smith, Deputy Devin Absher, Alexis Higdon, Sergeant Anthony Whipkey.

During the week of October 27–31, six members of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) successfully completed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training held at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship.

Graduates included Correctional Officer First Class John Edelen, Correctional Officer Branden Mills, Deputy Joseph Senatore, Captain Stephen Simonds, Deputy Phillip Davis, and Deputy First Class Alexander Tasciotti.

CIT programs are nationally recognized for equipping law enforcement officers with the skills to safely and effectively respond to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. Beyond officer training, successful CIT programs enhance crisis response systems, advocate for essential services, and foster partnerships among law enforcement, mental health providers, and the community.

Throughout the training, participants learned about mental health law, emergency petition procedures, verbal de-escalation, traumatic brain injury, and developmental disabilities. They also heard firsthand accounts from individuals and families affected by mental health and substance use challenges. Officers practiced de-escala-

tion techniques through role-play scenarios designed to help determine the most appropriate response for each situation.

The CIT program is a community partnership among law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals living with behavioral health challenges, their families, and other local partners, all working to improve community responses to mental health crises.

In Southern Maryland, the program is a collaboration among the Sheriff's Offices and Health Departments of St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert counties, the Maryland State Police, and other allied agencies. Captain Sarah Smith serves as the CIT Commander, Alexis Higdon, NCC, LCPC, is the CIT Coordinator, and Sergeant Anthony Whipkey is the Law Enforcement CIT Coordinator for the SMCSO.

Through their participation in this program, the graduates are now better prepared to respond with empathy, professionalism, and skill, further strengthening the Sheriff's Office's commitment to public safety and compassionate crisis intervention.

Press release from SMCSO

# Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge to be Inspected

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration will inspect the MD 4 Bridge over the Patuxent River (Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge) at the Calvert/St. Mary's County line beginning Sunday, Nov. 9.

The overnight work will continue through Thursday, Nov. 13, from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the following morning, weather permitting.

During the inspection, crews will close one lane and alternate traffic in the open lane using a flagging operation. Portable variable message signs will be placed along area

state routes to make travelers aware of the lane closure.

The MD 4 bridge inspection will be performed by contractor Hardesty & Hanover of Annapolis.

Overnight travelers should plan extra travel time to cross the bridge.

Drivers are asked to stay alert, stay focused, look for reduced speed limits as well as driving pattern changes, and slow down in work zones.

Press release from MD SHA.

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# Suspect Arrested for May Shooting in Great Mills

On Wednesday, October 29 deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office served an arrest warrant on Kareem Tyree Harris, 22, of Lexington Park, and took the suspect into custody in connection with a shooting that occurred earlier this year.

In the early morning hours of May 3, 2025, patrol deputies working in the area of Chancellors Run Road and Pegg Road in Great Mills heard gunfire. They immediately responded and located a vehicle with four male occupants; three of whom had sustained gunshot wounds, while the fourth was uninjured.

Following the arrest, Harris was transported to the Detention and Rehabilitation Center and served with an arrest warrant for:

- Four counts of attempted first-degree murder
- Four counts of attempted second-degree murder
- Four counts of first-degree assault
- Four counts of second-degree assault
- Firearm use during the commission of a violent crime
- Loaded handgun on person
- Loaded handgun in vehicle
- Handgun on person
- Handgun in vehicle



Kareem Tyree Harris

Harris remains incarcerated pending a bond review.

The investigation remains open. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Keith Moritz at 301-475-4200, extension 8093, or via email at Keith.Moritz@stmaryscountymd.gov.

*Press release from SMCSO*

## Information Sought on Dirt Bike Vandalism



The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office is working to locate and identify two individuals seen in these photos following multiple reports of traffic violations and property damage.

On Saturday, Nov. 1 at around 1 p.m., deputies responded to the 40000 block of Waterview Drive in Mechanicsville for a report of two riders on dirt bikes "tearing up the property." When deputies arrived, the riders had already left the area, but deputies found visible damage to a grassy area and nearby landscaping.

Anyone with information about the identity of the riders or details related to this case

is asked to contact Corporal Max Schell at 301-475-4200, ext. 8161, or by email at Max.Schell@stmaryscountymd.gov.

Tipsters can also call Crime Solvers 24/7 at 301-475-3333 or text Crime Solvers at 274637. In the message block, type "Tip239" and select SEND. After you get a response, continue your conversation.

Note: Tip239 is case-sensitive and must be typed in the message block as shown. With Crime Solvers, you never have to give your name. You may be eligible for a cash reward if your information leads to an arrest.

*Press release from SMCSO*

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# Aging Office Receives Major Donation

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Department of Aging and Human Services has received a significant gift from a long-time supporter.

Mary Walters, a former employee of the department, has bequeathed \$159,295 solely for the use of Department of Aging clients, including but not limited to client personal care items, medical needs, and minor home improvements not to exceed \$2,500 per client.

According to Director of the Department of Aging & Human Services Lori Jennings Harris, Ms. Mary Aileen Walters was a dedicated employee of the Department of Aging (& Human Services). She was a champion for the needs and care of older adults."

Harris told the Commissioners of St. Mary's County at their Nov. 4 meeting, "She was not there for very long. Brandy Tulley, deputy director and I started the same year. And so, Ms. Mary Walters was there at the Loffler Senior Activity Center as the senior office specialist for a short time. I remember Ms. Walters mostly as a participant of the center. So, after she retired, she continued to go to the centers."

Harris said of Walters' donation, "She has

described how she would like to see those funds used for older adults in our community."

She said, "We will develop criteria for how we would distribute these funds to individuals and/or families and not to exceed \$2,500 per disbursement."

Commissioner Eric Colvin said, "This is an incredibly generous bequeath and very kind of her to think of others in our community."

The size of the donation was highlighted. Harris said, "I have not experienced it in my time here, so it's very generous and we appreciate it."

Harris said the monies would be distributed over several years. "Expand it and stretch it out as long as we can."

"I can envision assisting people with things in their home, for example, wheelchair ramps, because I think that's a need and they're very expensive."

Although it's a work in progress, Harris said, "If we do an application, it'll be a very simple application, but we would determine the criteria for which people would be eligible."

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

# Jury Convicts Man of Four Counts of Attempted Murder

State's Attorney Jaymi Sterling announced on Nov. 5 that Cameron David Curtis, 22, of Drayden was convicted of four counts of attempted murder for his participation in the attempted murders of four separate victims following a six-day jury trial in St. Mary's County.

On May 3, 2025, deputies from the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office responded to the area of Chancellors Run Road and Pegg Road after hearing gunfire. The deputies located a vehicle with four male occupants, three of whom had sustained injuries from gunshot wounds. A comprehensive investigation revealed the shooting stemmed from an earlier altercation that started in Leonardtown and continued into Lexington Park.

"This was an extremely dangerous act of violence where multiple firearms were used during a vehicle chase, jeopardizing the lives of these four victims and countless members of our community," said Sterling.

Curtis has been convicted of the following nine offenses:

- Two counts, attempted first-degree murder (maximum penalty, life);
- Two counts, attempted second-degree (maximum penalty, 30 years);
- Four counts, use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence (maximum penalty, 20 years); and
- One count, handgun in a vehicle (maximum penalty, 5 years).



Cameron David Curtis

Curtis remains held without bond pending sentencing. He faces a maximum sentence of life plus 145 years in prison.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Alena Moiser prosecuted the case on behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's County.

Detective Warren Forinash of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office was the lead investigator.

The Honorable Amy Lorenzini presided over the case.

Press release from St. Mary's County State's Attorney

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## Chamber Acts as Community Nexus

### Officials Brief Commissioners

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce briefed the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Nov. 4 on their mission and activities.

Board Chairman Ryan Schlotterbeck said, "The Chamber prides itself in being the nexus between business, government, community, and your support helps us create and maintain that nexus, to continue to support the business community."

Chamber President/CEO Dr. Christine Bergmark said, "Whether it's a shop on Square in Leonardtown, a family-owned restaurant, professional service, or a growing technology company, each contributes to the strength of our local economy and the character of our community."

She said, "Support for and membership in the St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is not just simply a cost of doing business, it's a strategic investment in the future of our county. This last year, we developed a new strategic plan, and among our core values are leadership, collaboration, advocacy, and education. And these aspects are woven through everything that we do."

The Chamber does that through round tables, educational events, and forums, including presentations from a representative of the governor's office, the Maryland Comptroller, and "on November 12th, we're bringing representatives from the Department of Labor to talk about the Family Leave Act...and then on December 3rd, we have a session on how upcoming tax changes can affect our businesses."

She said they also provide an opportunity "for our middle schoolers to develop their leadership skills by identifying a challenge that's in their community and how they would resolve it through the lens of civics."

Bergmark said, "The Chamber provides visibility in a marketplace where it's hard to stand out. Membership puts members and businesses and nonprofits literally on the map."

She noted, "Our member directory, promotional events, opportunities, and partnerships ensure that businesses are seen and that their services are known. When people look for trusted businesses, they look to the Chamber."

Bergmark said, "The Chamber brings together businesses of all sizes, nonprofits, educational institutions, and governmental leaders. These connections open doors to customers, resources and partnerships that



Chamber President/CEO Dr. Christine Bergmark

might not have been considered before. A simple introduction at a Chamber event can lead to a new contract, a new supplier, a new ally in any given business, such as our business after hours."

Bergmark observed, "Any and all of our events are intended to break down silos within the Chamber, within the community, to build social fabric, to convene, connect community, and to show common ground."

The Chamber is a watchdog in Annapolis. She said, "Our nonpartisan government affairs committee reviews bills and policies, as they make their way through Annapolis. And as you know, in the last few years, quite a few bills have gone through that were not particularly business friendly. Maryland's economy is slightly lower than that of the national average. And yet, in this year, the legislature passed some of the highest tax increases and fees increases in decades. And all of those hit in this year."

Bergmark observed, "St. Mary's County is unique. We're a place where history and innovation meet. We're a county rooted in tradition, yet home to innovative technology, world class education, and entrepreneurial spirit. Chamber membership demonstrates an investment in our community and in its future."

She said, "The Chamber has 379 members, business and nonprofits. We represent over 35,000 employees. Seventy-four percent of our members have fewer than 50 employees, and 15 percent are nonprofits. And we're thrilled to say we've had about 50 new members join just since January 1st."

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

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# Leonardtwn Sees Flurry of Development

By Dick Myers  
Staff Writer

With two new businesses, two annexation requests and two liquor license votes for approval, things seem to be picking up in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County Seat, and its lone town.

One of the state's fastest growing towns, development will really accelerate with the long dormant Tudor Hall Farm project, part owned by the town and part by a developer, said to be nearing realization, although plans have yet to be submitted, according to Planning and Zoning Administrator Mike Bailey.

The new Weis Market recently opened in Shoppes at Breton Bay, close on the heels of another of their stores in Charlotte Hall. The grocery store fills the spot left vacant by the close of McKay's Food and Drug.

The new Tractor Supply, whose concept plan was approved on Oct. 20, is the W. M. Davis's Development @ McIntosh Run at 25845 Point Lookout Road, north of the Dominos, a pharmacy & Bon Appé Sweet Shop.

The site consists of 3.939 acres on the south side of Maryland Route 5 (AKA Point Lookout Road).

According to the staff report to the town planning and zoning commission, "The site consists of several parcels being combined to create a 3.939-acre site. GBT Realty Corporation is proposing a one-story commercial retail building approximately 21,930 square feet with a 20,000-square-foot outdoor display area at the rear of the building. The proposed development is required to have...one space per 200 square feet. The consultant has proposed 84 parking spaces, due to the fact that part of the building is for warehousing, which normally doesn't require parking.

Bailey told the planners that the original concept plan for the property, from 20 years ago, consisted of "a 47,000-square-



Hollywood Tractor Supply

foot hotel, a 31,000-square-foot retail space, a 11,000-square-foot office space, and a 2,900-square-foot restaurant space, and 2,700-square-foot bank space."

Bailey pointed out, "When you look at just the Tractor Supply by itself, it's not to that extent of development."

The new retail store is on the side of the old Pennie's Bar, behind which was an active Rocking Chair Softball field. Its four walls hosted many after-game lively parties.

The two annexation requests provide for room for more residential and commercial development.

The first request is for property across the street from the shopping center. According to the staff report, it is "approximately 16.35 acres of land, known as the Hall Annexation, generally located at 40895 Greenhill Lane, Leonardtown Maryland 20650."

The report said, "The site is presently

zoned RPD (Rural Preservation District) under the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and is proposed for Town zoning as CH (Highway Commercial District). The parcel is developed with a single-family dwelling and an accessory storage shed."

The report went on to say, "A preliminary constraints review found several sensitive areas (highly erodible soils, wetlands) and it is noted that additional studies will be required at the time of development if the property is annexed."

The second property, according to the staff report, "is approximately 55.39 acres of land, known as the Johnson/Anthony & Johnston Property Annexation, generally located on Cedar Lane Road Leonardtown Maryland 20650."

The report says, "The properties are currently zoned RL - Residential Low Density

under St. Mary's County regulations. The applicant for Parcel 235 is requesting Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning from the Town as all large farm parcels are PUD within the Town. The property is included in the County development district. Parcel 266 would be R-SF. A concept plan has been provided for Parcel 235, outlining a preliminary vision for future development. This plan will continue to evolve as the review and permitting process moves forward."

The support for the two liquor licenses before the St. Mary's County Alcohol Beverages Board include a new restaurant where the Ye Olde Town Cafe long stood. Rucci's Italian Kitchen & Grille, as requested by Jamil Jamaldinian, will be located at 22685 Washington Street. The license would include outdoor seating on the sidewalk."

This would be the second location for the popular restaurant in White Plains. Former Charles County Commissioner Bobby Rucci owns it.

On their website, Rucci wrote, "At Rucci's we pride ourselves in offering the freshest and finest quality foods and authentic Italian fare. Our Southern Italian recipes have been handed down from generation to generation.

"Bobby's Bourbon Bar features over 100 bourbon offerings, hand crafted cocktails, and a well-balanced wine list. You won't want to miss our Sunday Brunch either.

"We hope you enjoy this time in our 'home away from home.'"

The second letter of support involves "the transfer of the Class B restaurant license of The Front Porch from Jeffrey Lewis, LLC to MJP23, Inc. (Gautam Patel and Shailesh Patel). The transfer includes the current licensed outdoor serving area. The Front Porch is located at 22770 Washington Street."

Mr. Patel said he planned no changes.

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

## County GOP Reacts to Government Shutdown

The St. Mary's County Republican Central Committee (RCC) is encouraging our Maryland U.S. Senators to vote on the clean continuing resolution to reopen the Federal Government.

The RCC commends the St. Mary's County Commissioners for their advocacy on behalf of all the residents of St. Mary's County in writing to the Maryland Senators to end this Democrat Shutdown.

Our incredibly hard working and important Federal Government employees should be paid for the work that they are doing, and the blatantly partisan attempts by the Democrats to refuse to keep the government operational are a disgrace and embarrassment to our great nation. The RCC is proud and supportive that the St. Mary's County Commissioners have taken proactive steps to work with local partner agencies and ensure that St. Mary's County residents are supported.

Furthermore, the continuing shutdown will result in additional hardships on the American people as important services are

unable to be provided. The RCC is disappointed that Governor Wes Moore is not backfilling SNAP benefits and is still wasting time advocating to further gerrymander the state of Maryland, one of the worst gerrymandered states in the entire nation.

Governor Moore's plan to provide funding to nonprofits lacks transparency and does not provide the funding directly to the people in need. This "Schumer Shutdown" only serves to weaken our nation and make life harder for all Americans. It disproportionately hurts hard working American families. Senator Schumer has said, "Every day gets better for us", he certainly isn't referring to US citizens.

The over-taxation by the Maryland General Assembly and Governor Wes Moore has directly led to exorbitant energy costs and prohibitive fees on vehicle ownership, again disproportionately hurting the residents that the Democrat Party claims to be advocating on behalf of. Democrat policies at the state level have made home ownership

more expensive and contributed to the concerns over housing availability. Democrat policies have also led to an energy crisis, historic \$1.6 billion in tax/fee increases, plus a downgrade in Moody's credit score for the state of Maryland.

The RCC thanks our Senator Jack Bailey, Delegates Matt Morgan and Todd Morgan, and the Maryland Freedom Caucus for advocating on behalf of all the citizens of Maryland and standing opposed to these excessive cost increases that make it harder for people to live, work, and raise families in the state of Maryland.

Central Committee Chairwoman Jennifer Boyd commented "This needless shutdown is for political posturing, and it is hurting hardworking Americans. Our Democrat Senators should immediately vote for the clean resolution to reopen government and prevent any further unnecessary hardships."

The St. Mary's County Republican Central Committee strongly condemns the continued shutdown and encourages Senator

Van Hollen and Senator Alsobrooks to vote to support the working citizens of Maryland by reopening the Federal Government.

The St. Mary's County Republican Central Committee is the governing body and the official spokesman for the Republican Party in St. Mary's County. They cooperate with the Republican State Central Committee for Maryland and with the Republican National Committee. They seek to educate and register new voters, assist Republicans running for public office, and promote the principles, objectives and platform of the Republican Party. The St. Mary's County Republican Central Committee is made up of 9 community members elected by the Republican citizens of St. Mary's County. They hold monthly meetings that are open to the public.

For more information visit their website at [HTTPS://stmaryscountygop.com](https://stmaryscountygop.com) and visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064661143150>.

Press release from SMCRCC





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AGING AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR LORI JENNINGS-HARRIS ON THE DONATION TO HER DEPARTMENT



**LOCAL 5**  
Growth accelerating in Leonardtown











**LOCAL 6**  
Chamber of Commerce explains their role in the community



**ON THE COVER**  
Local veterans reflect on their service

WEEKLY FORECAST

THU, NOV 6	FRI, NOV 7	SAT, NOV 8	SUN, NOV 9
 Sunny Hi: 58° Lo: 39°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 65° Lo: 56°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 70° Lo: 51°	 Rain Hi: 68° Lo: 38°
MON, NOV 10	TUE, NOV 11	WED, NOV 12	THU, NOV 13
 Partly Cloudy Hi: 46° Lo: 31°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 49° Lo: 38°	 Mostly Sunny Hi: 62° Lo: 40°	 Partly Cloudy Hi: 57° Lo: 38°



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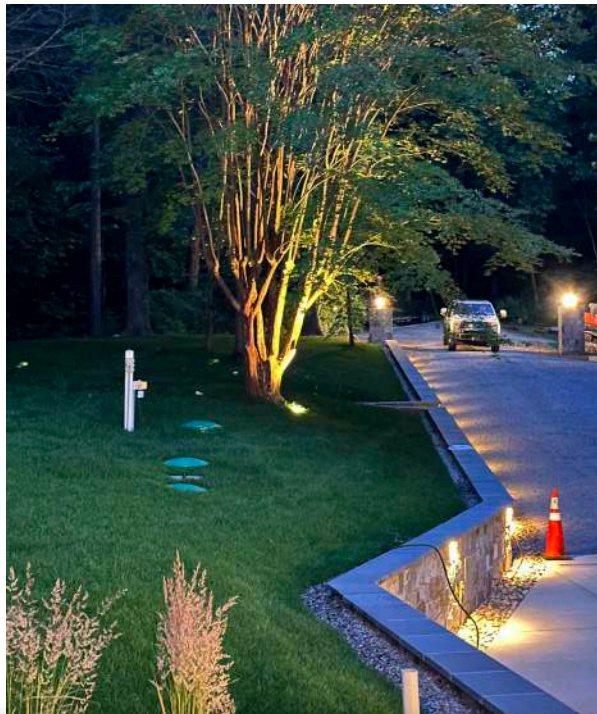
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