CHAMBER NEWS & UPDATES

Starting the 2024 Year off right!

We have lots of new events planned. Be on the lookout for special updates.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- January 23 - Women's Luncheon
- January 24 - Business After Hours & Ribbon Cutting – All in One Tag & Title
- January 25 - Sarah Weems - Edwards Jones Ribbon Cutting
- February 10 - Spirits of Maryland
- February 12 - Zoom with State Elected Official
- February 13 - New Member Luncheon
- February 27 - Women's Luncheon
- February 28 - Business After Hours – Chesapeake Staging & Interiors, LLC
- February 29 -State of the Schools Luncheon
- February 29 - Ride the Chamber Bus to the Md Legislative in Annapolis
- March 2 - National Civics Bee Live
- March 8 - Chamber 50th Anniversary
- March 27 - Business After Hours –Above Par Golf & Entertainment

Business After Hours

AND

Ribbon Cutting!

All in One Tag & Title
Wednesday, January 24

Ribbon Cutting: 4:30 PM
Business After Hours: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

22789 Three Notch Rd
California, MD

Welcome new business All in One Tag and Title and Celebrate the New Year with old friends and new!

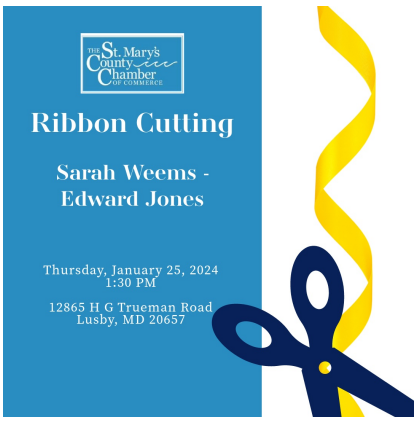
Register here.

Women's Lunch Series

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
12:00p.m.

OE Realty
21030 Point Lookout Rd, Ste 107
Callaway, MD

Celebrate the first Women's Lunch of the year with an amazing seller's



Sarah Weems - Edward Jones Ribbon Cutting
Thursday, January 25
1:30-3:00p.m.

12865 H G Trueman Rd.
Lusby, MD 20657

Celebrate the grand opening of our new Edward Jones office. While the location

presentation from Amy Scott!

Light Lunch provided. Limited Availability.

Must pre-register here.

has changed, our commitment to providing face-to-face personalized service is still the same.

We invite you to bring your family and friends and help celebrate our new location.

National Civics Bee® Essay Deadline extended to January 22, 2024

This is such an exciting opportunity! Middle school students are invited to write an essay on an issue that concerns them in their community and how they can have an impact through the lens of civics. Attendees at the live event are also encouraged to test their civics knowledge along with the students.

The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to offer the 2024 National Civics Bee®, an initiative aimed at encouraging more young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. Organized in partnership with The Civic Trust® of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the competition in St. Mary's County will inspire middle schoolers to become better informed about American democracy, to engage respectfully and constructively in the community, and to build greater trust in others and institutions.

Middle school students from public, private, charter, and home schools are invited to take part in the first-round civics essay competition. After a distinguished panel reviews the 500-word essays, the top 20 students will be selected to move on to the next round of competition: a live quiz event to test their civics knowledge. The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce will host this live event on March 2, 2024 at Cole Cinema, St. Mary's College of Maryland, co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democracy and the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. The finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including $500 cash for the first-place student.

Sponsors can help inlock the potential of future leaders by purchasing a sponsorship for the Civics Bee and supporting the next generation of informed and engaged citizens.

The deadline for student essay submissions has been extended to January 22, 2024. For more information to submit your essay, sponsor the event, or register to attend the live event, visit: National Civics Bee® - St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce (smcchamber.com)

More info about the Bee here or call 301-737-3001 to learn more.Sponsor registration here.

First Annual Kentuckey Derby
Support your favorite Non-Profit & Submit games for the Fundraiser

Looking for a fun filled competition with other chamber members while supporting your favorite non-profit? Our 1st Annual Kentucky Derby event is for you. Let the games begin

Saturday, May 4, 2024
St. Mary's Airport Terminal

Chamber non-profit members: If your organization is interested in raising money, running one game of chance, and having fun - this is for you. Each non-profit member is invited to run one interactive game and keep the proceeds.

Your non-profit provides everything needed to run the game. All personnel entering to run game must purchase a $40 entry ticket to join in on the fun. Only 1 game per charity and no like games from other charities to compete.

First come, first serve!!

Send your game proposal and specifics, along with the size requirements to info@smcchamber.com.

Chamber members: For an entry fee of $250, you can join in competition. You may then purchase our memorable chamber 50th Anniversary keychains/bottle openers ($1 each, 50 minimum). You can resell the keychains for as much or as little as you'd like with the ultimate goal of donating the funds you raise for your selected charity.

To make it fun and raise the stakes, the company that earns the most money for their charity will be able to choose the top horse at our Derby party. Competition results announced at every BAH starting in January 2024.

Day of event tickets: $40 per person.
Prizes for best dressed, best hat, best jockey outfit!

Sponsorships and keychains here. Tickets here.

The Maryland Distillers Guild returns to Southern Maryland for the annual all-local spirits event. Maryland distilleries invite spirits and cocktail enthusiasts to sample and explore a variety of gins, rums, whiskeys, and more.

During this two-session event, attendees may sample local spirits, meet the people behind the brands and purchase bottles of their favorite products to take home for off-premises consumption.

Tickets available from the Maryalnd Distillers Guild here:www.marylandspirits.org
To sponsor this event:register here.

Thank you for supporting the Maryland Distillers Guild and our continued efforts to promote

the quality and availability of Maryland spirits.

Spirits of Maryland

EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DATE
10 February 2024

EVENT & LOCATION
Spirits of Maryland
PAX River Naval Air Museum
Lexington Park, Maryland

Spirits of Maryland returns to the PAX River Naval Air Museum for the 2024 spirits showcase. More than one dozen Maryland distilleries will gather to present award-winning spirits and delicious cocktails to nearly 600 attendees over two sessions. VIP pass holders enjoy early entry to the event and get to sample exclusive spirits offerings. Each two-hour General Admission session features sampling, education, and lots of fun!

Event Partner - $1500

The Presenting Partner is the most valuable sponsorship package for the 2024 Spirits of Maryland event. The Presenting Partner receives:

A formal announcement at the event regarding your support level, A table location at the event to promote your business directly to event attendees, Logo placement in event-related promotional newsletters, 8 VIP passes to Spirits of Maryland

Title Partner - $750

Title Partners have a valuable opportunity to directly support the 2024 Spirits of Maryland event.

Title Partners receive:

A formal announcement at the event regarding your support level, A table location at the event to promote your business directly to event attendees, Logo placement in event-related promotional newsletters, 6 general passes to Spirits of Maryland

Participant - $500

Participating Partners gain recognition through their support of the 2024 Spirits of Maryland event. Participants receive:

A table location at the event to promote your business directly to event attendees, Logo placement on event ticketing page, 4 passes to Spirits of Maryland

Supporter - $250

Supporters are promoted to attendees of the 2024 Spirits of Maryland event.

Supporters receive: Logo placement on event ticketing page, 2 passes to Spirits of Maryland

Claim your Sponsorship here

[Claim your sponsorship here by February 1, 2024.]

Early Session ZOOM call with our St. Mary's Delegation

February 13, 2024
8 a.m.

This will be an opportunity to hear our Maryland state elected officials review the current status of the 2024 legislative session and bills they are sponsoring that affect our business community.

Sponsored by the St. Mary's County Library.

Please register no later than Thursday, February 8, 2024 to receive the link.

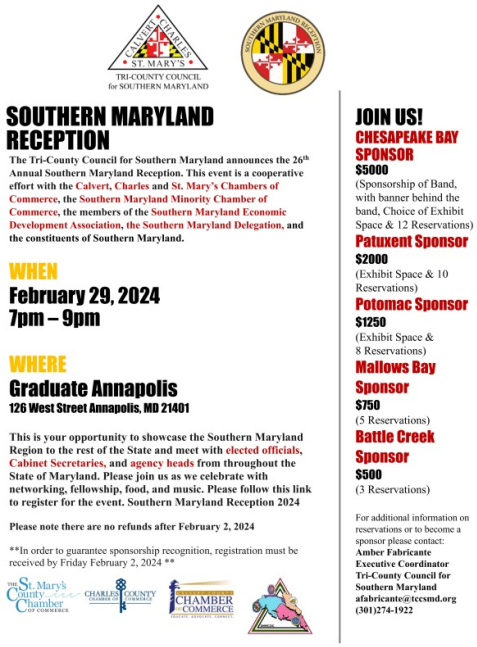
New Member Lunches RESUMED!

Join us the second Tuesday of each month to get to know our new members. Our next one is February 13, 2024.

Pre-registration required. See here.

Register to sponsor here and purchase event tickets here no later than February 13.

2024 Southern Maryland Reception
Feb 29, 2024
Annapolis, MD



Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is Hosting the 2024 Southern Maryland Reception

The 2024 Southern Maryland Reception will take place on February 29, 2024, at The Graduate. This event provides a great opportunity to experience the warm hospitality of Southern Maryland, with delicious food, networking opportunities, and live music.

For event tickets and more information, email afabricante@tccsmd.org.

Ticket to Ride! Bus Service to Southern Maryland Reception

Skip the drive and parking hassle. The St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce is offering a bus service to the SOMD Legislative Reception. The bus will depart from Hollywood Fire Department at 5p.m and leaves Annapolis to return at 9 pm.

Bus tickets are required and are first come, first serve. $35 per member

Register for tickets here.
Add your name to sponsors here!

Interested in Joining the Chamber?

By joining the Chamber, you can boost your business's visibility and gain access to exclusive perks such as promotion for your business or organization, discounted access to our events, networking, and educational series, opportunity to weigh in on legislative bills, voice your concerns to elected officials, use of our conference room as meeting space, and more!

For more information click here.

Are you considering hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for your business?

The Chamber is here to help you make it happen! These ceremonies are perfect for celebrating a special anniversary, launching a

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new product or service, or expanding your business. We will advertise the event, invite county government officials, and provide the giant scissors and ribbon. Get in touch with us to discuss scheduling for your event.

301-737-3001 or **info@smcchamber.com**

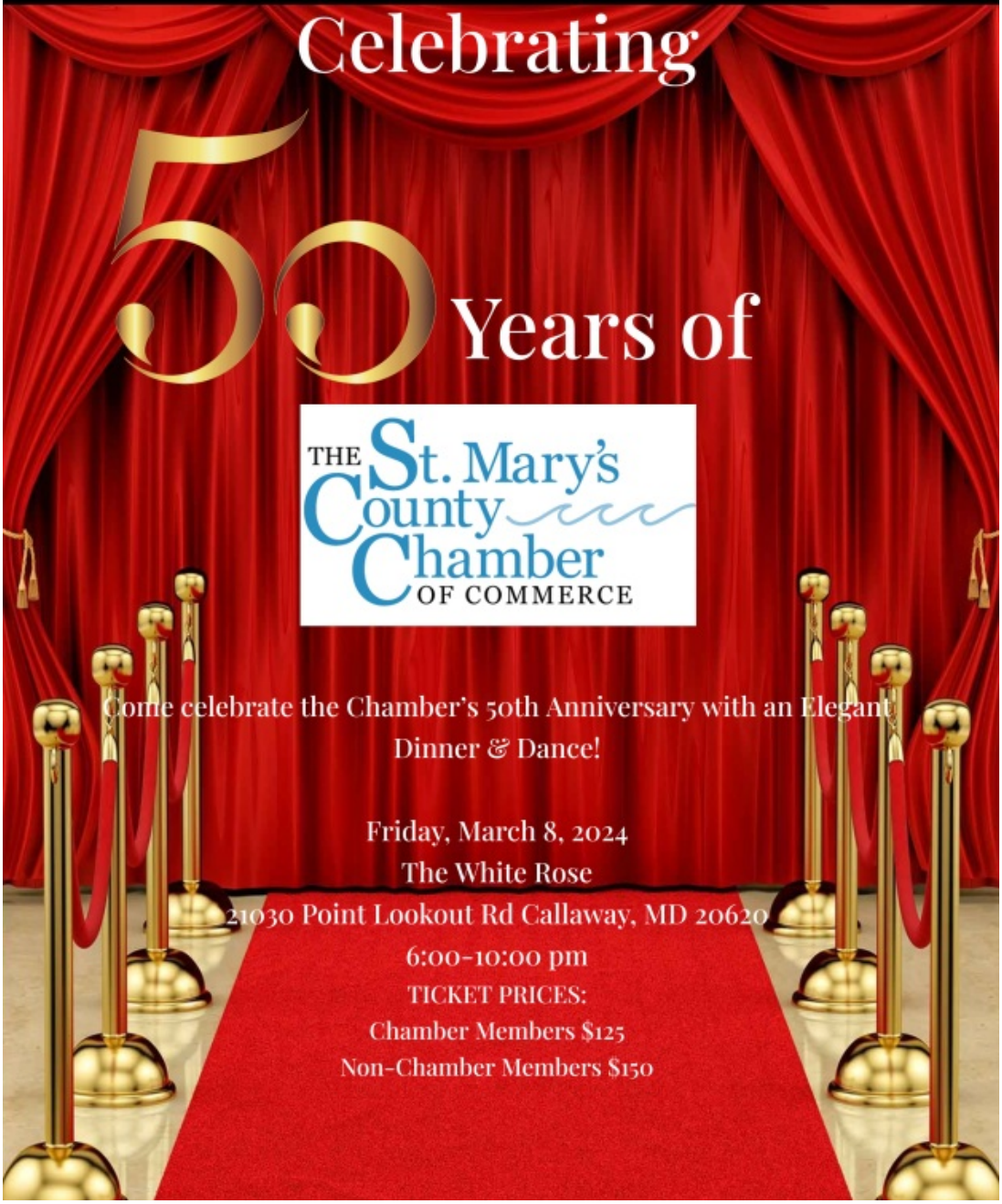
Pay It Forward Partnership with the Chamber

The "Pay It Forward Partnership" initiative simplifies offers with a one-time annual payment, making it easier to budget and support promotional benefits for the Chamber's regular annual events, and it includes annual dues. You can choose which events you would like to sponsor and have your name associated with, and, of course, you always have the option to sponsor any event you prefer.

- **Platinum Partner** $10,000 Annual Investment
- **Gold Partner** $7,500 Annual Investment
- **Silver Partner** $5,000 Annual Investment
- **Bronze Partner** $2,500 Annual Investment

Call or visit the Chamber website for more info.

SAVE THE DATES!



50th Anniversary Gala
March 8, 2024
6 p.m.

As we mark this golden jubilee, let's come together to celebrate the achievements that have shaped our community.

This dinner and dance gala promises an extravagant evening featuring culinary delights, entertainment, and the chance to make a positive impact.

Your presence will contribute to the success of our fundraising efforts, supporting initiatives that continue to strengthen our community.

Let's raise a glass to 50 years of success and toast to many more!

Dress to impress for an elegant evening of memories in the making.

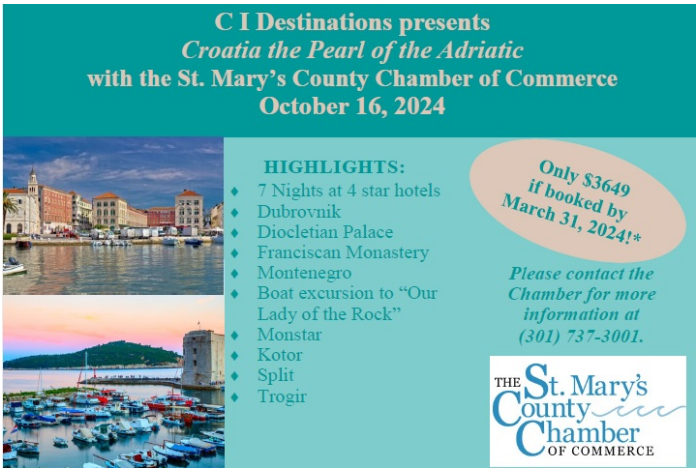
We look forward to celebrating with you!

Chamber Member Tickets: $125 per person
Non-Chamber Member Tickets: $150 per person
Tickets available here.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

Now Announcing Croatia, the Pearl of the Adriatic Trip with the Chamber

Discount Deadline: March 31, 2024



Discover the stunning beauty of Croatia, the Pearl of the Adriatic, with Ci Destinations. Experience 7 nights at a luxurious 4-star hotel, scenic tours, and more on October 16, 2024. **Book your trip before March 31, 2024, and enjoy this incredible offer for only $3649**. For more information, don't hesitate to contact the Chamber at 301-737-3001. Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity!

Airfare included! Application and more info here.

MEMBER NEWS

St. Mary's County Library Events

Government and Business Affinity Group
The St. Mary's County Library invites you to give feedback on the functionality of the library and its services. Your thoughts and opinions matter for the strategic planning process! Parking is free and refreshments will be provided.

Jan 22| 6:00p.m.- 7:30p.m.
Charlotte Hall Library

Jan 23| 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m.
Lexington Park Library

Jan 23| 2:00p.m.- 3:15p.m.
Leonardtown Library

Jan 23| 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m.
Leonardtown Library

Thank you for supporting your local libraries!

St. Mary's Caring: Feed A Community

January 20, 2024,
4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.

St. Mary's Caring is looking for volunteers to help serve in the annual Fill A Cup, Feed A Community event. Volunteers will be providing services within the soup kitchen. The event meals will be dine-in or take-out, with at least 4 soups donated by restaurants or made in the kitchen.

OE Realty

2024 Educational Series

Jan 16 @6p.m. - OE Realty

Maryland Tax Connect Events and Report

New Portal

is offering a class on the credit essentials for home buyers. All questions are welcomed and encouraged!
Pax River Ale House

Feb 20 @6.p.m - Curious about your benefits as a Veteran home buyer? Veteran realtors will be offering a class to spread knowledge about the benefits Veteran home buyers can receive.
Leonardtown Library

Mar 19 @2p.m. - Buying a home can be stressful, especially when it's your first time. OE Realty is offering a class for first time home buyers to answer those burning questions.
Waldorf West Library

Maryland Tax Connect is pleased to announce the introduction of a brand-new portal for Maryland business taxpayers. This service helps taxpayers file their taxes online with ease and guaranteed security. The new portal is designed to:

- Make online payments
- Update personal information
- Retrieve tax information
- File returns
- Apply for or renew business licenses
- Apply for sales and use tax exception certificates

The last day to use the current bFile is**January 22, 2024,** so complete those returns!

Any additional updates can be found at: marylandtaxes.gov/MDTaxConnect

State of the Economy Report
The State of the Economy Report is the first in a series of reports to examine the economic performance of Maryland. The goal of these reports is to better understand the challenges in our economic climate and identify ways to play to our strengths while making improvements. The key findings and diagnoses can be found at www.marylandtaxes.gov

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SMYP: After Hours Social

January 23
5:00-7:00p.m.

Social Coffeehouse & Cocktail Bar
Leonardtown, MD

St. Mary's Young Professionals invites you to join them for their first event of 2024 and see the newly renovated Social Coffeehouse in the Duke Building in Leonardtown. Light food will be provided, and the cash bar will be open for beverages. This is a great opportunity for young professionals to network! We look forward to seeing you there.

Registration required.

Maryland Department of Commerce Upcoming Events

T.I.P.S. Webinar Series

January 23 & 25, 2024
10 a.m.

T.I.P.S. is an opportunity to learn the understanding and processes of the state's procurement. These Webinars are free and offered twice a month to help participates navigate and compete with confidence. Like what you see? You can go back and review previous month's classes via their website and Youtube Playlist.

Registration January 23 seminar

Registration January 25 seminar

St. Mary's College of Maryland: Career & Internship Fair

Tuesday, March 26, 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

Michael P. O'Brien Athletics and Recreation Center (ARC) Recreational Courts, St. Mary's City, MD

This event is a great way for students and employers to network. This opportunity is great for students in that it will allow them to practice having a professional presence within the workforce and work on communication skills while exploring an array of industries. Employers can use this as an opportunity to hire interns, connect with current students, and provide information about their industry.

Deadline to Register: Friday, March 8 @5p.m.

The Patuxent Partnership

The Patuxent Partnership Defense Summit

March 27, 2024

The SoMD 2030 workforce development initiative is funded by NAWCAD to build the STEM pipeline, increase career opportunities, and network in Southern Maryland

Seeking Volunteers

TPP is looking for volunteers to help with the 2nd annual Spark! Student Career Awareness Fair for students within the tri-county area. The event will be held February 1 from 9am-12pm. Volunteer registration required by January 19th.

Contact Jennifer Brown, jennifer.brown@paxpartnership.org with questions.

Lexington Park Facade and Streetscape Improvement Program Update

The intent of the *Lexington Park Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program* is to create a positive visual impact, stimulate private investment, improve actual and perceived safety, and complement public community revitalization efforts in the historic commercial core of Lexington Park, delineated in the Lexington Park Master Plan as the "Downtown" and "Great Mills Corridor." The *Lexington Park Façade and Streetscape Improvement Program* will reimburse a portion of the expenses incurred by commercial property and/or business owners who complete projects that rehabilitate their buildings, storefronts,

Property Tax Challange Information Update

St. Mary's County seeks to stimulate and incentivize investment in commercial real property. The Property Tax Challenge supports renovations, rehabilitation, and upgrades of commercial real property. Commercial property owners in challenged areas who invest at least 10% of the property's assessed value at a minimum of $25,000 are eligible for this program. Those who qualify will not see an increase in their County property taxes for either a seven- or ten-year period.

For more information click here.

and/or the streetscapes located adjacent to their buildings and businesses. The funding for this program is provided to the County through a Community Legacy grant from Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development.

For more information click here.

There's always something going on in Leonardtown!

Visit here to learn more.

Thank you to our Pay It Forward Partners!

GOLD

SILVER

BRONZE

Thank you to our Corporate and Event Sponsors!

St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce
22738 Maple Rd., Suite 104
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-737-3001

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