CHAMBER NEWS & UPDATES

May events!

Spring has sprung and our calendar is blossoming with upcoming events!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- May 1 - Ribbon Cutting – Educational Systems Federal Credit Union
- May 4 - Kentucky Derby
- May 7 - Ribbon Cutting – First Command Financial Planning
- May 21 - Business Awards Luncheon
- May 22 - Business After Hours – eMed Medical Supply
- May 28 - Women's Lunch Series – Theresa Jones
- June 4 - Annual Business Dinner
- June 26 - Business After Hours – Corteau Vineyards

First Annual Kentucky 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

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

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.

2024.

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

Sponsorships and keychains here. Tickets here.

Annual Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
11:30AM
Bay District Volunteer Firehouse: Braddock Hall
46900 S. Shangri-La Drive
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Join us for a catered lunch from W.J Dent/Chiefs and celebrate the recipients of The Chamber Business Awards! This year's award categories include: The Annual Beacon, Annual Lighthouse, Emerging Business, and Community Service. You don't want to miss out on this amazing event!

Tickets to the Awards lunch here and Sponsorship opportunities here.
Last day to purchase tickets is **May 14, 2024**.

This year, we are offering members an opportunity to showcase and promote your business at the luncheon.
Exhibitor opportunities available here while spaces last.

Seeking Nominations for New Business Award: Emerging Leader!

The Chamber is soliciting member nominations for a new award. Qualifications are as follows:

EMERGING LEADER

1. Employed by or owns a business that is a member of the St. Mary's County Chamber of

Commerce
2. Between the ages of 21 and 39
3. Gone above and beyond to grow personally and professionally through community involvement
4. Exemplifies leadership skills and exhibits exceptional vision that contributes to success in the workplace.

Please enter your nominations on-line here or send your nominations to info@smcchamber.com with a detailed explanation as to why individual is deserving of this award by **May 15, 2024.** The Award will be presented at the Chamber Annual Membership Dinner on June 4th.

New Member Lunches !

New member lunches have made a comeback! The next luncheon will be **May 14, 2024**, at Mac's Tap & Table. This event is a great opportunity to try some new food and meet some new people. We hope to see you there!

Pre-registration required. See here.

Women's Lunch Series - Theresa Jones, MD Comptroller Office
Tuesday, May 28, 2024
12:00p.m.
Leonardtown Public Library
23630 Hayden Farm Lane, Leonardtown, MD

Bring your own lunch and hear Theresa Jones from the MD Comptroller Office!

Must pre-register here.

Ribbon Cutting: Educational Systems Federal Credit Union

Wednesday, May 1, 2024
5 p.m.
46320 Lexington Village Way, Suite 100
Lexington Park, MD, 20653

Help us celebrate the opening of a new facility for Educational Systems!

Pre-register here.

Ribbon Cutting: First Command Financial Planning

Tuesday, May 7, 2024
11:30a.m
22289 Exploration Drive, Suite 110
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Help us celebrate the opening of new building for First Command Financial Planning!

Pre-register here.

New Member Highlight!

The Chamber would like to acknowledge our newest members and say thank you for your partnership!

Special Thanks to:

- Adriani Brothers Construction
- Bowling Family Services
- Carol Davis Photography - Your Journey Studios
- Charles County Office Furniture
- Dawn on the Chesapeake, LLC
- Equity Resources, Inc.
- Hollywood Use Auto Parts
- Humphreys, Warner and Associates PC
- J Browne Excavating
- Lex Custom Design
- Little Bubble Child Care, LLC
- Pro Pressure, LLC
- Summer Breeze Farms, LLC
- Xella Winery and Vineyard

Want to see your business here?

Click here for registration to become a member.

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

W.M. DAVIS, INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
Commercial • Metal Buildings • Residential • Design Build

The University of Maryland
Charles Regional Medical Center
Behavioral Health Wing
Phase I Addition/Renovation Project

GIVE YOUR PROJECT THE SOLID FOUNDATION IT DESERVES WITH COMPLETE TURN-KEY CONSTRUCTION

Phone: 301-475-2755 info@wmdavis.com
23942 Prop Way/P.O. Box 10
Hollywood, MD 20636
www.wmdavis.com

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 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.

THE ANNUAL
BUSINESS
DINNER
Meet your incoming 2024 Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The Business Person of the Year and Public Servant of the Year Awards will be announced during this event. The Chamber Scholarship Recipient will also be announced. Join us to celebrate those who make this County great and honor our local firefighters!
save the date :
JUNE 4, 2024
5:30PM-9:00PM
Leonardtown Fire Department
22733 Lawrence Ave
Leonardtown, MD 20650
THE St. Mary's County Chamber OF COMMERCE
50 anniversary

Date: 03/29/2024

U.S. Small Business Administration

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
FACT SHEET – ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS

MARYLAND Declaration 20258
(Disaster: MD-20001)
Incident: FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE COLLAPSE

occurring: *March 26, 2024 & continuing*

*in the **Maryland** counties of:* ***Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Baltimore City, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Hartford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester;*** *the contiguous **Delaware** counties of:* ***Kent, New Castle, and Sussex;*** *the contiguous **Pennsylvania** counties of:* ***Adams, Bedford, Chester, Fayette, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Somerset, and York;*** *the contiguous **Virginia** counties of:* ***Accomack, Independent City of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun;*** *and the contiguous **West Virginia** counties of:* ***Berkley, Grant, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Preston***

Application Filing Deadline: December 30, 2024

Disaster Loan Assistance Available:
Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) – Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

Credit Requirements:
- Credit History – Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA.
- Repayment – Applicants must show the ability to repay the loan.

Interest Rates:
The interest rate is determined by formulas set by law and is fixed for the life of the loan. The maximum interest rate for this program is 4 percent.

Loan Terms:
The law authorizes loan terms up to a maximum of 30 years. SBA will determine an appropriate installment payment based on the financial condition of each borrower, which in turn will determine the loan term. Borrowers may be required to provide collateral.

Loan Amount Limit:
The law limits EIDLs to $2,000,000 for alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. SBA also considers potential contributions that are available from the business and/or its owner(s) or affiliates. If a business is a major source of employment, SBA has the authority to waive the $2,000,000 statutory limit.

Loan Eligibility Restrictions:
Noncompliance – Applicants who have not complied with the terms of previous SBA loans may not be eligible. This includes borrowers who did not maintain required flood insurance and/or hazard insurance on previous SBA loans.

Note: Loan applicants should check with agencies / organizations administering any grant or other assistance program under this declaration to determine how an approval of SBA disaster loan might affect their eligibility.

Refinancing:
Economic injury disaster loans cannot be used to refinance long term debts.

Insurance Requirements:
To protect each borrower and the Agency, SBA may require you to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance. By law, borrowers whose damaged or collateral property is located in a special flood hazard area must purchase and maintain flood insurance. SBA requires that flood insurance coverage be the lesser of 1) the total of the disaster loan, 2) the insurable value of the property, or 3) the maximum insurance available.

Applications for disaster loans may be submitted online using the MySBA Loan Portal at https://lending.sba.gov or other locally announced locations. Please contact the SBA's Customer Service Center by email at disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or by phone at 1-800-659-2955 for further assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
Jenna Guzman, Communications Director
SMCG TV 95 Station Manager
Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov

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Mike Alderson, Jr., Commissioner
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner
Michael. L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2024 – 072
April 22, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Unveiling History: Karen Stone, St. Mary's County Museum Division Manager to Author the First-ever Published Book on the Black Diamond Disaster

LEONARDTOWN, MD – St. Mary's County Government is very proud to announce that our own Karen Stone, Manager of the Museum Division within the Department of Recreation & Parks, will soon be the published author of the first-ever book about the Black Diamond Disaster. This "forgotten" tragedy occurred on the Potomac River near St. Clement's Island during the American Civil War in the hunt for presidential assassin, John Wilkes Booth. The synopsis unveils a tale that few, even within the local community, are aware of:

> It has always been said that not a single life was lost during the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. This is said with pride, as it should be. If only it were true. In the 1860s, life on the Potomac River was quite different than it is today. Instead of the calm open waters, the river was the frontline of battle. The Potomac was the main lifeline out of Washington D.C. and for the federal government it was the dividing line between the warring sections of the North and South. For the people of St. Mary's County, Maryland, the most southern point on Maryland's western shore, just across the Potomac River from Confederate Virginia, it was the source of their livelihood and much of their food; and for some, it became their final resting place. This is a story of that river, and of the men whose lives were lost in the aftermath of the Civil War, in the hunt for the presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth. This work is for those 87 men and their families, so that they will no longer be forgotten.

Being published by *The History Press*, an imprint of *Arcadia Publishing*, the book is expected to be released in 2025.

Reflecting on her journey, Stone remarked, "I have been fascinated by this story since I first heard about it and was amazed to find it had been overlooked by history. The 87 men who lost their lives deserve to be remembered, so this work is dedicated to them."

In 2019, Stone authored "*Peril on the Potomac: The Sinking of Black Diamond*," for America's Civil War magazine and found that there was much more to uncover about this forgotten tragedy. Stone's resulting, and ongoing research has identified over 20 previously unknown souls lost in the incident. "I haven't yet identified all 87 men, but I haven't given up, and won't until they are all found," asserted Stone.

– MORE –

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NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

Local artist, Angela Wathen, has been tapped to design potential cover art for the book. Wathen previously produced an original painting of the incident, which is the only known portrayal of the collision of the Black Diamond and the Massachusetts on that fateful night. Her work is based from an actual photograph of the Massachusetts and an image of a coal barge thought to be very similar to the Black Diamond. The artist generously donated the piece to St. Clement's Island Museum's permanent collection.

Stone's notable achievement, securing a book deal and the announcement of her upcoming publication, was unveiled at the Black Diamond Disaster American Civil War Commemoration event, which took place April 21, 2024, at the St. Clement's Island Museum. The event was filmed and will be available for the community to watch soon (post-production) on our YouTube Channel at Youtube.com/@StMarysCoGov.

Follow the St. Clement's Island Museum Facebook page at Facebook.com/SCIMuseum for updates on the book's publication and release date!

About the Author
Karen Stone has been the Museum Division Manager for St. Mary's County, Maryland, where this event took place, since 2017. She did her undergraduate work at Gettysburg College and obtained her master's degree at Penn State University. She has been a Lincoln fan and student of his assassination since childhood. Stone lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with her husband, and they have one adult son who is married and living in Alexandria, Virginia.

About the St. Mary's County Museum Division
The St. Mary's County Museum Division was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the historic sites and artifacts which illustrate the natural and cultural histories of St. Mary's County and the Potomac River. These sites include St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, the Old Jail Museum, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. With this as its charter, the Museum Division serves as a resource, liaison, and community advocate for all St. Mary's County public and private cultural assets. For more information, please visit: museums.stmarysmd.com.

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SAVE THE DATES!

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

The discount deadline has passed, but there is still time to join in on

the fun!

Discover the stunning beauty of Croatia, the Pearl of the Adriatic, with C I Destinations. Experience 7 nights at a luxurious 4-star hotel, scenic tours, and more on October 16, 2024. 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

To register for this event, click here.

HeimLantz CPAs and Advisors

2024 Southern Maryland Government Contractor's Conference

May 15, 2024
1p.m-5p.m
University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland
44219 Airport Rd.
California, MD

The Maryland Assocation of CPA's Government Contractors Committe is hosting a conference in Souther Maryland for small business Government Contractors.

To register for this event, click here.

The Patuxent Partnership

TPP: Upcoming Events

TPP Annual Dinner
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
5:30p.m-9:00p.m
the Pavilion at the Reconstructed State House - Historic St. Mary's City

TPP/ANA Panel: Naval Aviation Enterprise (NAE) 3-Star Summit
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
5:00p.m-7:30p.m
Bay District Volunteer Fire Department - Braddock Social Hall

Registration for these events is not yet open, but more information can be found here.

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Updates & Events

The Time to Care Act
The Maryland General Assembly recently passed a bill making some changed to the Time to Care Act. There were many changes made, but the most significant were: the contribution period for the State Plan will now be July 1, 2025, and Benefits will now be available starting July 1, 2026.

FAMLI 101 Webinar Series
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
2:00p.m-3:00p.m
The virtual conference will introduce some information about the forthcoming paid family leave program. To register, click here.

St. Mary's County Community Development Corporation

Community, Culture, & Cuisine

June 29, 2024
10a.m-5p.m
St. Mary's Square Shopping Center
21600 Great Mills Rd
Lexington Park, MD

This unique event will put the cultures of Southern Maryland on display. The event will have an array of food and entertainment.
Sign up here.

maryland tax Connect

Tax and Interest Information

In support of the recovery efforts related to the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse, the Office of the Comptroller will be waiving business tax penalties and interest until May 31 and waiving IFTA licensing and penalties for quarterly filers. For more information about policy related to penalties and interest, click here.

SMECO Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

SMECO Power Incentive

SMECO is offering financial incentives for energy efficient projects in any non-residential setting. Projects will be funded through the EmPOWER MD programs. For more information, please visit their website.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Helpful Resources for Those in Need of Support Following the Key Bridge Collapse

Provided are some links to resources for those who are struggling with the collapse of the Key Bridge.
https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/disasters

https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/solutions/disaster-response-and-resiliency/resilience-in-a-box

https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/solutions/disaster-response-and-resiliency/small-business-readiness-for-resiliency

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African American Heritage Preservation Program Announces FY2025 Grant Workshops

The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and Maryland Historical Trust will be hosting workshops (One in person, Two virtually) to inform the public about available funding for capital grants. Up to $5 million is available in funding, so check out this great opportunity.

Friday, May 10, 2024
11:30a.m-1:00p.m
In person: The C. Burr Public Library

Friday, June 3, 2024
2:30p.m-4:30p.m
Virtual

TBD
Virtual

To register for these events: Click here.

Gov. Moore Announces Programs to Support Local Businesses Impacted by Key Bridge Collapse

Governor Wes Moore has announced the introduction of two economic relief programs designed to support those impacted by the Key Bridge Collapse. The 'Neighborhood BusinessWorks' small business grant program will provide businesses with grants up to $50,000; the $10 million no-interest loan program offers loans of up to $500,000. Click here for more information on how to apply.

The Port of Baltimore Emergency Business Assistance Program will provide %15 million in grants to businesses whose operations or shipments have been impacted by the lack of access to the Port of Baltimore. Click here for more information and to apply.

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, 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

Property Tax Challenge 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.

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!

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St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce
22738 Maple Rd., Suite 104
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