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*The Champagne is On Us!**

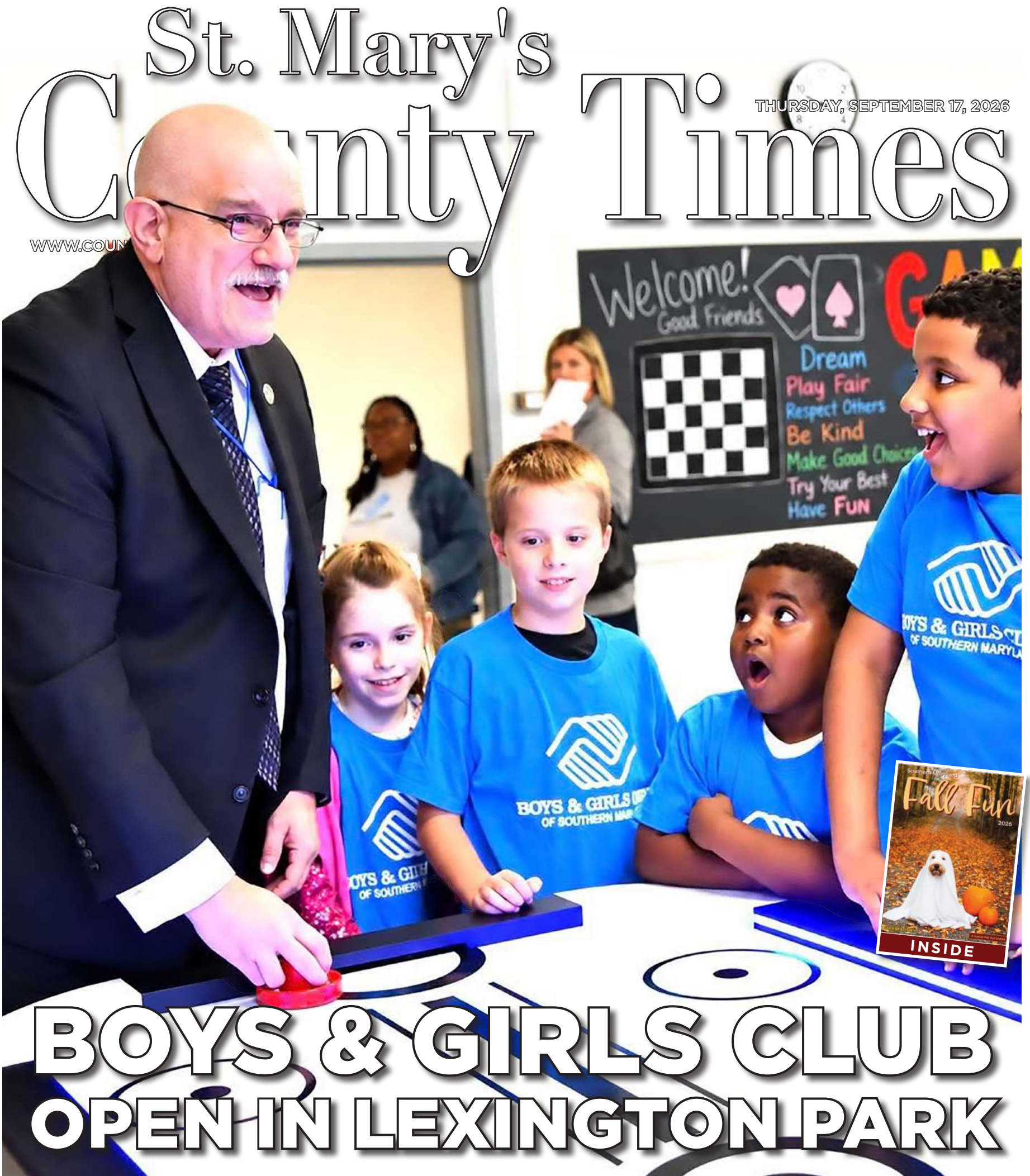
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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OPEN IN LEXINGTON PARK**



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Boys & Girls Club Open in Lexington Park



Photos by Ceandra Scott

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC), the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation & Parks, and community members attended the Grand Opening Ceremony for the new Boys & Girls Club at the Carver Recreation Center on Tuesday, September 15.

The new Boys & Girls Club will provide local youth with a safe, welcoming environment where they can learn, grow, and build the skills needed to succeed. Through quality after-school and enrichment programming, the club will offer opportunities that support academic success, healthy lifestyles, character development, and leadership while providing families with a trusted place for their children outside of school hours.

"The opening of the Boys & Girls Club at Carver opens an exciting new chapter for youth and families in St. Mary's County," said Commissioner President Randy Guy. "This partnership reflects our shared commitment to investing in the next generation by creating opportunities that help young people thrive."

The new program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of St. Mary's County Government, the Department of Recreation & Parks, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland, expanding access to quality youth programming within the Lexington Park community.

"We are grateful to the local community and our partners throughout St. Mary's

County for helping bring this Club to fruition," said Anna Hanzsche, Chief Executive Officer for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland. "This new Club will have a profound impact on youth and families in the Lexington Park area, providing over 100 young people with a safe, supportive environment."

Hanzsche continued, "We would also like to thank Senator Bailey for his leadership and efforts in bringing this Club to the community and look forward to continuing to work with his office on behalf of St. Mary's County families."

"The club [features] a learning center, STEM lab, game room, and more. Youth will have access to a wide range of programming focused on STEM, workforce development, academic readiness, social emotional wellness, sports and recreation, and other opportunities designed to help them reach their full potential."

Following a brief ceremony, attendees had an opportunity to tour the facility, meet program representatives, and learn more about the services and opportunities that will be available to local youth and families.

For more information on the Boys & Girls Club at Carver Recreation Center, please visit www.bgcsmd.net or contact Club Director Jalyha Kyles at jkyles@bgcsmd.net.

Press Release from SMCG

SMADC Announces Intern Initiatives



SMADC summer interns Katelyn Bullock, Serenity Mitchell, and Angelina Perez

The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), a division of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, is proud to announce the completion of its 2026 Summer Internship Program, highlighting three undergraduate students whose research and educational projects address key agricultural opportunities across the region.

Funded through a grant from the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), the 11- to 12-week paid program provides college students pursuing degrees in agriculture, environmental science, and related fields with hands-on experience in regional service operations, project management, and industry networking.

"Investing in young professionals is one of the most impactful ways we can secure a resilient future for regional agriculture," said Shelby Watson-Hampton, SMADC director. "Thanks to the continuous support of the Rural Maryland Council, we can provide these talented individuals with the real-world tools, mentorship, and industry connections they need to become the next generation of agricultural leaders and advocates."

The 2026 cohort featured three student initiatives:

- **"Farmer for a Day"** Interactive Game: Developed by Katelyn Bullock, a rising junior at Oklahoma State University and Southern High School alumna, the interactive game

allows players to make real-world operational choices across crop, dairy, beef, and produce operations. Designed for touchscreen kiosks at local fairs and school events, the display is available for community use; please reach out to info@smadc.com for more information.

- **Evaluating AI Tools for Sustainable Farming:** Led by Serenity Mitchell, an undergraduate at Towson University, this feasibility study examines cost-effective artificial intelligence tools for crop monitoring, soil health assessment, and pest identification. Regional producers are invited to share feedback by completing the project's online Farmer AI Tools Survey.

- **Sustainable Poultry Practices:** Authored by Angelina Perez, a rising sophomore at the College of Southern Maryland and incoming transfer to the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture, this research evaluates climate-adapted heritage breeds and rotational free-ranging methods to balance pasture conservation with farm profitability.

To learn more about the program or access intern research materials, visit smadc.com/smacd-summer-intern-program or contact info@smadc.com.

Press release from SMADC

Butterfly Effect Project Announces 5K

Lace up your sneakers and spread your wings! The Butterfly Effect Project, Inc. invites the community to join friends and neighbors for a new fall tradition that supports the mental health and wellness of our Southern Maryland communities. The Flutter Fest 5K Wellness Walk and Fun Run will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at John V. Baggett Park in Mechanicsville. Participants have the option to join the timed 5K run or enjoy a more leisurely stroll at their own pace along the paved path. Either way, they will be helping to raise funds to provide mental health treatment and wellness care for those who face financial barriers.

All participants receive a Flutter Fest 5K t-shirt, and all Timed 5K participants will receive a medal.

Coffees, smoothies, energy juices and tasty treats will be available from event

sponsors Healthy Vibez Nutrition and The Beanery Café.

Teams of 4-10 members can register at a reduced rate. Just select the "timed event" option when registering.

This event is sponsored by The Butterfly Effect Project, Inc., a local non-profit focused on providing 3-12 months of mental health and wellness services to those in need. It partners with local, trusted providers to deliver services to people right here in Southern Maryland. Register by using this link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Mechanicsville/ButterflyEffectProject5k>.

You can also register and get more information at thebutterflyeffectprojectinc.com.

See you there!

Press release from the Butterfly Effect Project