



Citizens Academy Newsletter

February 2024

As Citizen's Academy Ambassadors, we know you want to stay informed about what's happening in and around Charles County, and we are excited to share the news with you!



HOW ARE WE DOING?

How can the Ambassador Relations Team help?

[Survey Here!](#)

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Citizens Academy Survey

Boards & Commissions

New Merch

EMS Spotlight

Charter Board

Library Update

Destination Charles County

County Updates

Bulletin Board

Upcoming Events



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



[Watch on Youtube!](#)

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

VACANCIES

Adult Public Guardianship Review Board

The [Adult Public Guardianship Review Board](#) is looking for new members! If you're a psychiatrist, a citizen with a disability, an attorney, a professional in the field of disabilities or part of a local nonprofit social service organization, you could be appointed!

Animal Matters Hearing Board

The [Animal Matters Hearing Board](#) is looking for two at large members!

Area Council on Aging

The [Area Council on Aging](#) is looking for one senior citizen member and two citizen members!

Board of Electrical Examiners

The [Board of Electrical Examiners](#) is looking for one representative with a Master General License!

***These Boards and Commissions
are looking for Members!***

[**Find Out More!**](#)

VACANCIES CONTINUED

Charles County Pension Plan Committee

The [Charles County Pension Plan Committee](#) is looking for one at large member and one County government employee!

Charles County Police Accountability Board

The [Charles County Police Accountability Board](#) is looking for one District 2 member and one District 4 member, and one citizen member from any Commissioner District!

Commission for Individuals with Disabilities

The [Commission for Individuals with Disabilities](#) is looking for two at large members!

Commission for Women

The [Commission for Women](#) is looking for five citizen members!

Commission for Veterans Affairs

The [Commission for Veterans Affairs](#) is looking for one citizen member!

Disability Review Boards: Sheriffs/Charles County

The [Disability Review Boards: Sheriffs/Charles County](#) is looking for one attorney to add to its membership!

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (Charles County)

The [Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council](#) Charles County is seeking new members!

Ethics Commission

The [Ethics Commission](#) is looking for one citizen member and one alternate member to add to the board!

Homeowners Association Dispute Review Board

The [Homeowners Association Dispute Review Board](#) is looking for one resident who is a member of professions associated with HOA's such as an attorney or an owner-investor with experience in community associations.

Interfaith Commission

The [Interfaith Commission](#) is looking for one clergy member to join its board!

Internal Audit Oversight Committee

The [Internal Audit Oversight Committee](#) is looking for one citizen member!

Library Board of Trustees

The [Library Board of Trustees](#) is looking for one citizen member and one member of the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association to join its board!

Mental Health Advisory Committee

The [Mental Health Advisory Committee](#) is looking for citizen members to join its board!

Nuisance Abatement Hearing Board

The [Nuisance Abatement Hearing Board](#) is looking for two citizen members!

Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board

The [Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board](#) is looking for one citizen member!

Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan Committee (SORP)

The [Sheriff's Office Retirement Plan Committee](#) is looking for one at-large member to join its team!

These Boards and Commissions are looking for Members! [Find Out More!](#)

NEW CITIZENS ACADEMY MERCH!



Ambassador Melissa Gilpin-Ball has worked with [Candace Ashley](#) to produce Citizens Academy shirts!!

T-shirts \$30

Long sleeve shirts \$35

Hoodies \$40

Size XS - 5XL available Black & Grey available

To place an order text or email 513-405-5272 3mgshops@gmail.com

Payment options: Cash App @ \$CLadd85 | Venmo @ CandaceLadd16

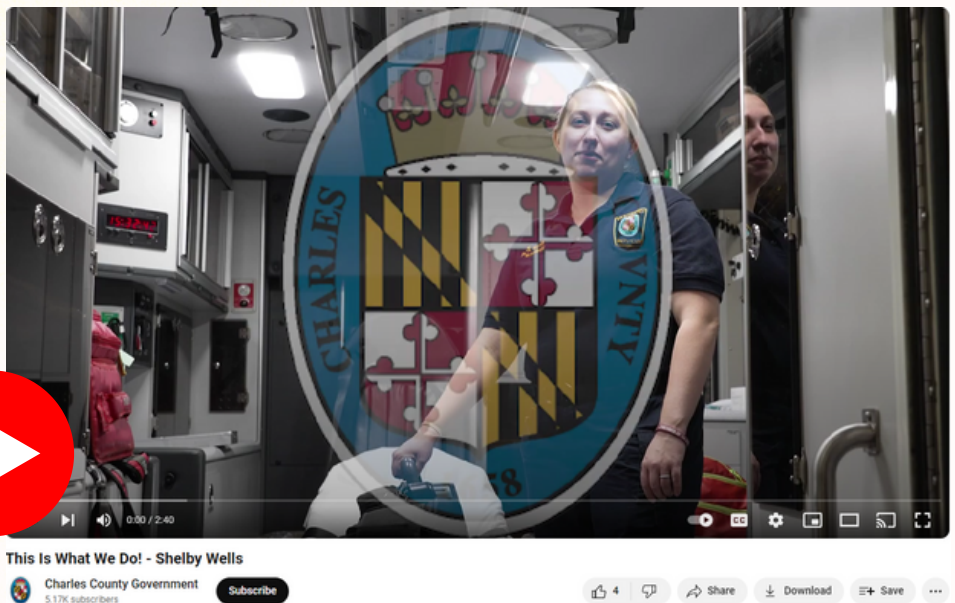
Zelle @ 513-405-5272

<https://www.facebook.com/3MGDesignShop?mibextid=D4KYlr>

EMS Spotlight: This is What We Do

Interested in joining
Charles County
Emergency Services,
or know someone
EMS-Curious?

[Learn More Here!](#)



The District 4 Charter Board Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15th at 6 p.m. at Regency Furniture Stadium (11765 St. Linus Drive, Waldorf). The public is encouraged to attend.

To learn more about the Charter Board visit <https://bit.ly/40TSWJv>.

The Charter Board Wants to Hear from You!

The Charter Board is seeking community input for the draft Charter.

Please take a moment to give your feedback.



**Click or Scan to Complete
the Charter Board Survey**



The task of the Charter Board members is to draft a Charter that will change the present Code Home Rule form of government to Charter form of government for Charles County. The proposed Charter will go before the voters for ratification at the 2024 General Election. The proposed Charter shall include, but be not limited to, the duties, power, rules, procedures, and structure of local government.

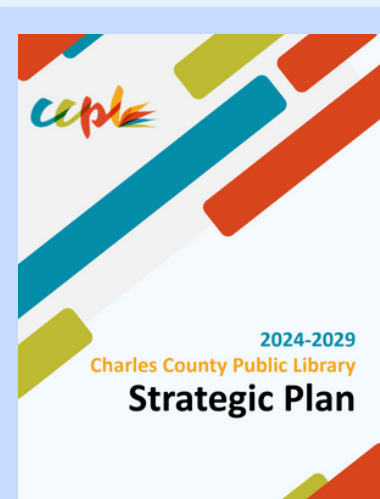


Partner Update:



Celebrate Black History Month with Us!

[View Programs!](#)



The Library has updated
its Strategic Plan!
[See what's new!](#)

Destination Charles County

Written By Kelly Phipps, Fall 2023 Cohort



In the spirit of “many hands make light work,” I thought about something I could contribute to the newsletter and that I already want and/or like to do.

- I like to hike.
- I like to try new restaurants.
- I like art.
- I like to visit new places.
- I like to share information.
- I set myself a goal to take at least one hike a month this year.
- For years, I’ve been thinking about starting a blog but wasn’t sure what I’d write about.

So here’s what I figured out: I’m going somewhere in Charles County – a trail, a restaurant, a museum, a park, etc. – and then I’ll tell you what I thought. I’m also going to post it in our Citizens Academy Facebook group so we can chat about it afterwards. I’ll even take suggestions of places you’ve visited or places you haven’t but would like to hear about. And then I’m taking these bits and I’ll turn them into blog posts when I figure out my blog’s name.

The first place I’ll tell you about is Smallwood State Park. I’ve hiked there many times – the pandemic gave me that time – and it’s different every season. In the spring you’ll see the daffodils that escaped from the garden of Smallwood’s Retreat. Summer is great for boating – there’s a kayak launch near the boat launches. Fall is perfect for hiking and pawpaws. Winter weather is dicey but it’s good brisk hiking weather, you can visit the Mattawoman Creek Art Center’s winter shows and sales, there’s a colonial Christmas event, AND you can join a group for the First Day Hike on January 1.

Advice you can easily disregard:

- 1) If you take General’s Walk Trail clockwise, you’ll go down the steepest part of the trail. Go counterclockwise for a little more challenge.
- 2) I usually park at the bottom of the trail by the boat launches because I love crossing the bridge, but you can just as easily park at the top of the trail by Smallwood’s Retreat. There are playgrounds at both ends.

Smallwood State Park

Address: 2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury MD 20658

Website: <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/southern/smallwood.aspx>

African American History Month

CCGTV produced a series of videos to commemorate African American History Month, narrated by some of our spectacular community members including Kenneth Wayne Thompson (Fall 2021) and Lesley Quattlebaum (Fall 2021). Visit the TidBits playlist at

<https://www.youtube.com/@CCGTVCommissioners/playlists> to hear Charles County's voices share the stories of Henrietta Lacks, Benjamin Banneker, Mark Dean, and William H. Carney.



Are you a small business owner?

The Charles County Citizen Academy Newsletter wants to highlight ambassador businesses next month!



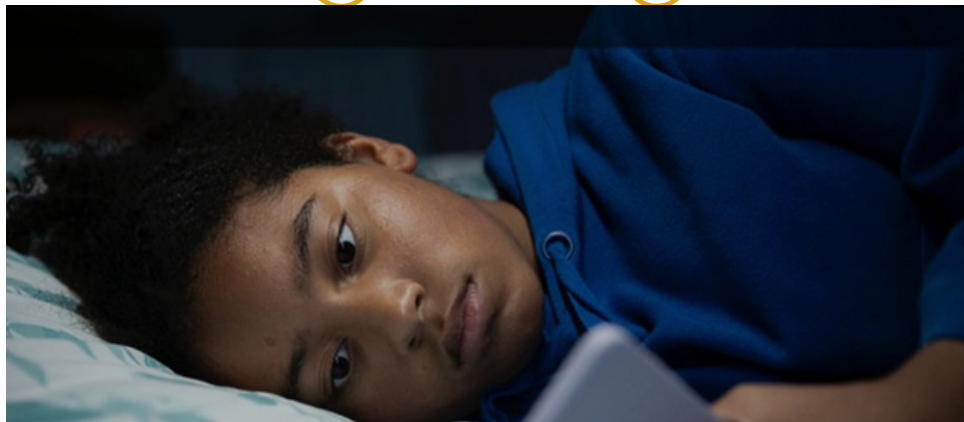
Email Jessica Richards at jrichards@tccsmd.org to have your business featured next month!



Human Trafficking and The Link to Social Media



There is strong evidence supporting the link to sex trafficking and online solicitation. Many victims are recruited via Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. Come hear the experts and recommendations to keep our children safe.



Saturday, February 24, 2024

10 AM

8 Kent Avenue

1st Floor Conference Room

LaPlata, Maryland

Admission Free

To register contact

Councilwoman Dr. Evalyne Bryant-Ward

ebryant-ward@townoflaplata.org

Light Refreshments



Sarah Myers-Martin Tarinna Olley D/Sgt. David Roys

UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTEWORTHY DATES

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed



Charles County Meals on Wheels, Inc. is currently looking for volunteers to deliver hot and frozen meals to home-bound seniors between 10am and 2pm on weekdays throughout Charles County. Training will be provided. If you are interested in helping us with this important service please contact the Charles County Meals on Wheels office at 301-392-6325 or email ccmealstrp@comcast.net for more information.

9 to 5

The Musical

03/01-03/24

Port Tobacco Players

February 15

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
JobSource Job Fair*
CCPL, Waldorf West

February 16

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Sweethearts Pre-K Prom
Somers Community Ctr

February 23

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Family Luau & Beach Party
Smallwood Community Ctr

February 24

10:00 AM
Human Trafficking
& Social Media*
8 Kent Avenue, La Plata

February 29

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
So. Maryland Reception*
Annapolis, Maryland

March 20

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Veterans Resource Day*
American Legion, Post 82

March 21

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Nonprofit Institute
Annual Conference*
CSM, La Plata Campus

April 10

MD Legislative Session
Adjourns*
Annapolis, MD

April 21

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Taste of Southern Maryland*
Veterans Museum: Patriot Park

**Indicates Event Host
other than Charles County*

Congratulations

Angel Riley, (Fall 2023) for your appointment to the Ethics Commission as a Citizen Member

Congratulations

Danna Smith
Owner of Tea Taim,
for the release of your first magazine!
Get your copy here!

Congratulations

to **Kawona Johnson** (Fall 2023) for your reappointment to the Commission for Women &
to **Krystal Hall** (Fall 2023) for her appointment to the Commission for Women!

Get Well Soon

wishes to
Rhonda Bello
as she recovers from surgery

Congratulations

Angel Wye
(Spring 2023) for your appointment to the Area Council on Aging!

We Want to Highlight You Next!

Email Jessica Richards at
jrichards@tccsmd.org to get on the bulletin board!