



County Times

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Crisfield-Somerset County Times/Richard Crumbacker

First day to walk in the park

Unseasonably warm temperatures on New Year's Day made the sixth annual First Day Hike at Janes Island State Park a popular event, with some 60 people (and several dogs) taking part. The guided two-mile hike starting along the Daugherty Creek Canal (which was frozen last year) and through the woods was just one of 36 hikes offered across the state. Also inviting visitors were Shad Landing and Assateague state parks. The Department of Natural Resources reports that participation was nearly triple over 2018 and miles hiked were more than double the record set in 2017.

Hotel conference center tops Greater Crisfield's agenda

Will take years but it's a cornerstone piece to help economy grow

By Richard Crumbacker
Crisfield-Somerset County Times

CRISFIELD — The Greater Crisfield Action Coalition believes a hotel conference center can become a reality and has enlisted the expertise of an Ocean City developer to help formalize this vision.

With city, county and state leaders in attendance, GCAC President Charlotte Scott introduced Peck Miller who said with the right set of

circumstances a small hotel built so it could be expanded in phases may be possible in three to five years.

Mr. Miller said he sees such a facility near Somers Cove Marina, with an adjacent park. Together they would provide an anchor for long-term visitor stays, with construction of a perimeter boardwalk along the waterfront that benefits guests as well as day-trippers.

Meeting last Friday at the Crisfield Library, Mr. Miller told the over 30 people in attendance that it will take "everybody" to get this accomplished — from city zoning approvals to gaining

county and state tax incentives to help ensure the project is a success. What holds back private investment is the lack of more than 50 percent occupancy year-round.

"We need the catalyst," he said, and something like this will add to the economy. It won't be the single magic improvement for Crisfield, but it will provide employment and help lift all businesses. "When the town is doing well, everybody benefits," he said. "It may take five to 10 years, or it may take an entire generation for it to work" but the goal is make Crisfield "a better place to live."

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Change will commissioner stay in their

Code currently silent if commissioner moves into another district

By Richard Crumbacker
Crisfield-Somerset County Times

PRINCESS ANNE — The Maryland General Assembly over the next 90 days will be asked to approve legislation on behalf of Somerset County that better defines residency requirements for County Commissioners.

The proposed changes would eliminate what happened this past election cycle when two sitting commissioners ran against each other in a single district.

Currently the code requires County Commissioners to be elected by district and they hold office for four years "until their successors are elected and qualified."

It is silent, however, on what to do if a commissioner moves out of his or her district.

Commissioner Charles Fisher of Mt. Vernon was elected in 1990 to represent District 2. He lost in 2006 to Rex Simpkins. In the years

