



ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

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

NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2025 – 114

May 27, 2025, 9 a.m.

Drayden African American Schoolhouse & U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center Offer Open Houses for Juneteenth

LEONARDTOWN, MD – St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, in partnership with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), will be offering **free open houses** for visitors and the community at the **Drayden African American Schoolhouse** and the **U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) Interpretive Center** in the Lexington Manor Passive Park for Juneteenth from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2025; Friday, June 20, 2025; and, Saturday, June 21, 2025**, at both locations.

At **Drayden**, visitors can discover one of the nation's best-preserved one-room African American schoolhouses, whose story represents a significant part of St. Mary's County's African American history. Visitors are invited to learn more about the restored schoolhouse, its rich history and importance to education in St. Mary's County. Hear the real stories about how African American students learned in this school up until the mid-20th century.

Inside the **U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center**, visitors can learn about two St. Mary's County Congressional Medal of Honor recipients who served in the 38th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Colored Troops and fought for the Union during the Civil War. These two men received the Medal of Honor for their valor and bravery at the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia, in 1864. On the trail between the Interpretive Center in Lexington Manor Passive Park and John G. Lancaster Park, you can learn about the Civil War era in St. Mary's County and the African American troops on interpretive panels that lead to the statue of the soldier.

Staff will be available at both locations to answer questions and provide information on these amazing stories.

The U.S. Colored Troops Interpretive Center is located at the Lexington Manor Passive Park at 21675 S. Coral Drive in Lexington Park, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 994-1471 or visit Facebook.com/USCTCenter and click on "events".

– MORE –

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The Drayden African American Schoolhouse is located at 18287 Cherryfield Road in Drayden, Maryland. For more information, call (301) 994-1471 or visit [Facebook.com/DraydenSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DraydenSchool) and click on "events".

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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