

Comprehensive Critical Review from Best to Worst Event

In the Following Order from Best to Worst 2022 Event

St. Mary's County Oyster Festival,

St. Mary's County Fair, and the

7th District Optimist Club/St. Clément's Hundred Blessing of the Fleet.

Note: See the detailed 2021 Review as 2022 was much the same.

Introduction: This abbreviated review of the above three outdoor events is provided by Richard Lord, resident of the 7th District of St. Mary's County, Publisher of the website www.7thDistrict.org (the conscience of the 7th District) that has had thousands of web page views with positive responses and as the immediate past Chairman of the Blessing of the Fleet for four years. See the reviews from 2021 for 2022 as they are much the same.

The reviews of these outdoor events are listed and presented in the above order from best to worst where the Publisher places the first two noted events in the best category and the third event of unworthy of attendance with recommendations for improvements of all as noted in the 2021 review document on this website.

The Publisher planned & produced and promoted & managed outdoor events for non-profit organizations in St. Mary's County such as the 7th District Optimist Club/St. Clément's Hundred Blessing of Fleet for four years with appropriate emphasis on continuous live music utilizing the area's outstanding local bands and extensive children's entertainment.

The Publisher also is well acquainted with all three above noted events having attended them.

Event Summaries:

Please read the detailed review of these events of the prior year 2021 as they also apply to 2022.

The following is a synopsis of following 2022 events listed below:

The St. Mary's County Oyster Festival was a well-crafted, managed, and pleasing event especially the continuous live music, although not all bands were of the quality and public acceptance of last year with fewer classic rock bands.

The St. Mary's County Fair also was a fine event with one notable shortcoming as last year: the absence of live music unlike the Oyster Festival that had continuous live music from event beginning to end utilizing many of the area's fine local bands. No County Fair is complete without highlighting fine local musical talent, and the St. Mary's County Fair was left wanting in this respect.

The 7th District Optimist Club/St. Clément's Hundred (Club) Blessing of the Fleet was thankfully rained out, but again as last year, with the same format, would have been highly disappointing as the superior event it once was first in failing to provide extensive continuous quality live music from our outstanding local bands instead paying a second-tier band from Pennsylvania, and then in eliminating the vast fine children's entertainment offerings it once provided.

Fortunately, the Amish Outlaws did not play and hopefully will not next year. How can an event such as the Blessing of the Fleet that celebrates the founding of the State of Maryland based on Religious Tolerance hire a band with a name and shtick that is an insult and affront to our religious friends and neighbors the Amish. Why hire such a band in the first place from out of state that gets paid even for not playing when as done in the past the event hired only local bands far superior to the Amish Outlaws in musicianship with as much or greater draw in public attendance with the stipulation of "no play no pay" given sufficient notice not to appear.

The public also was spared the amateur fireworks display that does not meet minimum industry standards for color and frequency of bursts.

The Advertisers took a beating sponsoring this rained out event with nothing to show for its most generous investment. In prior events that were rained out, the Advertisers at least received a finely crafted extensive event book published in the thousands distributed to the public by them at their places of business and by the event all over the County that highlighted them. The now on-site electronic billboards replacing the published event book at the event listing the sponsors does not cut it and is not worth Advertisers' investment in the event where the Advertisers are better served sponsoring other events that properly highlight them and for sure shall be seen by the public.