

FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FCSO Arrests Man in 2003 Cold Case Murder of Joshua Crawford

2026-09-18

Source: Frederick County Sheriff's Office

FREDERICK, Md. (September 18, 2026) – Today, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) announces the arrest of Tavon Jamar Willis, 46, of Frederick, in connection with the 2003 murder of Joshua Wayne Crawford.

An indictment was handed down this morning by the Frederick County Grand Jury, and Willis was taken into custody in connection with Joshua's murder.

Joshua was brutally murdered in his Exeter Court apartment in Frederick County on July 2, 2003. His cause of death was ruled as asphyxia and sharp and blunt force injuries by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Joshua would have turned 21 years old on the day he was found murdered.

The investigation into Joshua's murder has remained active for the past 23 years.

FCSO investigators have pursued countless leads and tips in an effort to identify the suspect(s) involved in the murder. Through the continued investigation, significant new evidence was uncovered, resulting in Willis' arrest.

"I recognize that this has been a horrific and very frustrating 23-year ordeal for Joshua's family and friends," Jenkins said.

"The Sheriff's Office recognizes that today's arrest cannot erase the loss experienced by Joshua's family but hopes the development may provide a measure of closure after more than two decades.

Willis was transported to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center and is charged as follows:

- Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Murder (Misdemeanor)
 - Conspiracy to Commit Armed Robbery (Misdemeanor)
 - Conspiracy to Commit Robbery (Misdemeanor)
 - First-Degree Burglary – Intent to Commit Theft (Felony)
 - Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Burglary – Intent to Commit Theft (Misdemeanor)
 - First-Degree Burglary – Intent to Commit a Crime of Violence (Felony)
 - Conspiracy to Commit First-Degree Burglary – Intent to Commit a Crime of Violence (Misdemeanor)
 - Conspiracy to Commit Third-Degree Burglary (Misdemeanor)
 - Conspiracy to Commit False Imprisonment (Misdemeanor)
- The Sheriff's Office emphasizes that this remains an ongoing criminal investigation.
- Anyone with information is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at 301-600-1046 or submit a tip through the FCSO tip line at 301-600-4131.



Image courtesy of Frederick County Sheriff's Office.

The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy funded this project under subaward number (MCIN-2027-0007). All points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of any State or Federal agency.

[Read the original release](#)

CITY OF FREDERICK NEWS

City of Frederick Honors Former Alderman Charlotte "Arlene" Phillips

2026-09-18

Source: City of Frederick

The City of Frederick is honoring the life and public service of former Alderman Charlotte "Arlene" Phillips, who passed away Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, at the age of 84. Phillips served two terms on the Board of Aldermen from 1982 to 1990.

In recognition of Phillips' service to the City, Mayor Michael O'Connor has ordered the Maryland State Flag to be lowered to half-staff on City properties, along with all City flags, through sunset Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026.

"Arlene's willingness to serve her community through elected office was part of a life deeply connected to Frederick," Mayor Michael O'Connor said. "She raised her family here, built her career here and stepped forward to help shape the community she called home.

We are grateful for her service to the City of Frederick, and our thoughts are with her husband, Paul, her sons, Scott and Mark, her grandchildren and all those who loved her."

Phillips was born Jan. 20, 1942, and graduated from St. John's High School in 1960. She married Peyton "Paul" Phillips in 1968 and spent most of her life in Frederick, where she raised her family and worked as a real estate agent. Phillips and her husband later retired to Bradenton, Florida.

Phillips is survived by her husband, Peyton "Paul" Phillips; sons Whitney "Scott" Phillips and Jonathan "Mark" Phillips; grandchildren Jack and Ruby; and members of her extended family.

The lowering of the flags is being carried out in accordance with Executive Order 01.01.1999.30, paragraph 5.04.



Image courtesy of City of Frederick.

[Read the original release](#)

The Day’s Run Log

Complete call activity for Friday, September 18. Excludes medical calls.

TRAFFIC & ROADS4:52 am

Vehicle Accident - High Mechanism - Als

7900 block REICHS FORD RD — MARC TRAIN STORAGE YARD

UNITS: A37, ALS4, R3, E31, BC901, EMS901

4:57 am E31 on the scene, box truck into a pole barn. Establishing command.

4:58 am E31 holding A37, E31. Other units in service. A37 evaluating one patient.

TRAFFIC & ROADS6:03 am

Vehicle Accident - Bls

I-70EB / 43MM (MYERSVILLE)

UNITS: A89, A129, ALS8, R8, RE74, E121, BC903

6:06 am R8 on scene, checking on occupants.

6:10 am R8 reports 3 vehicles involved in the median, 2 occupants for evaluation. R8 establishing command.

6:12 am R8 requesting ALS resource.

6:23 am A89 transporting Pri. 3 patient.

6:31 am M129 transporting Pri. 2 patient to Meritus Medical Center.

TRAFFIC & ROADS7:32 am

Vehicle Accident - Bls

SOUDER RD / NINTH AVE (BRUNSWICK)

UNITS: A196, PE52

7:36 am PE52 on scene, 2 vehicles involved. Checking on occupants.

7:52 am A196 evaluated 2 patients, obtained refusals. Units in service.

FIRE & RESCUE8:17 am

Commercial Vehicle Fire

US-15SB / RT140 (EMMITSBURG)

UNITS: E61, PE102, ACE23

8:22 am E61 in the area, attempting to located.

8:23 am E61 checked the area, nothing found.

TRAFFIC & ROADS8:20 am

Vehicle Accident - Bls

E. ALL SAINTS ST / S. EAST ST (FREDERICK)

UNITS: A38, R3

8:24 am R3 on scene, 2 vehicles involved. Checking on occupants.

8:27 am R3 reports collision is property damage only, no fire department services required. Units clearing the scene.

TRAFFIC & ROADS12:01 pm

Vehicle Accident - Bls (Automatic Crash Notification)

5700 block BUCKEYSTOWN PIKE

UNITS: A37, E31

12:05 pm Frederick ECC advise responding units that the mobile phone the sent the ACN is still in motion. FCSO checking the shopping area around Buckeystown Pike / Guilford Dr. A37, E31 continuing to the original dispatched location.

12:07 pm E31 reports nothing found on Buckeystown Pike.

ALARMS1:25 pm

Commercial Fire Alarm

3200 block BAKER CIR — BUCKINGHAMS CHOICE

UNITS: E141, TT23

1:32 pm E141 on the scene, large 2-story nursing facility. Normal conditions. Investigating.

1:35 pm E141 reports contractors working on the alarm system. No fire department services needed.

TRAFFIC & ROADS2:20 pm

Vehicle Accident - Bls

YEAGERTOWN RD / OLD NATIONAL PIKE

UNITS: A339, R15

2:24 pm R15 in the area, attempting to locate.

2:25 pm R15 on the scene, on Yeagertown Rd, one vehicle off the roadway. Checking on occupant(s).

2:28 pm R15 reports no fire department services required. Units in service.

PUBLIC SAFETY2:22 pm

Light Smoke Conditions

100 block CAMPUS AVE — BOONSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

UNITS: E82

2:24 pm WCE61 on scene, investigating report of issue with light ballast in a classroom. Also investigating a report of HVAC issues.

2:30 pm Safety Officer completed 360-assessment, nothing evident. Made contact with teacher who indicates a popping sound and smoke from a vent in a classroom.

2:47 pm E82 repots all-clear from cafeteria to gym. WCE61 reports smoke conditions in affected classroom is dissipating via natural ventilation. Requesting PPV for the hallway.

2:52 pm Command reports issue isolated to malfunctioning HVAC in a classroom. Crews in process of ventilating.

FIRE & RESCUE3:03 pm

Outside Fire

10300 block OLD NATIONAL PIKE (NEW MARKET)

UNITS: BR156, E153, A339, PE311

3:05 pm Frederick ECC adding ambulance and ALS resource for a report of one burned.

3:06 pm E153 on the scene, lawnmower fully-involved.

3:10 pm E153 placing PE311 in service.

3:18 pm A339 evaluated one patient who refused transport.

3:23 pm E153, BR156 clearing the scene.

PUBLIC SAFETY3:37 pm

Illegal Open Burning - Non Emergency Response

9000 block GREEN VALLEY RD (LIBERTYTOWN)

UNITS: E172

3:53 pm E172 made contact with homeowner, provided proper procedures to obtain a burn permit. E172 in service.

TRAFFIC & ROADS3:40 pm

Motorcycle Accident

FINGERBOARD RD / CLARKSBURG RD

UNITS: MCM713, MCPE713, E251, R15, EMS901

3:44 pm E251 on the scene, rider down in the middle of the roadway.

3:50 pm E251 placing R15, EMS901 in service. Continuing to hold MCM713, MCPE713, E251.

3:58 pm MCM713 transporting one patient to Suburban Hospital.

ALARMS3:50 pm

Residential Fire Alarm (Single Family Resd/ Mobile Home)

4200 block VIRIDIAN TER (MONROVIA)

UNITS: E231

3:59 pm E231 on scene, 2-story single-family residence. Nothing evident. Investigating.

TRAFFIC & ROADS4:04 pm

Vehicle Accident - Bls

1200 block HILLCREST DR — HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

UNITS: A19, E11

4:08 pm A19 on the scene, vehicle in the parking lot. Occupant is out.

ALARMS4:24 pm

Commercial Fire Alarm

100 block HAMMOND DR (LOVETTSVILLE)

UNITS: T5

PUBLIC SAFETY4:54 pm

Fuel Spill

200 block S. CHURCH ST — LEE DELAUTER & SONS (MIDDLETOWN)

UNITS: RE74

4:58 pm RE74 on the scene, single story gas station. Nothing evident. Investigating.

5:02 pm RE74 reports a good intent call. No fire department services needed.

PUBLIC SAFETY5:44 pm

Check Up After Accident - Police On Scene

OLD NATIONAL PIKE / EAGLEHEAD DR

UNITS: A339, E331

5:47 pm E331 on scene, 3 vehicles involved. Checking on occupants.

5:50 pm A339 evaluating one patient.

5:57 pm A339 obtained patient refusal. Units clearing the scene.

PUBLIC SAFETY7:52 pm

Illegal Open Burning - Non Emergency Response

13800 block MOTTERS STATION RD (ROCKY RIDGE)

UNITS: BR136, C13

TRAFFIC & ROADS8:36 pm

Vehicle Accident - Bls

I-70EB / I-270 (FREDERICK)

UNITS: A18, A37, R3, E11, E31

8:44 pm R3 on the scene, vehicle in the median. Checking on occupant(s).

8:45 pm A37 evaluating one patient. Holding A37, R3, E31. Other units in service.

ALARMS9:00 pm

Residential Fire Alarm (Single Family Resd/ Mobile Home)

3200 block BIDLE RD (MIDDLETOWN)

UNITS: E72

PUBLIC SAFETY9:42 pm

Service Call

10300 BLOCK) CRYSTAL FALLS DR

UNITS: EMSUTV30

FIRE & RESCUE10:15 pm

Vehicle Fire

GAMBRILL PARK RD / SHOOKSTOWN RD

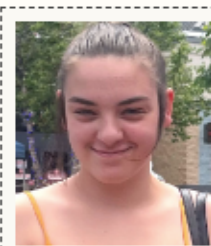
UNITS: E121

ALARMS10:24 pm

Commercial Fire Alarm

5000 block SMALL GAINS WAY (BALLENGER CREEK)

UNITS: PE311, TW1



PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE

Missing: Kaylee Albright (MD) - Kaylee Albright, Age Now: 17, Missing: 09/11/2026. Missing From Bel Air, MD. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT: Harford County Sheriff's Office (Maryland) 1-410-838-6600 . #PleaseShare <http://www.missingkids.org/poster/NCMC/2101338/1> [View original notice](#)

FREDERICK, MARYLAND

7-Day Weather

National Weather Service

FRI
Sep 18



81° / 59°

Cloudy

ISSUE DAY

SAT
Sep 19



78° / 66°

Partly Sunny

30% precip

SUN
Sep 20



81° / 63°

Showers And Thunderstorms Likely

72% precip

MON
Sep 21



72° / 59°

Chance Rain Showers

56% precip

TUE
Sep 22



64° / 54°

Rain Showers Likely

69% precip

WED
Sep 23



60° / 54°

Rain Showers Likely

56% precip

THU
Sep 24



63° / 53°

Chance Showers And Thunderstorms

50% precip

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