will not take testimony on councilmanic redistricting or other local government redistricting.

The Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee was formed by Gov. William Donald Schaefer in May to give the citizens of Maryland a voice in the redistricting process, and to make recommendations to the governor on congressional and legislative redistricting plans.

Library ranks seventh

The Charles County Public Library ranks seventh out of 24 library systems in the state in the quality of information service offered to its library users, according to an independent survey commissioned by the state.

The staff at P.D. Brown Memorial Library in St. Charles ranked fifth out of 87 library outlets surveyed, while the La Plata library was 34th.

The survey was conducted by the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Library Development and Services. DLDS has conducted three secret surveys of selected library outlets in Maryland in 1983, 1986 and 1991. In these unobtrusive surveys, the state hires individuals unknown to local library staff to ask predetermined reference questions at library branches either as walk-ins or by telephone. The answers received are then tabulated for accuracy and analyzed to determine why a question was not answered correctly.

"In 1983 Charles County ranked 18th; in 1986 we ranked 14th. We are very pleased that we now rank seventh," said Richard Treleven, assistant director of the Charles County Library. "We have put a lot of training behind our effort to improve our information services, and it has paid off."

Treleven said that in the 1983 survey, the state identified those behaviors and procedures which led to a successful answer to any question. After the local libraries instituted those procedures, the lcal scores improved significantly. "Working a reference desk in a public library can be frightening," Treleven said. "You can get a caller asking a very technical question to do with the caller's job and are expected to answer the question, even though you don't work in the caller's occupation. We tell staff that they don't have to know all the answers or they would be making larger salaries. Their job is to identify precisely what the question is, find the answer and connect the customer to it."

The librarian may use books, computers or the telephone to find an answer to a question. The library also has in place a backup system with the Southern Maryland Regional Library and the State Library Resource Center in Baltimore to help find answers.

The Calvert County library system has remained No. 1 in the state throughout three surveys, according to Treleven.

Canning workshop set

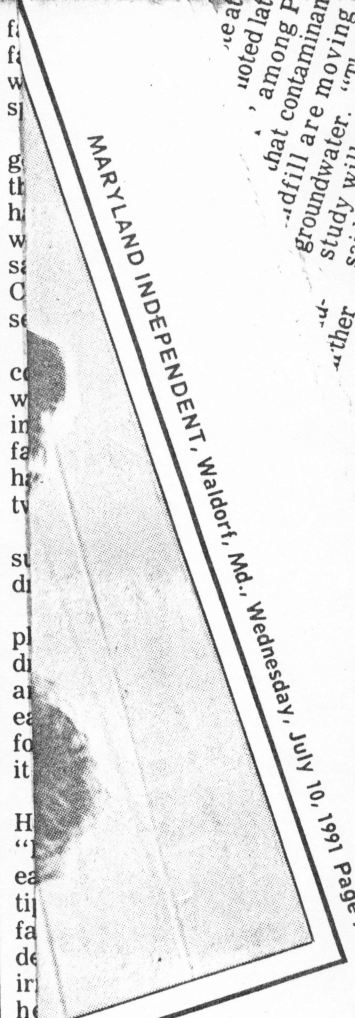
A food preservation workshop will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Cooperative Extension Service conference room on U.S. 301 in White Plains.

The program is limited to the first 10 participants who preregister. An $8 fee will cover all materials, including jars and vegetables for canning.

Participants will can tomatoes, green beans, cucumber pickles, and there will be a demonstration on fruit pie filling and beet pickles.

Mail registration, payable to the Charles County EAC to Sandra Womack, P.O. Box 218, White Plains, Md. 20695. For more information, call 645-3905 or 843-6133.

Commissioners' agenda



agreed. "This is ... corn. If you have ... OK," she said. Many farmers ... rigate, and some of those who do have only partial irrigation.

The 1991 summer season has been "pretty rough," according to Luther Wolf, a Maddox farmer. According to Carroll Homann, an agricultural statistician at the Maryland Department of Agriculture, St. Mary's received only 4.47 inches of rain in June this year, compared to 5.39 inches in 1990. Although it's still too soon to tell, hitting the 7.46-inch mark set in July 1990 appears unlikely if the current trend continues.

Recent rains have dampened Wolf's concern, at least for now. Three to four inches of rainfall in the last two weeks, Wolf said, held off permanent damage.

"Weird" is the description Sandra McNeely, St. Mary's county agent for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, gives to the quirky rain pattern that benefits different farmers who find themselves in the path of thunderstorms every year.

The dry weather can hurt more than corn. McNeely pointed out that hay production is down by almost half, and a longer dry period could also encourage the formation of apotoxin in the hay, a mold that can be fatal to hogs. St.

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Summer school costs ...
ask any student — or bet...

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By **SUZANNE WHITE**
Independent Staff Writer

About 400 residents were ...