

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 86, No. 14 April 5 — April 11, 2018

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JUAN HERRERA

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III speaks to the media at the National Press Club concerning the NAACP's 2020 Census lawsuit in Washington, D.C.

Prince George's Joins NAACP Suit on Census

By JUAN HERRERA
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Prince George's County officials joined an NAACP lawsuit against the Trump administration on March 27, concerned that the upcoming 2020 census may undercount minority citizens.

"The preparation for making sure that the Census takes place appropriately is right now and not in 2020," Prince George's

County Executive Rushern L. Baker III said at a National Press Club press conference with the NAACP. "If we're not preparing today, then we're preparing to fail and that's not an option for this nation, it's certainly not an option for the state of Maryland, and it's not an option for Prince George's County."

Bradford Berry, the general counsel of the NAACP, criticized the administration for embracing the implementation of a

digital census without accounting for how it might affect the undercount of minority citizens.

Berry said the NAACP sees undercounts as a threat to democracy, but also said that the administration has not taken the matter seriously.

"The numerous problems and complexities confronting past census-takers are compounded by the current administration's neglect of the Census Bureau and its apparent disre-

gard for whether the 2020 count in communities of color is anything approaching accurate," Berry said. "We therefore concluded that legal action was necessary and appropriate."

Besides the NAACP and Prince George's County, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the county's local branch of the NAACP, the branch's presi-

See CENSUS Page A3

Prince George's County Public Schools Calendar Update

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The PGCPSS School Calendar is developed by a committee representing stakeholders, including teachers, school administrators, parents, PTAs, higher education and union leaders. PGCPSS offices whose work is developed around the school calendar also have representation on the committee, including academics, human resources, payroll, business management, testing, transportation, student applications and labor relations.

This year, nearly 80 percent of internal and external stakeholders indicated a preference for a school calendar that preserved spring break. Additionally, there was strong support to preserve the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as an additional day off. Input from all stakeholders is critical when developing a school calendar that best meets the needs of our school community. In addition to representation on the committee, stakeholders can share their input through an online school calendar survey. All Maryland public school calendars must be developed to accommodate the following state mandates:

- 180-day school year
- 13 public school holidays—Thanksgiving (Thursday and Friday), week of Christmas (5 days), New Year's Day,

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Easter Holidays (Friday and Monday) and Memorial Day

- First day for students after Labor Day
- Last day for students on or before June 15

Individual counties must also build a calendar that supports their labor contracts, including professional development days, grading days and other negotiated items.

Calendars must also include inclement weather makeup days. This year's calendar planned for five inclement weather makeup days, one more day than has been previously scheduled: two inclement weather make-up days were built into the school calendar at the end of fourth quarter (June 14 and 15). February 9, April 5 and April 6 were designated as three additional makeup days, to be used as needed.

Unfortunately, with the unusual wind storm on March 2 and the late-season snow on March 21 and 22 we were forced to utilize both inclement weather makeup days during spring break (April 5 and 6), as well as request the Board of Education to approve a sixth inclement weather makeup day on April 4.

We requested a waiver by the Maryland State Board of Education for March 2, as Governor

See CALENDAR Page A3

\$500,000 Available in Community Impact Grants for County Community-Based Organizations

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County has \$500,000 in Community Impact Grants to award to county civic/neighborhood associations or community-based organizations that are incorporated as 501(c)3 entities. Community Impact Grants provide small capital grants to community-based organizations to help implement innovative proj-

ects within the County. Eligible applicants must be located within Prince George's County and be in good standing with the State of Maryland.

"We are pleased to announce that the County has doubled the amount of funding available for this year allowing for increased grant amounts and a greater impact with the projects selected," says Eric C.

See GRANTS Page A5

Maryland Senate Votes to Protect LGBTQ Youth from Dangerous "Conversion Therapy"

By PRESS OFFICER
FreeState Justice

BALTIMORE, MD—On March 28, 2018, FreeState Justice, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), and WISE of Anne Arundel County, praised the Maryland State Senate for passing *SB1028*—legislation protecting LGBTQ youth in the state from the dangerous and de-

bunked practice of so-called "conversion therapy." The bill now goes to the Maryland House of Delegates for consideration.

"This is a step forward for an important piece of legislation that protects LGBTQ youth from harmful and coercive practices," said FreeState Justice Executive

See LGBTQ Page A3

Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments in Landmark Maryland Gerrymander Case

By JULIA LERNER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Attorneys presented oral arguments on March 28, 2018, before the Supreme Court in a landmark case that challenges the constitutional limits of political redistricting in Maryland.

Benisek v. Lamone, the second gerrymandering case the high court has heard this term, focuses on whether redrawing district lines in favor of one party is a violation of the First Amendment.

Michael B. Kimberly, representing O. John Benisek, a resident of Washington County, argued the partisan gerrymandering that occurred in Maryland's 6th District under then-Gov. Martin O'Malley in 2011 was a violation of the First Amendment due to the additional challenges created by shifting districts for voters.

"The evidence is unequivocal," Kimberly told the justices. "It's deliberately making it more difficult for particular citizens to achieve electoral success because their

views are disapproved by those in power."

In 2011, O'Malley created the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee (GRAC) to redraw the congressional and state legislative districts in Maryland. A new map was created, passed both the Maryland House and Senate, and was signed by O'Malley.

Before the redistricting, Maryland Democrats controlled six of the state's eight U.S. House districts. After the election following the new map, the Democrats controlled seven. Republicans argue the partisan redistricting caused irreparable damage to voters in the new district.

Kimberly went on to argue that "Governor O'Malley and others involved in the redistricting have candidly acknowledged their intent to dilute Republican votes in the 6th District to prevent Republican voters there from reelecting Congressman Roscoe Bartlett."

"Given their evidence, (the appellants) certainly have enough to go to a jury on that



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JULIA LERNER

Michael B. Kimberly, the lawyer representing O. John Benisek in the Supreme Court case *Benisek v. Lamone*, speaks with reporters following oral arguments Wednesday, March 28, 2018, in Washington, D.C.

question," Justice Sonia Sotomayor said.

"Government officials may not single out particular individuals for disfavored treatment on the basis of the views that they have expressed at the ballot box in prior elections," Kimberly argued.

Some justices questioned whether voters had truly been harmed by the redistricting.

Chief Justice John Roberts called the length of time be-

tween the redistricting and the oral arguments into question.

"To let go the elections in 2012, 2014, and 2016, suggests that maybe 2018, you're not going to be irreparably harmed in a broader sense," he said. "If you've been willing to accept that harm in three different cycles, I don't know if we should get con-

See 6TH DISTRICT Page A3

INSIDE

Maryland Will Become More Green as it Adds 24,000 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Around the State

With rising sales, longer ranges, lower costs and no exhaust notes, AAA predicts a strong future for electric vehicles that are propelled by an electric motor or motors and powered by a rechargeable battery. **Community**, Page A3

Marching For Our Children's Lives and Nation's Soul

We have so much work to do to build safe communities for all our children. We must follow our marching by electing leaders at all levels of government who will protect children, not guns and stand up to the NRA for every child's right to live and learn free of gun violence. **Commentary**, Page A4

Maryland Bill Addresses Questions About State Hiring Policy

The concern, Lam said, is that the governor's staff may have been vetting all at-will employees, including those in professional positions that require specific health-related qualifications. **Business**, Page A5

Movie Review:

The Greatest Showman

If you're not a fan of glitzy, glossy, overacted, heart-on-your-sleeve singing and dancin', you will not enjoy *The Greatest Showman*. If you're lukewarm on musicals, this won't be the one that turns you into a fan. It's good, but it's only good if you already like the thing that it is. **Out on the Town**, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Just when I finally purged my kitchen of non-stick cookware due to the risks posed by Teflon, I now learn that my rain jacket and waterproof boots are also putting my health at risk from exposure to similar "hydrophobic" chemicals ... —Alex Walker, Philadelphia, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Surratt Society invites you to travel the Booth Escape Route

Many of you may be familiar with the well-known travel adviser, *Fodor's*, and their worldwide guidebooks. *Fodor's* now has an online site, and Surratt House's Booth Escape Route Tours are featured in a segment of "The 10 Creepiest True Crime Tours in America." You might want to check it out for yourself by taking the Tour.

Spring tours of the John Wilkes Booth Escape Route are scheduled for April 14, April 21 and April 28.

On each tour, the bus departs from the Surratt House in Clinton, heads for Ford's Theatre where the dastardly deed was done, and continues through Southern Maryland into Virginia where Booth met his end.

Hours are 7 AM to 7 PM with a stop for lunch. The fee is \$85 per person (\$80 for Surratt Society members). For information and to check availability, call 301-868-1121. I've done the Tour three times—it was always remarkable.

People

Karen Rooker, Morningside Clerk/Treasurer and former Mayor, has also served as President of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary since she was sworn in at the annual convention last June. Recently she was honored at a Testimonial Dinner in Pikesville, along with State Commander William Miller. She was presented several gifts including a Pandora bracelet with charms, each one reflecting a different activity of hers over the years. She has been an active member of the VFW Auxiliary since 1979.

The Knights of Columbus, in Forestville, has named Dave Cropper as Knight of the Month for January and Bill Malkowski as Knight of the Month for February. Families of the Month include: January, Tom Corbett Family; and February, Mark Richardson Family.

Jean Nichols has really quit smoking! Jean, a longtime Morningsider now living in Glen Burnie, called me weeks ago and reported that she had been without a cigarette for three days. I called her recently and she told me, proudly, that she has really given up smoking. I'm proud of her.

The Maryland Primary is forthcoming

You may be able to tell it by campaign signs on the roadside and flyers in your mailbox—the Maryland Primary is approaching. On June 26. Early voting will go from Thursday June 14 to Thursday June 21. Not registered? Do it.

Morningside election

The Town of Morningside holds its annual election on May 7. Council seats currently held by Sharon Fowler and Katie Blade are open. But no candidates have registered to run. So, Sharon and Katie (who have done a good job!) will stay. Though, you can never count out write-ins.

And by the way, Morningside's monthly Town meeting will be Tuesday, April 17 at the Town Hall, 7 PM.

Changing landscape

Light Rail and Rapid Transit on the Route 5/301 corridor was the topic of an April 5 meeting of the Southern Mary-

land Alliance for Rapid Transit. According to the report, "This is the single biggest improvement that the State can make to reduce traffic in South County and Southern Maryland." For information, call 301-952-3820.

According to the Potomac Conservancy, the Potomac River is healthier than it's been in decades. It got a B, based on declining pollution levels, the return of bald eagles, the expansion of protected forests and more. Last year it got a B-minus and in 2011 it got a D.

The Washington Monument is scheduled to reopen in the spring of 2019. It has been mostly closed since it suffered major damages in our earthquake by elevator problems.

The Bladensburg Library is to be demolished and replaced. Surratt's Library was scheduled for the same about now, but it's been delayed.

Morningside Memories: March 1958

From the *Morning-Side-Lines*: "The Owakone Camp Fire Group and the Olociyapi Bluebirds held a dance party at the Town Hall ... Camp Fire Girls were Beth Abernethy, Karen Broderick, Barbara Hickmann, Carolyn Mayhew, Patricia Miller, Jan Stocklinski, Jane Tretler, Linda Valentine and Babs Zdobysz. Bluebirds in attendance were Denise Allen, Kathy Burroughs, Dale Edwards, Barbara Hewett, Peggy Holmes, Julie Ann Koch, Sheila Miller, Pat Stewart and Lisa Stocklinski."

See MORNINGSIDE Page A8

Neighborhoods

County's 9-1-1 Center Launches the Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP)

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III was notified that Prince George's County became the FIRST Maryland Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to launch and utilize the Automated Secure Alarm Protocol (ASAP) system. The ASAP Program is a new service that has been in design and testing phases for over a year. The ASAP service provides a direct alarm company information exchange between the County's Motorola Premier One Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and the alarm system monitoring company. This direct connection will result in immediate receipt of data from the alarm monitoring center; thereby, reducing processing time for alarm activations.

"I am proud that Prince George's County will be the first jurisdiction in Maryland with this critical lifesaving technology," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The Automated Secure Alarm Protocol system will also reduce alarm activation related telephone calls into and out of the 9-1-1 center by nearly 250,000 to 275,000 per year. This data exchange process will allow the highly trained 9-1-1 call takers to concentrate on processing incoming emergency 9-1-1 calls in a more efficient and effective manner. This will help save lives, protect property and reduce emergency incident response times. Our Public Safety Communications operation is one of the most advanced in the nation and our investments in these technologies allow us to help protect and save the lives of our residents."

County Executive Baker has made Public Safety for Prince George's County one of the top priorities of his Administration. County Executive Baker hopes that this technology will lead the way for other PSAP units within the State of Maryland to achieve the high standard expected of the County's 9-1-1 center operations.

ASAP, launched in 2011 as a public-private partnership, is designed to increase the accuracy and efficiency of calls for service from alarm companies to PSAPs. The ASAP service utilizes ANSI standard protocols developed cooperatively by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and The Monitoring Association (TMA). Vector Security was the first alarm company to go live with Prince George's County.

"Prince George's County is very appreciative of Vector Security's support and work in helping us bring this new technology to our citizens," said Charlynn Flaherty, Director, for the Prince George's County's Emergency Communications Center. "I want to thank County Executive Baker for his leadership, dedication and investment in technology for the County's Emergency Communications Center and the operations that support our heroic first responders."

Additional alarm companies quickly followed Vector

Security. Rapid Response also went live with Prince George's County in the afternoon of March 21, 2018. Protection One, Monitronics and Guardian Protection, are a few of the progressive, service oriented alarm companies scheduled to go live in the upcoming days. We expect that to be followed by ADT on or about May 8, 2018 as well as other alarm companies with Prince George's County customers.

For more information regarding the ASAP to PSAP services, please contact Prince George's County's 9-1-1 Center Director, Charlynn Flaherty, on 301-352-1485 or CF-Flaherty@co.pg.md.us.

Prince George's County Planning Board Approves Grants to Rehabilitate and restore Historic Properties

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Eleven historic properties in Prince George's County will receive funding for rehabilitation and restoration projects through grants approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The grants, which total \$300,000, will be used to accomplish a variety of critically needed preservation projects including: window and siding restoration, roof repairs, chimney rebuilding, repairs to correct water infiltration issues at building foundations, and full exterior rehabilitation.

The awards were made under the Prince George's County Historic Property Grant Program. The grant program was approved in 2008 by the Prince George's County Council and is administered by M-NCPPC's Prince George's County Planning Department. The program is governed by guidelines developed by the Planning Board in partnership with the county's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

The 11 grant awardees were selected from applications received and compiled by Planning Department staff. Final recommendations to the Planning Board were made by the HPC. The projects selected for awards and their locations are as follows:

Wagner House,

Accokeek

St. James Roman

Catholic Church,

Mount Rainier

Trinity Episcopal Church

& Cemetery,

Upper Marlboro

Waverly,

Upper Marlboro

St. Joseph's Chapel,

Beltsville

Jarboe-Bowie House,

Upper Marlboro

Cornelius Fonville House,

Fairmount Heights

Rizzo House,

Hyattsville

Cissel House,

Berwyn Heights

Miller-Spicknall House,

Hyattsville

Mullikin's Delight,

Bowie

First Lady Yumi Hogan

Recognized as an

"Influential Marylander"

ANNAPOLIS, MD—First Lady Yumi Hogan is among the 57 Marylanders who were

honored by The Daily Record as "2018 Influential Marylanders." The awards were presented on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at a ceremony in Cockeysville, Maryland.

The Daily Record's "Influential Marylanders" Award was created in 2006 to honor the state's leaders and difference-makers in the areas of civic leadership, communications, education, finance, freestyle, general business, health care, law, philanthropy, real estate and technology. The First Lady's award, in the "Freestyle" area, recognizes her work in the arts, and her advocacy for cancer patients and their families.

"It is an honor to be selected as a 2018 Influential Marylander," said First Lady Hogan. "Maryland welcomed me with open arms when I immigrated to the United States from South Korea 38 years ago, and I have been fortunate and grateful for the opportunities to share my passion for art education to enrich the lives of others."

An accomplished artist, Mrs. Hogan is the first Asian-American First Lady in Maryland's history and the nation's first Korean-American First Lady. She grew up in a rural village in South Korea before immigrating to the United States several decades ago. Having developed a love for the arts at a young age, as First Lady, she has made it a priority to share her love of the arts with Marylanders of all ages through arts education.

In addition to serving as an adjunct professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art since 2010, the First Lady has served as the Honorary Chair of the Council for Arts and Culture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where she works with the University and Baltimore City to promote the arts. She has juried numerous art exhibitions, including statewide and national competitions by the Maryland Federation of Art. In 2016, she served as jury chair for the new Concourse D Gallery at the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, where artists from Maryland and Washington D.C. were selected to feature their work.

The First Lady became a vocal advocate for cancer awareness after her husband, Governor Larry Hogan, was diagnosed with Stage 3 non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2015. Since his diagnosis, she has devoted much of her time to visiting and caring for Marylanders battling cancer, especially children. In 2016, she was awarded the Pheo Para Alliance's Dr. Cyrus Katzen Humanitarian Award in recognition of her efforts and advocacy on behalf of cancer patients.

In 2017, the First Lady established the Yumi C.A.R.E.S. Foundation, an independent 501c3 organization which launched its first art therapy program for pediatric patients at the University of Maryland Children's Hospital (UMCH) at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC). In the name of the foundation, "C.A.R.E.S." stands for Chil-

See YUMI Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Prince George's County Farm Bureau held their Annual Banquet Saturday March 17, 2018 at Baden Volunteer Fire Department Willow Room in Brandywine, Maryland. Kevin Conover, Prince George's County Farm Bureau Vice President gave the welcome. Invocation was given by Sandy Cross, Prince George's County Farm Bureau Director. Followed after dinner were introductions and comments by Chris Parker, Prince George's County Farm Bureau Director.

Welcome from Maryland Farm Bureau, Vice President John Draper. There were door prizes. We had the opportunity to participate in a Live & Silent Auction by Young Farmers Katy Roche, PGCFB Young Farmer Chairperson. Proceeds from the Auctions will benefit the Prince George's County FFA and their Young Farmer education initiatives. The 50/50 drawing proceeds benefit the scholarship funds that help educate a new generation of young people. Benediction by Jessica McKnew, 2017 Miss Prince George's County Farm Bureau. Music by Six Pack Rodeo Band (Modern & Classic Country). Thanks to the Baden Auxiliary for catering the banquet and the Baden Volunteer Fire Department for the use of the hall.

FEATURED FARMER

Prince George's County Young Farmers, Wade and Shelby Hampton, represented Maryland in the Young Farmers Excellence in Agriculture Award competition at the American

Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in January. Congratulations to Wade and Shelby who placed fourth nationally.

Shelby is the Director of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC). Wade works with Prince George's County Soil Conservation District.

WOMEN TRUSTING IN THE LORD

Join us at Asbury United Methodist Church Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 9:30 AM for our Prayer Breakfast (Women Trusting in the Lord (Isaiah 26: 4). Guest Speaker: Elizabeth M. Stemley, President United Methodist Women (BWC).

Tickets: \$20 (adults), \$10 (ages 7-18). Please call 301-888-1112 or 240-417-6117. The church address is 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Rev. Gladman Kapfumvuti, Pastor.

CASINO TIME

Join us for our 2018 Sunday Casino Slots Fun to Midway-Harrington Raceway & Casino Slots in Harrington, Delaware Sunday, May 20, 2018. Fun package includes a \$15.00 slot play rebate with a \$7.00 Buffet Food Voucher, Oldies but Goodies, 50/50 Raffle and Cake Sale. Cost is \$40.00. Absolutely no refunds. Purchase your ticket early so you won't be left out. Tickets must be purchased by May 6, 2018. Benefit St. Philip's Church.

Bus leaves Clinton Park-N-Ride at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church, Brandywine, Maryland at 11:00 AM and re-

turns at approximately 7:30 PM. Points of contact for tickets are Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260, Doretha A. Savoy (301) 233-3136 and St. Philip's Church (301) 888-1536.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the American Legion, chartered March 15, 1919. Come out and see what's new at your local Post #227. They are preparing for their 100th Birthday and you won't want to miss out on all the exciting events happening.

Check out their website or Facebook page for updates on their special events and dinners for their host. Webpage: <http://www.brandywine227.org/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Post227>. Thank you for supporting Post #227 at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Brandywine. Telephone number is 301-782-7371.

GET C.R.U.N.K.

Join us for a multimedia performance combining music, video, and live performance MAY 16, 2018 AT 10:30 am. The audience will be stoked to become educated in the arts. The performance will get students enthused about the power of performing arts (theatre, hip hop, comedy, poetry, and parody) to educate, entertain and express. The performance is for all ages. Tickets cost \$5.00 each show.

The location for the performance is arts at Harmony Hall Regional Center on 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744. Telephone 301-203-6070; TTY 301-699-2544.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Is Family Counseling Worth Considering?

We all face problems and usually tend to think that the burden of those problems is just ours. Actually, many times there may be real benefit in dealing with such problems by involving those with whom we're the closest—our families.

Family counseling is a specialized field for professional counselors that was developed in the 1950s. Many decades of experience have shown that involving family members often leads to greater understanding, increased support and the discovery of more effective ways to treat the causes of a problem.

While professional counselors specializing in family counseling may employ a number of different approaches, they tend to have some common characteristics. These include focusing on the family as a client rather than just seeing an individual as the one with the problem. They look at how a family operates and how it reacts to influences from within and without. They see dealing with the family as a whole as an effective way to help overcome problems and work through issues even though they may be affecting only one or two family members.

While family counseling is not the answer for every problem, it has been very effective in dealing with several long-term, serious issues. A family member suffering from addiction, an eating disorder or severe depression, for example, are cases where family counseling often yields positive results. Other issues, such as gender identity, may also be understood better if all family members are aware and supportive.

Professional counselors in the field of family counseling work in a variety of ways depending on their educational background and the situation being presented. It can be important to discuss your counselor's approach and methods before beginning the process of treatment.

You also want to approach such counseling with the right understanding. Seeking to change someone else is usually not productive, but looking for ways you can change yourself in regard to family matters usually is.

Family counseling is usually as effective as individual counseling when the family is willing to seek help as a group. Your local mental health center, an online search, or the American Counseling Association website at www.counseling.org (click the "Find A Counselor" tab at the top) can help locate professional family counselors in your area who can help break down barriers in communication and intimacy and assist you in finding more productive ways to operate as a family.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

LGBTQ from A1

Director Mark Procopio. "We hope the House of Delegates will move quickly to make this law. Maryland's LGBTQ youth deserve strong protections under state law. Prohibiting these practices moves us closer to that goal."

"We thank the state senators who voted to protect LGBTQ youth from so-called 'conversion therapy,'" said HRC National Field Director Marty Rouse. "This abusive and inhumane practice has no basis in science and is uniformly rejected by every major mental health organization in the country. We are calling on the Maryland House of Delegates to swiftly pass this bill and send it to Governor Larry Hogan's desk for his signature."

SB1028 was introduced in the Maryland State Senate by Senator Richard Madaleno and cosponsors include Senator Bill Ferguson, Senator Guy Guzzone, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Senator Susan Lee, Senator Roger Manno, Senator Paul Pinsky, Senator Will Smith, Senator Ronald Young, and Senator Craig Zucker.

There is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person's sexual

orientation or gender identity or expression. To the contrary, research has clearly shown that these practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ young people such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and even suicidal behavior. The harmful practice is condemned by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, and American Medical Association.

Connecticut, California, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New York, New Mexico, and Rhode Island all have laws or regulations protecting youth from this abusive practice. A growing number of municipalities have also enacted similar protections, including cities and counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Florida, New York, and Arizona.

According to a recent report by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, an estimated 20,000 LGBTQ minors in states without protections will be subjected to conversion therapy by a licensed healthcare professional if state officials fail to act.

Calendar from A1

Hogan declared a state of emergency that day. However, the state has granted no waivers so far and it has tightened the waiver process, making it extremely difficult for school districts to get waivers for anything under 10 inclement

weather days.

It is important to note that all districts in Maryland are struggling to develop school calendars under these new parameters. PGCPs will remain focused on creating a school calendar that reflects the preferences of its stakeholders and meets all state mandates.

Maryland Will Become More Green as it Adds 24,000 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Around the State

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.— Being green will become easier in Maryland. A consortium of utility companies and allied entities in Maryland have announced an ambitious \$104 million program to boost and expand the total number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the state to 24,000, creating the "second-largest EV charging network in the country." Equally go-getting, Maryland hopes to have an underpinning of 300,000 electric vehicles on its roadways within seven years. It is a lofty goal, especially given the fact that Maryland had fewer than 10,000 electric vehicles on the road during 2017.

As of 2017, Maryland ranked ninth in the nation in the number of charging stations for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), or electric vehicles (EV), notes AAA Mid-Atlantic, and Virginia ranked 15th among the states. Simply put, public charging stations provide EV owners and buyers the flexibility to "top up" their EV's battery while they shop, attend events or sightsee, AAA Mid-Atlantic observes. Interest in electric vehicles among American consumers is surging. It now rivals that for full-size pickup trucks, according to a survey by AAA. More than 30 million Americans hope to buy one.

Electric vehicles are also becoming more popular in the Washington metro area, says the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) latest Vehicle Census.

For perspective, there are now about 4.1 million registered vehicles across the Greater Washington region, notes the TPB. That's up from up from 3.89 million registered vehicles in the region in 2014. In 2016, the region had 4,200 electric vehicles, according to the TPB Vehicle Census. Statewide, Maryland boasts 9,400 registered zero-emission vehicles on its roads, compared to "4,058 EVs registered in Virginia," as of 2016. Even so, the Washington metro region boasts 120,000 registered hybrid vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The EV inventory includes 50 models available for purchase.

"Both Maryland and Virginia are developing plans to persuade more area consumers to switch from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. Expanding the charging network will expedite the flow of EV travel in the region," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "As the overall number of electric vehicles or EVs proliferates across the region and the nation, charging stations are also becoming more common at workplaces to allow recharging during the day. Some locations, such as those

at shopping malls or other businesses, offer free EV charging as a way to entice consumers."

Under its ZEV program, Maryland has a goal of having 60,000 ZEVs on the road within the next two years, 2020, and five times that number seven years from now in 2025, according to the Maryland Department of the Environment. Some researchers predict by 2025, 35 percent of all cars sold in the United States will be electric, 25 percent of which will be hybrids, and 10 percent pure EVs, notes AAA. Of course, the charging time for an electric car varies with the car, the size and type of battery, the temperature and various other factors, explains AAA.

At this juncture, Maryland houses "1,200 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations," with the bulk of them spread across the "Washington suburbs and the Baltimore region."

Presently, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is weighing the public EV charging network proceeding, which was filed January 19, 2018. The filing by utility companies, environmental groups and charging station companies proposes the creation of a fully operational "statewide electric vehicle portfolio." Plugged-in consumers hope to save on gas.

"Maryland is one of eight states signed on to the Zero-Emission Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding, a coordinated

action to boost the adoption of EVs," according to GTM Research. "In 2013 the state committed to a target of 300,000 zero-emission cars on the road by 2025. The year before, however, it had only 609 electric vehicles. At the end of June 2017, it had 9,400. In order to see continued growth, Maryland will need the infrastructure to support additional cars."

If created, the "statewide electric vehicle portfolio" would "make Maryland a leader in advancing EVs on the East Coast," proponents say. In 2017, charging station availability has grown to more than 15,000 locations across the United States, observes AAA. Maryland ranks ninth in the nation with the total number of charging stations and Virginia ranks 15th in the United States. There were 77,754 hybrids and 3,178 electric plug-in vehicles in Maryland, according to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration's 2014 Annual Report. "The average growth rate of registered EVs in Virginia from 2008 to 2016 is 35 percent."

A 2017 AAA survey shows more than 30 million Americans are likely to buy an electric vehicle for their next car. With rising sales, longer ranges, lower costs and no exhaust notes, AAA predicts a strong future for electric vehicles that are propelled by an electric motor or motors and powered by a rechargeable battery.

Census from A1

dent, Robert Ross, and Elizabeth Johnson, a county resident since 1974.

The suit alleges that the census bureau's plans and preparation for the 2020 Census are insufficient to satisfy constitutional requirements. The plaintiffs are also seeking injunctive relief requiring the government to take the steps necessary to conduct a fair and accurate census.

The defendants in the suit include President Donald Trump,

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, the U.S. Census Bureau and its acting director and the government of the United States.

Derrick Johnson, the president and CEO of the NAACP, said an accurate count on the census is important because it provides the necessary resources for municipalities, counties and states to properly function through the allocation of federal funds. He added that an accurate count helps make sure that political boundaries are drawn so representation is fair and equal.

"We know, as the NAACP, that the undercount in African American and Latino communities has been a persistent problem across the country," Johnson said. "In fact, as a result of undercounts in communities, we've seen majority African American governments underfunded substantially because the impact of a census would last for 10 years."

Baker said that his county is one of the hardest hit by undercounting.

According to data displayed at the press conference, Prince George's County had a 2.3 per-

cent undercount rate in the 2010 Census, one of the highest percentages in the nation. Baker said he estimates that Prince George's County has lost around \$200 million in federal spending due to undercounting.

Baker also pointed out that undercounting has impacted representation for his county as it relates to the upcoming redrawing of the congressional district.

He said he hopes Prince George's County can help set an example for the changes that need to be made concerning the upcoming census.

6th District from A1

cerned about irreparable harm for one more."

Many justices questioned the intent of the redistricting, suggesting O'Malley's reason for redistricting was unconstitutional.

"The effects were exactly what the intent would suggest," Justice Elena Kagan said. "A long-standing Republican incumbent is unseated by a Democratic newcomer, who withstands a wave election, who prevails three straight times. I mean, it appears that the Maryland legislature got exactly what it intended, which was you took ... a safe Republican district, and made it into not the safest of Democratic districts, but a pretty safe one. ... I mean, how much more evidence of partisan intent could we need?"

Steven Marshall Sullivan, representing Linda H. Lamone,

Maryland's elections administrator, insisted otherwise: "(The 6th District) is not safe. It was judged competitive."

Sullivan said that 20 percent of voters in the 6th District are registered as independents. The result is that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats make up a majority there, he said.

"The independent vote is critical because, in the first election, the Democrat won more of the independent vote than the Republican," Sullivan said. "The redistricting lines couldn't have caused that to happen. That happened because of the views of those voters and the strength of that candidate."

"What effect does the fact that this map was subsequently approved by the people themselves have when we're trying to determine intent?" Justice Neil Gorsuch asked.

Ginsburg compared the current case to an historic racial gerrymandering case from 1995, *Miller v. Johnson*, in which the court struck down districts solely created based on race, known as "max-black" districts.

"It seems to me that what we have here is 'max-Democratic' (per district)" she said. "If 'max-black' was no good, why should 'max-Democratic' be okay?"

Sullivan responded that the historic 'max-black' districts were "drawn from a history of exclusion of African Americans from our political process, something that Republicans can hardly claim," because their party currently controls both the federal and state governments.

Earlier this term, the Supreme Court heard the *Gill v. Whitford* case from Wisconsin regarding gerrymandering. In January, the Supreme Court

temporarily blocked a redistricting order from a lower court in North Carolina.

Justice Stephen Breyer suggested waiting until next term, at which point those two cases and the Maryland case could be heard together.

"It seems like a pretty clear violation of the Constitution in some form to have deliberate, extreme gerrymandering," Breyer said of the Maryland map. "But is there a practical remedy that won't get judges involved in dozens and dozens and dozens of very important political decisions?"

Courts have previously treated challenges to political redistricting as a "nonjusticiable 'political question,' based on the lack of a determinate, judicially enforceable standard to judge political gerrymanders," according to the Preview of the United States Supreme Court Cases.

The Prince George's Post

Your Newspaper of Legal Record

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



Van Hollen Fights for Maryland Priorities in Spending Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen announced funding for several key Maryland projects as part of the Fiscal Year 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Van Hollen advocated for increased investments for critical programs across our state. “There is no question that this legislation represents compromise—but it includes many hard-fought Maryland priorities that boost jobs, infrastructure, research, and education in our state,” said Senator Van Hollen. “This funding package stands in stark contrast to President Trump’s efforts to slash the programs that move Maryland and America forward and instead recognizes the need to invest in working families across the country.”

The legislation includes historic investments to fight the opioid epidemic and expands access to rural broadband. It has increased funding for every level of education, helps working families better afford child care, and expands low-income housing tax credits. It will help rebuild veterans’ facilities, as well as crumbling roads and bridges. It also makes clear that the Centers for Disease Control can engage in gun violence research.

Maryland specific projects include:

- Full funding for the Chesapeake Bay at \$73 million, language to keep the Chesapeake Bay Liaison Office in Annapolis, and authorization for the Gateways and Trails Program.

- An additional \$3 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health—an 8.8 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2017.
- Full funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority at \$150 million as well as Purple Line construction under the signed Full Funding Grant Agreement.
- Expanded investments in NASA Goddard—including \$1.9 billion for Earth Science—and the 21st Century Launch program at Wallops Island.
- Full funding for the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center at Fort Detrick and the Chemical Security Analysis Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and strong investments in Maryland’s other defense and research facilities.
- Additional funding for programs that boost economic growth, including \$3 million more for the Appalachian Region Commission, \$25.5 million more for the Economic Development Administration, and \$5 million more for the Minority Business Development Administration.
- The largest single-year increase in the history of the Child Care and Development Block Grant—83 percent—with \$5.2 billion total funding.
- Expanded funding for the Community Development Block Grant at \$3.24 billion, which faced elimination under the President’s budget, and the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at \$250 million.
- Funding for Army Corps projects in Maryland, including Knapps Narrows, Baltimore Harbor dredging, Poplar Island, Ocean City Harbor and Inlet, and the Cumberland Dam.
- Clear language that the current proposal to keep the new FBI headquarters at its present location is unacceptable and will not be funded. Investments made in the consolidation project were protected but cannot be spent until GSA presents a new plan for Congressional authorization.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



March For Our Lives Follows a Venerable American Tradition of Student Social Activism

“By our readiness to allow arms to be purchased at will and fired at whim, by allowing our movie and television screens to teach our children that the hero is one who masters the art of shooting and the technique of killing, by allowing all these developments, we have created an atmosphere in which violence and hatred have become popular pastimes.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

When the nation’s students march to protest gun violence in their schools, they are following in a proud tradition of student leadership in social justice in America.

By early May 1963, the series of civil rights protests known as the Birmingham Campaign had been ongoing for more than a month. National attention generated by Martin Luther King, Jr.’s arrest—which resulted in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail—had begun to fade. It was only when the children marched that America’s attention would riveted, and stay riveted.

Images of school children—mostly teenagers, but some as young as 7 or 9—attacked by dogs and blasted with fire hoses dominated the front pages of newspapers and television news broadcasts. The Children’s Crusade, as the student march was called, marked a stark turning point in Birmingham and galvanized the effort to pass the Civil Rights Act.

The Children’s Crusade is among the best-known student acts of social activism, but was by no means the first. In 1924, students at Fisk University staged walkouts to protest efforts by its white president to steer the curriculum away from liberal arts toward industrial education. In the throes of the Great Depression, the American Youth Congress formed to advocate for young people and led to the establishment of the National Youth Administration jobs program.

The student activism of the 1960s helped bring about the end of the war in Vietnam, lowered the voting age to 18, and fueled the emerging movements for women and LGBTQ people. In the 1980s students successfully pressured their universities to divest from companies profiting from apartheid in South Africa. The rise of the internet has given socially-active young people a critical organizing tool, which they’ve used to elevate hashtags like #NeverAgain, #VoteThemOut and #MarchForOurLives.

The young people of the Urban League Movement, about 700 of whom are joining the march in Washington, D.C., are marching to end not only the epidemic of mass shootings in schools, but the plague of gun violence in our communities. In 2014, the year 12-year-old Tamir Rice was killed by police while playing with a toy gun, Black people died at a rate of about 17 per 100,000 people, compared with 10 per 100,000 white people. Black men are 17 times more likely than white men to be shot and killed with guns. In 2012, the year Marissa Alexander was jailed for defending herself against her abuser, Black women were murdered at a rate two-and-a-half times higher than their white counterparts, 56 percent of them by domestic partners or boyfriends, and nearly 60 percent of them with guns.

With the committed help of our youngest Urban Leaguers, we will continue to fight for common-sense reforms like universal background checks, limits to magazine capacity and muzzle speeds, keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and a strong federal gun trafficking law.

The eyes of the nation are on the March For Our Lives, and our hearts are with the hundreds of Urban League youth who are marching and fighting for their own lives, not only in Washington, but in every community in the nation.

The Patuxent Rural Life Museum



Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

THE PATUXENT RURAL LIFE MUSEUM

The Patuxent Rural Life Museums, located within the 7,000-acre Patuxent River Park, are a collection of museums and farm buildings dedicated to preserving the heritage of southern Prince George’s County. There are several buildings including the Duvall Tool Museum, a 1920’s Sears Catalog House, a Blacksmith Shop, a Farrier and Tack Shop, a Tobacco Farming Museum, and the 1880 Duckett Log Cabin with its privy, chicken coop, and meat house. To learn more about the facilities, including days and hours of operation, or to schedule a tour, call 301-627-6074.

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Marching For Our Children’s Lives and Nation’s Soul

I am so proud of every one of the brave young survivors and opponents of gun violence, organizers, and marchers who will be leading adults in the March For Our Lives and sister marches across the nation this Saturday. We have so much work to do to build safe communities for all our children. We must follow our marching by electing leaders at all levels of government who will protect children, not guns and stand up to the NRA for every child’s right to live and learn free of gun violence. But that will not happen until mothers and grandmothers, fathers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, neighbors and faith leaders, young voters, and everyone who believes children have a right to grow up safely stands up together with our extraordinary young people in communities across America. We must together make a mighty ruckus for as long as it takes to break the gun lobby’s veto on common sense gun policy.

Until we shake off our sense of hopelessness and exile apathy to our trashcans in the face of persistent tragedy and bullying by the gun lobby, Congress and state legislatures will continue to do the NRA’s bidding, putting their perceived political self-interest ahead of the lives of our children and families and others they are sworn to represent and protect. It’s way past time to combine “thoughts and prayers” with action and vote out those who place protecting guns higher than protecting babies, children, teens, mothers and fathers, and the public safety of all. It’s way past time for the American people to retire the NRA as the self-appointed head of national security and the leading threat to public health and assure the safety of our children and families everywhere in America. We need a relentless, powerful collective vision and voice joining with young people who are unafraid to lead the way.

Here are ten key facts to know and share with others during and after the March For Our Lives:

Children and Teens Are Dying From Guns in Schools and Communities Every Day

1. 3,128 children and teens were killed with a gun in 2016, enough to fill 156 classrooms of 20 children.
2. A child or teen was killed with a gun every 2 hours and 48 minutes.
3. The crisis is getting worse: 2016 marked the greatest number of child and teen gun deaths in ten years.
4. Gun deaths remain the leading cause of death for Black children and teens and second leading cause of death for all children and teens.
5. Guns killed more children under five in 2016 than law enforcement officers in the line of duty.
6. Since 1963, over three times more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers were killed by hostilities in wars abroad.

Common Sense Gun Regulations and Care For Child Life Are Missing in Our Nation

7. Guns are the only consumer product manufactured in the

United States exempt from federal health and safety regulations. We regulate toy guns and teddy bears, but do not regulate a product that kills 3,128 children a year and injures many, many more.

8. Current federal background check requirements do not cover sales at gun shows, over the internet, or other private sales.
9. Today, two in three American voters support stricter gun laws, including half of gun owners. Ninety-seven percent of all American voters and gun owners support universal background checks and 67 percent of voters and more than half of gun owners favor a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons.
10. America’s military and law enforcement agencies have about four million guns. Estimates of America’s civilian gun ownership are as high as 310 million.

The recent school shootings have only reinforced the sad truth that children and teens cannot feel safe anywhere in America. So we are all in the same boat and must act together to

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2018, The Prince George’s Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

Prince George’s County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George’s Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George’s Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George’s Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty—Restricted Application for Divorced Spouse

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I've recently started reading your column on Social Security and am learning a lot! My particular question is this: I was born in November 1953 so my full retirement age is 66, which is coming up faster than I would have ever imagined. I am divorced but was married for 25 years before the split, and I have not remarried. I've heard that because I was born before 1954 I can still claim my ex's Social Security as a spousal benefit when I reach my full retirement age and let my own benefit continue to grow, switching to it when I turn 70. Is that correct? Is it likely to change if Congress looks for ways to cut entitlements to make up for the tax cuts? And how do I find out what my ex-spouse's benefit amount is if we are no longer speaking? Also, does your Social Security benefit amount continue to grow if you quit working but just don't take it? Or do you have to still be contributing to Social Security for it to continue to grow by that 8 percent per year I've seen you mention?

Signed: Ex-Spouse

Dear Ex-Spouse: Yes, because you were born before January 2, 1954, you are "grandfathered" into something called the "restricted application for spousal benefits only." That means that if your ex-spouse is collecting his Social Security when you reach your full retirement age (FRA), you may file the restricted application, collect spousal benefits equal to ½ of the amount he is/was entitled to at his full retirement age, and allow your own benefit amount to grow until you reach age 70 (you don't actually need to wait until you are 70 to claim on your own record; you can claim at any time between your FRA and age 70). By delaying your own retirement claim you will earn delayed retirement credits at a rate of 2/3rd of 1% per month for each month you delay (that comes out to 8% per year). Social Security will require that you visit their office to find out what your ex-spouse's current benefit amount is, and they will ask you to provide his Social Security number (otherwise you'll need to provide his date and place of birth and his parents' names). If you meet any reluctance to provide you with his benefit amount when you visit, be insistent and ask to speak to a supervisor; it's your right to get that information to help with your retirement planning. You should also have a copy of both your marriage certificate and divorce decree available when you file the restricted application.

You don't need to worry about Congress changing your option to file a restricted application; it was already changed by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 to eliminate the "restricted application for spousal benefits" for anyone born after January 1, 1954. If you wish to go ahead with the restricted application once you have reached your full retirement age of 66, you can apply online starting with the regular benefit application process, but when you see the question Do you want to start your benefits now, answer NO. You will then see a drop-down menu from which you can select November 2018 as your benefit start date. After that when you see the question If you are eligible for both retirement and spousal benefits, do you want to delay receipt of retirement benefits, answer YES. Then on the last screen enter I wish to exclude retirement benefits from the scope of this application. I am filing a restricted application for spousal benefits. I am not applying for retirement benefits on my own work record. I want to earn delayed retirement credits. Since Social Security recommends you apply for benefits 3 months before you wish them to start, you may file your restricted application in September but be sure to specify November as the month you wish your spousal benefits to begin.

And regarding your last question, yes, your Social Security retirement benefit amount continues to grow, even if you quit working and are no longer paying FICA taxes from your earnings. You don't need to continue contributing to Social Security to earn delayed retirement credits.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at info@amacfoundation.org.

Grants from A1

Brown, Interim Director of the Redevelopment Authority.

Grants must be used for capital purposes such as the purchase of equipment and materials. Grants cannot be used for operations, program costs, salaries or personnel. Proposed projects must fall into one of two categories: Neighborhood Beautification or Environment or Natural Resources and Sustainability. Grants can only be used for capital expenses related to the implementation of a community based project.

Total funding for FY 2018 for this program will not exceed \$500,000 and the maximum

grant amount is \$75,000. Successful applicants shall have up to one year from the date of the executed grant agreement to complete the project and expend the grant funds. The Community Impact Grant Program does require a match from non-Prince George's County Government sources, which can include both in-kind and cash contributions.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until such time the grant funds have all been spent. For more information, contact Tanya Diggs at 301-883-5300 or TDiggs@co.pg.md.us or visit the Redevelopment Authority website at: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2907/Community-Impact-Grants-2018>.

Maryland Bill Addresses Questions About State Hiring Policy

By ALEX MANN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Concerns about a possible hiring-policy change at the Maryland Department of Health involving Gov. Larry Hogan's appointments office prompted legislation that would add more oversight to enforce laws enacted by the state more than a decade ago.

Former Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, R, took office in 2003. Shortly thereafter, employees at multiple state agencies who were not believed to be loyal to the Republican governor were fired.

In response, the Democrat-controlled legislature created a committee to examine Ehrlich's personnel practices. The Special Joint Committee on State Employee Rights and Protections returned a report on Oct. 12, 2006, that recommended changes to Maryland law.

Lawmakers in turn enacted legislation in 2007 that prohibited the Governor's Appointments Office from overruling an agency's authority over certain "at-will" hires, promotions, firings and more within state departments.

The Governor's Appointments Office does have authority to choose employees for certain positions, including executive branch employees, direct or political appointees, the governor and lieutenant governor's staff, the governor's house employees and special appointments. These classifications could include legislative liaisons or communications staffers in state agencies.

That 2007 legislation may need to be updated, said Delegate Clarence Lam, D-Howard and Baltimore counties. Lam told Capital News Service he's concerned that there has been a change in the hiring policy at the state health department that potentially undermines the statute.

"Approximately a year ago we received an email telling us that the procedure for hiring at-will staff was changing," said Isabelle Horon, former director of the Vital Statistics Administration within the state health department. Horon left the department in June after 27 years working there.

Capital News Service obtained a copy of the email.

"Starting then, we would be required to get permission from the governor's (appointments) office before an at-will position could be filled," Horon said.

At-will hires work for the state at a grade 18 or above in the Maryland employment scale, Lam said. The status of their employment is at the will of the person who hired them—known as the hiring authority—which is usually the employee's supervisor within a department.

A physician or pathologist at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, for example, would be above grade 18, Lam explained. Those positions are considered at-will, but not necessarily under the hiring purview of the Governor's Appointments Office.

The concern, Lam said, is that the governor's staff may have been vetting all at-will employees, including those in professional positions that require specific health-related qualifications.

But the health department told Capital News Service that there has been no change.

"I can confirm there has been no policy change at the Department of Health," Brittany Fowler, deputy director of communications at the health department, wrote in an email. "For countless administrations, the Office of Appointments has assisted state agencies with finding

appropriate potential new hires."

A representative for Hogan, who was the appointments secretary under Ehrlich from 2003 to early 2007, said the governor's checks do not extend to whether an applicant meets specific job qualifications.

"One of the roles of the governor's appointments office is to—upon request—perform basic background checks, including criminal and public records, to ensure that prospective employees for high-level, at-will positions are suitable for employment by the state," Amelia Chasse, a spokeswoman for Hogan, wrote in an email.

"In general, the office's primary function is to help ensure these taxpayer-paid employees don't have obviously disqualifying criminal histories or clear conflicts of interest," she wrote. "What they don't do is determine whether an applicant's technical expertise meets the requirements of the position—the agencies do that."

Lam has introduced *House bill 1788* this session, he said, because the protections created in 2007 to prevent interference in the hiring of state employees, "while well-meaning and needed, were insufficient."

The bill, which would add a layer of oversight to the hiring process for certain state employees, is scheduled for a hearing in the House Appropriations committee on March 13.

Allison Taylor, former chief of staff for Public Health Services at the department of health, authored the email, which she sent to other health department employees. She confirmed the validity of the email to Capital News Service.

The email shared notes from a routine executive staff meeting with then-Secretary of Health Dennis Schrader—a regular practice, Horon said.

Taylor has since left the department.

Hogan nominated Schrader—who served as the governor's appointments secretary for most of 2016—as health secretary in late 2016. The Maryland Senate failed to confirm Schrader, who served as acting secretary until Jan. 9, 2018. He is now COO and Medicaid director at the health department.

Requests for comment from Schrader were referred to Fowler.

The 2017 email among Health Department employees detailed "a new process for at-will hiring, with a greater emphasis on using the Governor's Appointments Office."

The appointments office "will need to vet the candidates" the health department selected for three categories of employees: legislative liaisons and communications or executive associates; technical positions, such as physicians and laboratory scientists; and program managers, the email showed.

The policy was otherwise un-

documented, said Horon, who was a recipient of the email.

"Having an unwritten policy of unknown criteria potentially interferes with the ability of us to find the best-qualified people with the right background in health," said Lam, who is a physician. "I think in most instances... the immediate supervisor of the position that's being filled... has the best awareness of the responsibilities of that role."

If a far-removed authority makes hiring decisions, rather than a direct supervisor, Lam said, there's a concern that the most qualified person—with specific health experience—may not get the job.

But Fowler maintains that the health agency is committed to choosing the best employees.

"The Department always strives to ensure that we are recruiting and hiring the most qualified candidates available to best serve the people of Maryland," Fowler wrote.

Capital News Service also obtained a letter from Sandra Brantley, counsel to the General Assembly at the Attorney General's office to Lam, who had asked whether it is legal for an agency to direct all at-will applicants to the appointments office.

"It is inconsistent with State law for an agency to broadly delegate all appointment authority to the Appointments Office," according to Brantley's letter.

MOUNT RAINIER NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Mount Rainier proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2018, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 8.55%, from \$437,064,540 to \$474,434,425.
2. If Mount Rainier maintains the current tax rate of \$0.84 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 8.55% resulting in \$313,907 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7738, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.84 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 8.55% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$313,907 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 9 AM on April 21st, 2018 at City Hall, One Municipal Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-985-for further information.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

The Greatest Showman

The Greatest Showman
Grade: B-
Rated PG, graphic harmonizing
1 hr., 45 min

By the time I saw *The Greatest Showman*, my 13-year-old niece had seen it four times. She's not interested in P.T. Barnum as a historical figure (she and the movie have that in common), but she does like cheesy pop music and boys with soft eyes, so the math adds up.

This is a full-blown, burst-into-song-while-you-walk-down-the-street kind of musical, aimed at teenage girls, gay men, senior citizens, and other people who already like musicals. That last part cannot be overstated. If you're not a fan of glitzy, glossy, overacted, heart-on-your-sleeve singin' and dancin', you will not enjoy *The Greatest Showman*. If you're lukewarm on musicals, this won't be the one that turns you into a fan. It's good, but it's only good if you already like the thing that it is.

Which I do! I love beautiful, well-crafted, profound musicals with cleverly rhymed lyrics. Fortunately, I also enjoy shallow throwaway puff pieces with catchy tunes, lyrics that are purely functional, and dead-end subplots, which is what first-time director Michael Gracey energetically delivers. The content is old-fashioned and wholesome, but the aesthetic is frenetic and *Moulin Rouge!*-y, complete with anachronistic dialogue and modern orchestrations. (Actually, one of the big songs, "Come Alive," sounds a great deal like De Barge's "Rhythm of the Night," so by "modern" I guess I mean circa 1985.)

The film never tells us what year it is or gives us a sense of



ROTTENTOMATOES

Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, *The Greatest Showman* is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

how much time has passed, but Barnum lived from 1810 to 1891, so we'll assume it's the mid 1800s. Hugh Jackman plays Barnum starting at about age 20 (ahem), all the way through the creation of his first circus, which happened when Barnum was 60, though I don't think he's supposed to be that old when it happens in the movie. The real Barnum had a partner by the name of Bailey, but he's been fictionalized into a guy called Carlyle (Zac Efron) who speaks in a suave Don Draper voice, and only the broadest strokes of Barnum's biography remain intact.

A self-made man and the son of a poor tailor, Barnum marries the well-monied Charity (Michelle Williams), has two adoring daughters with her,

then opens a Manhattan museum dedicated to oddities. It flops, but one of daughters gives him a suggestion: put some LIVING things in it. A call for "unique persons and curiosities" goes out, and soon Barnum has assembled a troupe of freaks: bearded lady (Keala Settle), dwarf (Sam Humphrey), a tattooed man (Shannon Holtzapffel), and so forth. Barnum subsequently becomes famous for "fake" oddities—which is confusing given that the movie only shows us the real ones—and wants to find a genuine talent. As soon as he does (a Swedish singer named Jenny Lind, played by Rebecca Ferguson), he turns his back on his beloved freaks, who sing a song about not being ashamed of who they are.

Meanwhile, Carlyle develops a crush on trapeze artist Anne Wheeler (Zendaya), then is embarrassed because she's black, then gets over it, end of subplot.

The screenplay, by Jenny Bicks (*Sex and the City*) and Bill Condon (who adapted *Chicago* and *Dreamgirls*), is a pastiche of hopes-and-dreams tropes with serviceable dialogue, all enthusiastically performed by an eager cast. But the songs are the important thing, and these nine (by *La La Land* duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul) are unapologetically average, taking no chances, content to be just good enough. (The boldest choice is rhyming "little" with "it'll" in a power ballad.) Are there better movie musicals? Yes, dozens. Are there any in theaters right now, though? Nope, this is it. Enjoy!

Athletic Director Clyde Doughty to be Inducted in NYIT Athletic Hall of Fame

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

OLD WESTBURY, NY—The New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) will induct four worthy honorees into the school's Athletics Hall of Fame on June 11 at the Woodside Club and Bowie State Athletic Director Clyde Doughty, Jr. will be one of those honored.

Eduardo Anacleto and Peter Antoniaades, who starred for

NYIT men's soccer in the mid-2000s, rank second and third all-time in career points in program history with 111 and 87, respectively. Anacleto earned second-team All-America honors in 2005, during a season the Bears reached the NCAA Tournament Elite Eight.

Doughty, already inducted as part of the inaugural class of the East Coast Conference Hall of Fame a year ago, served as NYIT director of intercollegiate



athletics and recreation from 1988 through 2014. He currently serves in a similar capacity at Bowie State in Maryland.

Patrick Jarrett, a decorated track & field competitor at NYIT, went on to represent his native Jamaica as a sprinter in the 2000 and 2004 Olympics. He helped the Jamaican relay team

earn the bronze medal at the 1999 Pan American Games.

The 13th Annual NYIT Athletics Golf Outing and Hall of Fame Enshrinement Dinner directly benefits NYIT's 13 intercollegiate athletic programs and assists in making facility upgrades and improving recruitment efforts.

A Little This, A Little That

Plant Lilies for a Summer Garden of Elegant and Fragrant Blooms

By MELINDA MYERS

Lilies add long-lasting color and fragrance to flower gardens and summer bouquets. These stately flowers provide vertical interest and blend nicely with other perennials. And best of all, with very little care, you'll be enjoying them for years to come.

Plant different types of lilies to extend your enjoyment from early summer into fall. The colorful and often fragrant blossoms add elegance to any bouquet and are long-lasting in a vase.

Start off the summer with Asiatic lilies. These compact plants have upward or outward facing blooms, and though they are not fragrant, they do come in bright colors that will light up your early summer garden. All are hardy in zones 4 to 9.

The next lilies to bloom are LA Hybrids. These trumpet-shaped lilies are a cross between fragrant Easter lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*) and colorful Asiatics. Choose from an array of rich colors including cream, pink, yellow, orange and red. Hardy in zones 4 to 9.

The dainty blossoms of turk's cap lilies open in early summer. Also known as Martagon lilies, these flowers have recurved petals and look like they are dangling from an upside-down candelabra. Hardy in zones 3 to 9, these lilies prefer partially shaded gardens and woodland edges.

Trumpet lilies steal the show in midsummer. Like their close relative the Easter lily, these big, outward-facing blossoms have long trumpets and are wonderfully fragrant. Hardy in zones 4 to 9.

Another group of midsummer lilies are the Oriental-Asiatic (OA) hybrids. These have the compact height and outward facing flowers of Asiatics and the larger flowers and heady fragrance of Orientals. Look for the variety Kaveri, which has golden yellow petals touched with tangerine and burgundy. Hardy in zones 4 to 9.

Species lilies have downward facing flowers with reflexed petals and extra-long stamens. Bloom times vary. Lady Alice (*Lilium henryi*) and coral lilies (*Lilium pumilum*) flower a full month before tiger lilies (*Lilium lancifolium*). The latter are treasured for their big orange flowers and prominent black spots. Over time, tiger lilies form impressive clumps, with towering, 4-foot stems. Hardy in zones 3 to 9.

Oriental-Trumpet (OT) lilies are hybrids with fragrant, upward-facing flowers that can measure 9" across. Colors range from maroon and rose pink through gold and cream. The cool yellow flowers of Yelloween make this OT lily a favorite among florists. Hardy in zones 4 to 9.

The lily season ends with a bang, when the Oriental lilies begin to bloom. These big, open-faced flowers have a spicy fragrance that can perfume an entire garden. A wide range of colors, including the popular variety Stargazer, invites lots of creative pairings in the garden and in a vase. Hardy in zones 5 to 9.

Now is the time to order your lily bulbs. The earlier you shop the more choices you'll have. To get your lilies off to a great start, read 8 Tips for Growing Better Lilies, available from Longfield Gardens (longfield-gardens.com). Lily bulbs planted this spring will flower this summer and return to bloom again for years to come.



PHOTO COURTESY LONGFIELD-GARDENS.COM

Kaveri Lily

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook*. She hosts *The Great Courses* How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone DVD set and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio segments. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Bonnie Plants* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.

Yumi from A2

dren's Art for Recovery, Empowerment and Strength. This art therapy program is the first of its kind in Maryland and represents Mrs. Hogan's passion for helping children in the hospital heal through art. In addition to this award from The Daily Record, the First Lady has received a number of awards and recognitions that highlight her contributions to the State of Maryland and the Asian-

American community. These include a 2016 Inspirational Leader Award from the International Leadership Foundation, which recognized her as a trailblazing political and community leader and a role model to the Asian-Pacific American community, and a 2017 Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) in recognition of her accomplishments in leadership and inspired service to the state and nation.

WATER SAVINGS

The average Marylander uses 100 gallons of water per day. Here are some easy ways to reduce that usage.

- Turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving saves 10 gallons per person/day
- Fix leaky toilets saves 30 – 50 gallons per day/toilet
- Wash only full loads of clothes saves 15 – 45 gallons per load
- Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers saves 12.5 gallons with a water efficient showerhead
- Run dishwasher when full instead of half full saves 5 – 15 gallons per load

source: H2O.org

Prince George's County recognizes as a partner of the Department of the Environment, Public Safety, and Office of Central Services to promote our savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

Calendar of Events

April 5 — April 11, 2018

Mark Jaster: Piccolo's Trunk

Date and time: Thursday, April 5, 2018, 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM
Description: Put aside whatever you expected from mime, and prepare to be enchanted by the playful interaction, light, inclusive humor, and musical wit that is *Piccolo*. This silent, amusing jester engages the audience with skillful movement, live music, and gentle interaction.

Cost: \$5/person
Ages: Recommended for grades Pre-K through 2nd
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: STEAM: Peeps Catapult

Date and time: Friday, April 6, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Peeps™! Peeps! Peeps! Goody, marshmallow Peeps! Create a catapult using a rubber band, spoon, and a pencil, and send those peeps flying!

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Outdoor Tennis

Date and time: Friday, April 6, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Tennis with the stars? Not quite, but you can play tennis under the stars ... in the sky, that is! Compete with your friends to see who is the best player. The overall winner gets a prize.

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Sip & Paint

Date and time: Friday, April 6, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Come participate in this artistic opportunity! Teens will use sparkling cider and pre-drawn canvas to decorate with paint or markers. Don't miss this opportunity to demonstrate your creativity ... and have a little "bubbly" on us!

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Vansville Community Center
6813 Amendale Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Welcome Poster

Date and time: Friday, April 6, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: First impressions mean a lot! Show off your creativity by designing a "welcome" banner or poster to hang near the center's entrance. It will be one of the first things the community notices and welcomes people to the program!

Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Good Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Xtreme Family Fued

Date and time: Friday, April 6, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: "Survey says ... !" Based off of the long-running popular game show, join us and compete with your team to answer the most popular responses to our survey questions. Responses will be based on a survey of 100 people throughout the center.

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Planning Night - Let your Voice be Heard!

Date and time: Saturday, April 7, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Let your voice be heard! Help us plan your activities for June, July, and August. Your input is important to us! We're counting on your ideas to make this experience the very best it can be!

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Shirt and Headband Design

Date and time: Saturday, April 7, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Use your creativity and fashion sense to design your own unique shirt and headband which will be used during the Northern Area Field Day event in May. Show the world who you are ... dazzle 'em!

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Good Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Soccer Skills

Date and time: Saturday, April 7, 2018, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM
Description: Girls versus Boys! Who has the better footwork? Who has the skills to pay the bills? Compete against your friends in a fun, competitive battle of soccer and soccer fundamentals. Who are you riding with ... the boys or girls?

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

Proudly Serving Prince George's County
Since 1932

EARTH TALK ... Risky Rainwear: Outdoor Gear Makers Scramble to Find PFC-Free Alternatives

Dear EarthTalk:

Just when I finally purged my kitchen of non-stick cookware due to the risks posed by Teflon, I now learn that my rain jacket and waterproof boots are also putting my health at risk from exposure to similar "hydrophobic" chemicals. What's a concerned outdoors person to do about staying dry and comfortable on a rainy hike?

—Alex Walker, Philadelphia, PA

Most of us remember when GORE-Tex first appeared and revolutionized outdoor clothing and gear by infusing products with a waterproof treatment that could also "breathe" so we wouldn't get clammy on the inside as our outerwear repelled the elements. Since then, this synthetic chemical-based weatherproofing has become ubiquitous throughout the outdoor industry, not only in jackets, but also in boots and shoes, backpacks, tents, swimsuits and just about everything else that gets exposed to the wet and wild.

And while we've all been happily making our way through the rain and snow, we might not have realized that there is a dark underbelly to all of this weatherproof outdoor gear: perfluorinated compounds (PFCs). These synthetic chemicals are related to the "hydrophobic" PFOA formulations that make non-stick cookware easy to clean by en-

couraging liquids to bead up and roll away. And like their chemical cousins on cookware, the PFCs in your jacket could be making you sick and polluting the environment.

"PFCs are environmentally hazardous substances, which are persistent in the environment," reports Greenpeace, which launched its Detox Outdoor campaign in 2012 to convince outdoor gear makers to stop using toxic chemicals in their products. "Studies show that some PFCs can accumulate in living organisms such as the livers of polar bears in the Arctic and are also detected in human blood." Meanwhile, animal studies indicate that PFCs can harm reproductive processes, negatively impact hormonal balances and promote the growth of tumors.

Once released into the environment PFCs break down very slowly. They remain in the environment for several hundred years and are dispersed over the entire globe. Some are found in secluded mountain lakes or accumulated in wildlife. Some are also found in human blood.

If you have waterproof shoes or a rain jacket that is more than a year or two old, chances are it was treated with a PFC-laced Durable Water Repellent (DWR) finish before it left the factory—and could be leaching trace amounts of these toxic carcinogenic chemicals into your body and the environment. And PFCs never break down entirely,



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

Fjällräven doesn't use any PFCs in the waterproof treatment of its Keb Eco-Shell Jacket or any of its other products.

so they can continue to cause harm indefinitely.

Luckily, given Greenpeace's advocacy and resulting consumer awareness, the majority of gear makers have started to phase out PFCs. Smaller brands including Paramo, Pyua, Rotauf, Fjällräven, R'ADYS and Dannah were the first to commit to PFC-free product lines, but the bigger players are coming around, too. W.L. Gore, Patagonia, The North Face, Marmot, Columbia and others have voluntarily committed to phasing out PFC-based DWR formulations by 2020 per Greenpeace's original ask.



But getting there depends on finding suitable alternatives. Many companies have temporarily switched to less toxic while still fluorocarbon-based DWR formulations while they look for greener formulations. For its part, Patagonia is bet-

ting big through its corporate investment fund Tin Shed Ventures on Switzerland-based start-up Beyond Surface Technologies, a company founded in 2008 by scientists who left careers at big chemical companies to make DWR-like textile treatments using natural raw materials.

CONTACTS: Greenpeace Detox Outdoor Campaign, detox-outdoor.org; Tin Shed Ventures, tinshedventures.com; Beyond Surface Technologies, www.beyondst.com.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - **The Environmental Magazine** (www.emagazine.com). **Send questions to:** earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Columbia Association Youth and Teen Center in collaboration with the Jacaranda Center for Family & Youth Development, Inc. present

Family Matters Dinner Workshop Series

Rethinking Summer!

Getting your child through summer without learning loss.


Summer is synonymous with family, friends, outdoor fun and games and travel. Summer time is also a great time to reinforce academic skills and prepare children for the next grade.

Parents, guardians and grandparents are invited to join us for us for this interactive workshop that will prepare you for a fun, yet instructive and stress-free summer.

Experts will provide parents with the tools, strategies and resources to develop a summer learning plan that promotes academic success and social-emotional development. Parents and guardians of elementary, middle and high school students are welcome.

May 2, 2018 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Information | Resources | Prizes



Youth & Teen Center 5853 Robert Oliver Place Columbia, MD 21045	Cost: \$20.00 To register visit www.thejacarandacenter.org	Dinner Workshop Bring Your Own Brown Bag or Take Out Dinner
--	---	---

The Jacaranda Center for Family and Youth Development, Inc.
For more information contact (410) 978-1859
info@thejacarandacenter.org
Stengthening Families One Household at a Time