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PHOTO CREDIT: PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Member Derrick L. Davis and Vice Chair Todd M. Turner join Lidl Bowie Store representatives at the grand opening of the newest store in Prince George's County and the first in Maryland.

Council Member Davis Celebrates Progress in Prince George's County During Lidl Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Bowie Location is Company's First in Maryland

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (September 14, 2018)—Prince George's County Council Member Derrick L. Davis (D)—District 6, joined colleague Vice-Chair Todd Turner (D)—District 4, County Government officials, community partners, and County residents to celebrate the grand opening of the new Lidl grocery store in Bowie, on Wednesday, September 12, 2018.

The new store is in District 6, at 13401 Annapolis Road, the former site of Melvin Motors. The Bowie Lidl's is the company's first grocery store location in the state of Maryland.

Remarking that he already had his family's shopping list in

hand, Council Member Davis, welcomed Prince George's County's newest grocer and community partner.

"I am pleased to celebrate great news for shoppers and for economic development in our community. Lidl brings new jobs for our residents and enhances our County's commercial footprint! We are not just opening a new store, but we are also opening a new investment in our community and in the residents who will shop here every day."

Vice Chair Turner, whose district borders the portion of Bowie located in District 6, and Council Member Davis, cut the ribbon on the new Bowie store, open Monday through Sunday, 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Lidl, based in Germany, with U.S. headquarters in Arlington County, Virginia, operates 10,500 stores in 28 countries with plans to open multiple U.S. locations.

Council Member Todd M. Turner and District 4 Residents Prepare As Long-Awaited Highway Improvements Begin

Forest Drive Intersection Safety Project Will Improve Traffic Flow and Enhance Safety on MD 3 in Bowie

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Prince George's County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (Monday, September 10, 2018)—Council Member Todd M. Turner (D)—District 4, and City of Bowie residents are preparing for traffic changes and reduced speed limits as the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) begins improvements to MD 3 (Crain Highway) between Forest Drive and Sylvan Drive in Bowie. The \$2.9 million Forest Drive Safety Improvement Project will be completed in the fall of 2019.

Council Member Turner encourages drivers and pedestrians to use caution in work zones as the road improvements get underway.

"The Forest Drive Intersection Safety Improvement Project is the result of strong advocacy by the City of Bowie, 23rd State legislative officials and Bowie residents. We are glad to see these long-awaited road improvements begin," said Council Member Turner. "Transportation plays a critical role in our quality of life and when completed, these improvements will go a long way to ensure that residents can travel more safely and efficiently. I encourage the patience of residents, and ask that we are all mindful of the reduced speed limits and the safety of highway workers as this project gets underway."

According to MDOT SHA, the project will increase the turning radius at the southbound MD 3-Forest Drive intersection; extend acceleration and deceleration lanes using the outside shoulder of southbound MD 3; provide right-in/right-out access to Forest Drive and left-in only access to the median crossover; and provide a marked bicycle lane on southbound MD 3. Additionally, drainage inlets and storm water management facilities will be updated and all travel lanes will be patched, milled and restriped.

MDOT SHA will also address lighting outages along Route 301 surrounding Ball Park and Heritage roads. Street light outages on the southbound ramp to US301 and the eastbound ramp to US 50 will also be repaired. Work is scheduled to begin in September. For real-time traffic conditions, visit www.md511.org.

Ellicott City Mitigation Plan Met With Flood of Opinions

By HOWARD R. FLETCHER
Capital News Service

ELLICOTT CITY, MD (Sept 13, 2018)—Opinions are flowing in divergent directions over a five-year flood mitigation plan for Ellicott City, Maryland, that Howard County officials announced last week.

The county's proposal includes razing a row of 10 tall, brick row buildings dating to the 1800s along the south side of Main Street, the path of the most damaging flood water. An estimated seven homes in the West End of the city could also be razed.

County officials see the plan as their best option to save lives and prevent further flood damage.

Some residents and historic preservationists are concerned that the plan goes too far and has been pushed through too quickly. Others say it's long overdue.

Extensive rainfall on May 27, 2018, caused catastrophic flooding throughout Howard County; one person died in Ellicott City, where the downtown was quickly overtaken by flood waters.

Three people died there in a similar flash flood on July 30, 2016.

There are two primary elements to the county's new mitigation strategy: first, to retain more water higher up in the watershed; and second, expand the

floodplain throughout the town so that the destructive force of the water is lessened.

The county's recommendation to remove the buildings is "a core component that would address the most immediate life safety threat on the town's lower Main Street within one year," according to the plan.

"We believe this plan is the best way to save lives," Howard County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Phil Nichols told Capital News Service.

Nichols and Mark DeLuca, deputy director of Howard County's Department of Public Works, presented the flood mitigation proposal to a Howard County Historic Preservation Commission meeting last week in Ellicott City.

Howard County's chosen plan is called the Expanded Stream Channel Model. <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=A3KL4ZSavCg%3d&portalid=0>

The county's plan presentation was preliminary, aimed at getting feedback, according to county officials.

"The master plan and any proposed removal of structures within the Historic District require the Historic Preservation Commission to review," according to the proposal.

The commission must grant a Certificate of Approval before Howard County can proceed with the demoli-

tion, according to the proposal and statements made by officials during the hearing.

The county explored several plans to reroute the stormwater before setting on the proposal to raze buildings, DeLuca said.

The county's recommendation to demolish buildings in the heart of Ellicott City's historic district has evoked a mixture of reactions from county residents, historical preservationists and local business people.

"Saving lives and saving buildings should not be diametrically opposed," Marjorie Valin of Columbia, Maryland, remarked during the public comment portion of the preservation commission meeting.

The new plan had been described by officials as a surgical approach, but it's more like an amputation, Valin told the historic commission.

"I urge you to thoroughly please discuss and analyze treatment options that don't start by cutting the town off at its knees," Valin said.

After the 2016 flood, Howard County hired a civil engineering firm, McCormick Taylor Inc., to "analyze projects suggested by the community, as well as by other engineers, so that all flood mitigation options would receive careful and deliberate review and consideration," according to county documents.

Many people have criticized the fact that the county has been studying the flooding problem for years without action, but now there is a sense of urgency, DeLuca said.



PHOTO BY HOWARD R. FLETCHER/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Caplan's department store is the first in a row of 10 buildings Howard County officials have marked for demolition in their proposed flood mitigation plan (Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2018.)

"We could spend \$80 million, and some areas could be slightly improved, others could be significantly improved ... but in the studies (of alternatives) they always showed an 8-foot wall of water going down lower Main Street," DeLuca told the commission.

The plan is estimated to cost \$40 million to \$50 million, and the county is seeking financial and technical assistance from the state and federal governments, according to the proposal.

It aims to divert Tiber Creek, which in the past two floods had become a river of floating cars, building materials and miscellaneous debris.

However, many historic preservationists feel that the county has not researched the problem thoroughly enough.

"In your bylaws and in preservation,

See **ELLICOTT CITY** Page A8

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Gov. Larry Hogan Authorizes Deployment of Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team to Assist Rescue Efforts in North Carolina

In response to Hurricane Florence, Maryland is opening two pet-friendly shelters to support those who may need a safe place to stay during this storm.

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ChildWatch: The Test of Our Progress

The fact that nearly 1 in 5 children in America lives in poverty is morally and practically unacceptable and economically costly.

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Easterseals and Lourie Center Selected as Early Head Start and Head Start Grantees

These awards will enable more than 400 children to attend Head Start (3-5 years) and Early Head Start (0-3 years) programs at no cost. Easterseals will serve children living in southern Prince George's County...

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review: The Meg

Directed by high-octane schlock maven Jon Turteltaub, *The Meg* offers well-executed shark thrills in which the characters you'd expect to get eaten get eaten, but the downtime between those sequences is slow and serious.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that the Monarch Butterfly is on the brink of extinction? How did we let that happen?

—Alex Degeneres, Cincinnati, OH

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

with Mary McHale will return October 4, 2018

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-888-2153

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University Alumni of the Bowie Metropolitan Chapter welcomed hundreds of Cyclists of all ages at the 4th Annual Bike Tour that was held on Saturday, September 8 from the university campus. Last year more than 250 cyclists from around the region including alumni and students participated in the fundraiser supporting student scholarships and local charities. Again, this year, Bowie State University President Aminta H. Breaux lead off the cyclists as they took off on challenging and scenic routes through Prince George's and Arundel counties. Cindy Jackson, president of the Bowie Metropolitan Alumni Chapter stated that "we first started this event in 2015 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Bowie State and were blown away by the success. It has continued to maintain its stride ever since."

CRAB FEAST

Join us Sunday, September 30, 2018 from 2:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. for an "ALL YOU CAN EAT" CRAB FEAST at St. Phillip's Church Hall 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland. Food will include fried chicken, hot dogs, bake beans, corn on the cob, iced tea, and soda. Event is sponsored by the Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship Memorial Fund, Inc.

Tickets cost \$55.00 in advance, \$65.00 at door. For information or tickets please call Michele Chase (240-882-3369), Vivian Rich (804-301-9530), Shirley Cleaves (302-690-4260), or Ruby Hinnant (301-943-2816).

CHURCH ANNUAL REVIVAL

Clinton United Methodist Church Annual Revival sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry will be on Friday, September 21st through Sunday, September 23, 2018. Our theme this year is "Refreshing God's Household", and our scripture is taken from Acts 3:17–21. Our church address is 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Office: 301-868-1281. Website: <http://cumcmd.org/> e-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net. Pastor is Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman.

Our guest preacher for Friday, September 21st, at 7:00 p.m. will be Minister James Smith, of the Springs of Living Water Ministries, La Plata, Maryland and the Young Adults of Clinton will render the music. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, September 22, at 5:30 p.m. will be our Annual Revival Praise Service featuring the Men's Choir of Clinton UM Church, TAGE on Steel from First U.M. Church, Hyattsville, Maryland, Norwood Royster, soloist from Prince of Peace, Beltsville, Maryland, Psalm 150, Liturgical Dance group from Ward Memorial AME Church, Washington, DC. Refreshments will be served following the praise service.

On Sunday, our guest preachers will be Rev. Bryant Fleet of Patuxent and Plum Point UM Churches, Calvert County, Maryland at 8:00 a.m. There will also be a guest preacher at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. A meal will be served after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Around the County

Free HIV Testing Available in Recognition of National Gay/Bisexual HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

By PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, MD (September 7, 2018)—The Prince George's County Health Department will provide free HIV testing in support of National Gay/Bisexual HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Prince George's County is partnering with Us Helping Us, People Into Living Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1985 in response to the national AIDS epidemic.

National Gay/Bisexual HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, observed each year on September 27, is a national day of action where a network of public and private partners join forces to increase knowledge, raise awareness and confront the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, while promoting actions to stop the spread of the disease. It is also an opportunity to promote and provide testing and encourage the importance of knowing your status.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV testing as part of routine health care. In the United States, there are more than 1.1 million people living with HIV. It's estimated that number in Prince George's County is about 7,500, with an additional 1,400 residents living with undiagnosed HIV.

This year, free HIV testing will be available at Us Helping Us located at 8240 Professional Place, Landover, Maryland, 20785 on the following days:

- Monday, September 24, 5 p.m.–9 p.m.
- Thursday, September 27, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

The event is open to the public. For additional information about National Gay/Bisexual HIV/AIDS Awareness Day activities, call 301-583-3700 or 202-446-1101.

At BSU Convocation, Dior Ginyard ('11) Inspires Students to Find Strength to Achieve Success

New Freshman Students Officially Inducted into BSU Community

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie State University

BOWIE, MD (September 12, 2018)—Bowie State University graduate Dior Ginyard ('11) urged new students to find the strength to overcome obstacles to achieve greatness during his keynote address at the Fall Matriculation Convocation, sharing with them his battle back to health after a traumatic brain injury.

A 2018 Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, Ginyard works with current NFL players to help prepare them for life after football as a senior player manager with the NFL Players Association. But he did not always envision that his life would turn out like that.

Quoting a recent Nike slogan, "It's only a crazy dream until you do it," Ginyard described his journey from wanting to play in the NFL to working with NFL players to prepare them for life after football. After he experienced a severe brain injury while playing football with friends, he spent months in recovery.

"It's very easy at the crossroads of life to use all the negative connotations to say to yourself, 'I'm not going to be anything. Look what the world says about someone like me,'" said Ginyard. "I had to come to a point in life to I had to accept what got me here. I knew that my dream of making it to the NFL was gone, but I had the opportunity to write a new chapter in my life."

He used his personal tragedy to motivate himself to continue to pursue his education and create new dreams for success. After transferring to Bowie State, Ginyard applied himself to his studies, eventually achieving his new dream and finding success working with NFL players.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Dior Ginyard

As part of the traditional Fall Matriculation Convocation program, the new freshman class processed into the ceremony to be formally inducted into the university community. The new class of student leaders also complete their oath of service. In his remarks, Student Government Association Vice President Corey Fenyo provided a message of inspiration to the freshman class to encourage them to expect challenges and to continue to find the courage to succeed.

"The only thing in the universe that remains the same is change," he said. "Those who adapt persevere. Those who do not merely fade away."

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, cybersecurity, criminal justice, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit www.bowiestate.edu.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt Governor Boyd Rutherford with volunteers before 2018 Day to Serve Kick-Off at Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET). Volunteers from the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, Home Depot, Mission BBQ, Que Technology, Maryland Department of General Services, Maryland Department of Human Services, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of Health, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, Maryland Board of Physicians, United State Army Public Health Center, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints joined students from MCVET to participate in various projects around the facility.

Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford Kicks Off 2018 Day to Serve

By PRESS OFFICE
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 11, 2018)—Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford today joined the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) to help kick off the 2018 Day to Serve initiative in Maryland. Governor Larry Hogan announced Maryland's participation in the 2018 Day to Serve initiative last month, issuing a proclamation declaring September 11–October 10 as Day to Serve month in Maryland. The annual, month-long initiative, which spans across Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and West

Virginia, coincides with the National Day of Service and Remembrance and encourages citizens to choose a day from September 11 to October 10 to serve their community.

"MCVET serves an important role providing housing, education, employment, and benefits counseling, and other important resources to help homeless veterans and veterans in need transition back into our communities, and we are proud to partner with them to kick off this year's Day to Serve," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "As we kick off this year's initiative, we encourage all Marylanders to identify an important issue in their community, find a partner, and pick a Day to Serve."

"MCVET is honored to be presented with the opportunity to kick off Maryland's Day to Serve and be recognized by Governor Hogan for our work supporting thousands of homeless veterans in our community," said Jeffery Kendrick, MCVET Executive Director.

Volunteers participating in today's kick-off event joined MCVET residents to assist in various projects including serving lunch to veterans as well as MCVET facility and grounds maintenance. Today's kick-off also included contributions of supplies and food for volunteers from Home Depot, Mission BBQ, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) Executive Director, Jeffrey Kendrick, guides Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford and Steve McAdams, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives on a tour of the facilities.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join Us
5th Anniversary!

"Purple Light Nights" Lighting Ceremony
Monday, October 1st 6:30 pm
Domestic Violence Has No place In Our Community

County Administration Building
14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Can the News Affect Your Waistline?

Today's headlines often carry an overwhelming amount of bad news. Whether your information is coming from TV news, your local paper, the Internet or conversations with friends, odds are good that most isn't good news.

All that bad news can bring stress that can certainly affect your waistline and other factors in your life. Simply hearing about bad things can raise the levels of anxiety and stress you're experiencing.

When our stress levels increase, it's a natural reaction that we look to things that will comfort us, even if we don't consciously realize we're doing that. And one of the easiest and most common ways to find a little comfort is to reach for some food.

It's called "stress eating" because it feeds an emotional rather than a physical hunger. Food, especially sweet things, triggers emotional and chemical reactions in our bodies that make us feel better. Another negative story out of Washington? I think I need maybe just one more donut.

Stress eating is one of the most common sources of excessive weight gain. And while it may offer a temporary "good" feeling, it also directly affects our health and self-image.

The key to fighting stress eating is to recognize that it's happening to you. Try to analyze why you're eating the next time you reach for a snack. Are you physically hungry, or simply stressed, bored, worried or unhappy?

When it's emotional eating that is adding those extra pounds, try to find other activities to help calm you down without adding calories. Exercise, for example, is one of the best. It not only burns calories and improves muscle tone but also boosts the action of feel-good neurotransmitters in your body. Something as quick and simple as a walk around the block will do the job.

Other substitutes for that unneeded snack can include reading a book, listening to music or talking to a friend. Any activity that helps calm you down without reaching for food is a step in the right direction.

And if you find you really must have a snack, make it a healthy one such as a piece of fruit.

Eating in response to stress is a common but very fixable problem. Often simply becoming aware of stress eating can help in minimizing the problem. If you need help in overcoming stress eating, consider seeking the help of a professional counselor.

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

Sepsis Awareness Month Highlights Leading Cause of Deaths in US Hospitals

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
Maryland Department of Health

BALTIMORE, MD (September 12, 2018)—Governor Larry Hogan has declared September as Sepsis Awareness Month in an effort to help spread awareness of the signs, symptoms, and severity of the illness. Sepsis is a serious and often fatal clinical syndrome that can result from infection. It is a leading cause of deaths in hospitals and preventable deaths in children.

Sepsis affects 1.5 million people each year in the U.S., including approximately 30,000 Maryland residents. Killing more Americans than breast cancer, prostate cancer, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) combined, approximately 250,000 Americans die from sepsis each year. However, the 2017 Sepsis Alliance Annual Awareness survey showed that less than one percent of respondents knew the signs and symptoms of sepsis.

When sepsis is suspected, quick action is vital for improving survival rates. Sepsis can occur in individuals who have an infection, and can occur at home or in a healthcare setting. Marylanders should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of sepsis:

- Shivering, fever, or very cold temperature
- Extreme physical pain or discomfort
- Pale, mottled, or discolored skin
- Sleepiness and difficulty waking, disorientation, or confusion
- "I feel like I might die"
- Shortness of breath, rapid breathing, or elevated heart rate

These signs and symptoms can also be associated with other life-threatening conditions requiring prompt action and medical care. If you or someone that you know is experiencing sepsis, call 911 or visit an emergency department immediately and share that you suspect sepsis.

Sepsis prevention recommendations include:

- Taking steps to prevent infection (by taking care of chronic conditions, getting recommended vaccines, completing prescribed courses of antibiotics, and following up on provider recommendations)
- Practicing good hygiene (through proper hand hygiene, general hygiene, oral hygiene, blood sugar control, and management of medical devices including implantable devices)
- Knowing the symptoms of sepsis and acting quickly if symptoms do not improve or if there is a sudden worsening of symptoms

To learn more about how to protect yourself and your family members from sepsis, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Sepsis Alliance website.

Governor Larry Hogan Authorizes Deployment of Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team to Assist Rescue Efforts in North Carolina

Maryland to Open Shelters for Hurricane Florence Evacuees

By PRESS OFFICE
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 14, 2018)—Governor Larry Hogan has authorized deployment of the Maryland Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (MD-HART) to North Carolina as a measure to assist in rescue efforts from flooding due to Hurricane Florence. Additionally, the governor announced that Maryland will open two shelters for those seeking a safe place to wait out the storm, including potential evacuees coming from states further south.

The MD-HART team consists of two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters with eight crew members and three maintainers from the Maryland Army National Guard, and helicopter search and rescue technicians from Baltimore, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery Counties. The team will depart on Sunday to assist with the recovery effort. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) continues to coordinate Maryland's response and support to affected states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

"As coastal states feel the impact of Hurricane Florence, we are working to ensure that any travelers, evacuees, or Maryland residents seeking shelter have a safe place to stay during the storm, and we also stand ready to assist other states," said Governor Hogan. "This elite team is an excellent example of our state and counties working together to provide support to those in need, and we are proud to have the capability to send the MD-HART to North Carolina."

The MD-HART is able to support multiple missions including vehicle rescues in swift water flood zones, structure rescue through window/door/balcony insertion, and structure rescue form rooftops and confined areas in flood zones, mountain wilderness extractions, tree rescue/extrication, open/land/swift water rescue, and mass rescue capability. This support is delivered through hoist and short-haul capable helicopters. The team is also trained in disaster assessment.

Yesterday (Thursday, September 13), the governor toured the Maryland National Guard Brigadier General William Smallwood Readiness Center in La Plata, Md. In response to Hurricane Florence, Maryland

is opening two pet-friendly shelters to support those who may need a safe place to stay during this storm. The locations are as follows:

University of Maryland College Park
(Ritchie Coliseum)
7950 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

Chesapeake College
Health Professions and Athletics Center
1000 College Circle
Wye Mills, MD 21679

People seeking shelter who have specific questions about shelters in Maryland, or need disaster reunification assistance, should please call 1-888-756-7836.

In October 2016, Governor Hogan authorized the deployment of the MD-HART team to Columbia, South Carolina in response to the flooding from Hurricane Matthew. The team flew more than 19 hours conducting search and rescue and reconnaissance missions.

In addition to the HART team, MEMA is sending a Damage Assessment Team Leader to assist South Carolina.

State of Maryland Launches Redesigned Affordable Rental Housing Locator

MDHousingSearch.org provides free searching and listing for tenants and landlords

By COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

NEW CARROLLTON, MD (September 12, 2018)—Today, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development launched a new version of its free, Web-based affordable rental housing locator, MDHousingSearch.org, the first major redesign of the locator website since its debut in 2008. MDHousingSearch.org enables landlords and property owners to list and advertise their affordable rental units at no cost. Potential tenants receive free access to those listings and can tailor their search for housing to include information on ac-

cessibility, neighborhood amenities, and other features.

"Under Governor Larry Hogan's leadership, the state's investment in affordable rental housing has reached unprecedented levels, creating or preserving more than 15,000 units," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "The other side of that equation is providing easy access to that housing for Marylanders who need it, and this overhaul of MDHousingSearch.org will improve customer service and help more working families, seniors, and individuals with special needs find a safe, decent, and, most importantly, affordable place to call home."

MDHousingSearch.org currently features more than 103,000 housing units reg-

istered statewide, which can be searched free and anonymously. With the redesign, the site will now provide information about affordable units currently under construction, enabling potential tenants to apply for housing in advance. The redesign includes a cleaner, more modern look, as well as mobile-responsiveness.

In addition to online technical support and a toll-free, multilingual call center for customer service, MDHousingSearch.org also provides live webinar trainings upon request for service and property providers, housing and social caseworkers, and agency and property staff. The service features information about local resources for rental, legal, energy, veterans assistance and supportive housing for persons with disabilities. MDHousingSearch.org also features an array of reporting tools for housing professionals assisting with tracking and compliance under programs like the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Maryland Only State to Earn an "A" in First-Ever Rheumatic Disease Report Card

New Report from the American College of Rheumatology Spotlights Maryland's Success in Addressing Access, Affordability and Lifestyle Factors Affecting Rheumatic Disease Care

By PRESS OFFICE
American College of Rheumatology

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND (Sept 5, 2018)—If you are one of the 54 million Americans who are diagnosed with a rheumatic disease like rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, lupus or gout, a new report from the American College of Rheumatology shows just how difficult it can be to live well with these diseases. However, the report also shows that certain states—like Maryland—are leading the way when it comes to efforts to improve access to rheumatic disease care.

Rheumatic Disease Report Card: Raising the Grade on Rheumatology Care in America, is a first-of-its-kind report from the American College of Rheumatology that provides actionable information to healthcare consumers and policymakers in Maryland by answering the question, "How easy is it to live with rheumatic disease in my state?" The report was released during September's Rheumatic Disease Awareness Month and graded each state according to its progress on providing adequate access to rheumatology care, ensuring rheumatic disease care is affordable, and encouraging healthy lifestyle habits that ease the burden of rheumatic disease.

Maryland was the only state to earn an overall grade of "A" in the new report.

"Policymakers seeking to improve their state's score should look to Maryland as an example," said Christopher Mecoli, MD, MHS, a practicing rheumatologist in Baltimore. "Maryland has a high concentration of rheumatologists, a low uninsured rate, laws in place to keep rheumatology care

affordable, and several CDC-funded arthritis intervention programs operating in the state, including those offered by the YMCA and the National Recreation and Parks Association."

Rheumatic diseases are painful autoimmune and inflammatory diseases that cause the immune system to attack a person's joints, muscles, bones, and organs. There are more than 100 types of rheumatic diseases, including the more commonly known diseases of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and gout.

One in four Americans are diagnosed with a rheumatic disease, and a recent academic study suggested that the number of Americans living with rheumatic disease may be as high as 91 million when taking into account reported symptoms of undiagnosed individuals.

The prevalence and cost of rheumatic diseases represent a growing public health crisis. As the nation's leading cause of disability, rheumatic diseases generate more than \$140 billion in medical costs each year in the U.S.—surpassing the annual medical costs of cancer care.

Across America, millions of people living with rheumatic diseases struggle to afford their prescription medications and access specialized healthcare. Many states have weak laws that limit harmful insurer practices, a severe shortage of rheumatologists, and high rates of uninsured residents, including several with uninsured rates in the double digits. Even in states where patients have access to specialized care, it is not uncommon for patients to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket just to get the therapies they need. For example, few states have strong laws that prevent

predatory middlemen called pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from employing secretive pricing practices that drive up costs for patients.

"Rheumatic diseases can be debilitating—but they don't have to be," said Mecoli. "We all have the power to turn the tide on this public health crisis by taking steps to raise the grade on rheumatic disease care. This report card from the American College of Rheumatology is an opportunity for Marylanders to advocate for themselves and their loved ones by raising awareness and encouraging policymakers to continue enacting policies that improve rheumatic disease care access and affordability in Maryland and across the country."

To view the Rheumatic Disease Report Card, please visit SimpleTasks.org/ReportCard.

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) is the nation's leading advocacy organization for the rheumatology care community, representing more than 7,700 U.S. rheumatologists and rheumatology health professionals who are committed to improving healthcare for Americans living with rheumatic diseases.

The American College of Rheumatology's (ACR) Simple Tasks campaign aims to raise awareness about rheumatic diseases and their impact, highlight the healthcare policy issues that affect patients' ability to access high-quality care, and provide education and resources to rheumatology patients to help them live well with rheumatic disease.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

The Test of Our Progress

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

These words are from President Franklin Roosevelt's second inaugural address given January 20, 1937. The President was speaking to a nation crawling out of the Great Depression. Progress had been made but President Roosevelt knew a great nation was still capable of so much more. Below is what preceded that passage:

"[H]ere is the challenge to our democracy: In this nation I see tens of millions of its citizens—a substantial part of its whole population—who at this very moment are denied the greater part of what the very lowest standards of today call the necessities of life.

I see millions of families trying to live on incomes so meager that the pall of family disaster hangs over them day by day.

I see millions whose daily lives in city and on farm continue under conditions labeled indecent by a so-called polite society half a century ago.

I see millions denied education, recreation, and the opportunity to better their lot and the lot of their children. ...

It is not in despair that I paint you that picture. I paint it for you in hope—because the Nation, seeing and understanding the injustice in it, proposes to paint it out. We are determined to make

every American citizen the subject of his country's interest and concern; and we will never regard any faithful law-abiding group within our borders as superfluous."

We are facing another test of our moral progress today—and we are failing. U.S. Census Bureau figures for 2017 released this week show nearly 1 in 5 children in America still lives in poverty making them the poorest age group in our country. Almost one-third of the 39.7 million poor people in the United States are children. While the data show a slight reduction in child poverty in 2017 compared to 2016, the number of poor children—12.8 million, 17.5 percent of all children—remains indecently high. And though unemployment numbers continue to fall, these gains have not kept families and children out of poverty. More than 70 percent of poor children come from working families who often face low and stagnant wages.

The fact that nearly 1 in 5 children in America lives in poverty is morally and practically unacceptable and economically costly. That our youngest children are the poorest group of children during their years of greatest brain development is a shameful indictment of our values and our common sense given our very wealthy nation's failure to invest in our vulnerable young. More than 1 in 5 children under six are poor in 20 states and the District of Columbia. More than two-

thirds of poor children are children of color who will soon be a majority of our child population responsible for supporting our increasingly aging population into the future. Only five states have Black child poverty rates under 20 percent.

How shockingly wrong-headed, immoral and costly it is that as they learn 12.8 million children are struggling to grow up in poverty, the Trump Administration and Republican controlled Congress propose to throw money at non-needy millionaires and billionaires over babies. In 2017 the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act gave massive tax cuts to billionaires, millionaires and powerful corporations at the expense of the majority of taxpayers and children at a cost of \$1.9 trillion over the next 11 years. To fill this huge deficit hole, the Trump Administration and Republican leaders in Congress have threatened cuts to critical investments in child health, nutrition, housing and education.

This very week, House Republicans introduced their Tax Plan 2.0 that would again reward the wealthy and continue to increase already indefensible inequality. If enacted it would permanently extend the 2017 tax law's individual provisions slated to expire after 2025 that benefit the top one percent of households twice as much as those in the bottom 60 percent. Initial estimates indicate Tax Plan 2.0 would add around \$3 trillion more to the originally projected \$1.9 trillion deficit in the first 10 years after the individual provisions become permanent. And with significantly higher projected deficits the threat remains that the Trump White House will continue to propose debilitating cuts to starve survival programs poor children and their families desperately need to buy groceries, see the doctor and find a safe affordable place to live in order to pay for huge tax breaks for wealthy corporations and individuals. Has our nation completely lost all sense of decency and justice?

Babies' survival needs should trump billionaires' and millionaires' greed. Our children's present and future lives are too valuable to let these

profoundly unjust practices continue. This new Tax Plan 2.0 and any additional cuts to key survival programs must be rejected. And every single person in America needs to speak out and mount a campaign to end child poverty now.

How will we test our progress today? Will our President continue to ignore the 12.8 million poor children and their families? How many Congressional leaders will stand up for those who have too little – or will they join the frenzied Republican leadership attempts to give more permanent tax breaks to those who have too much?

The recent Census Bureau report shows how key investments can help end child and family poverty. We must provide jobs and decent wages and support investments in child and family basic needs. Supplemental Poverty Measure data which expand on the Official Poverty Measure by including the impact of some government and other programs on family resources show that in 2017 millions of children were lifted above the poverty line by the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other refundable credits (4.5 million), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (1.5 million), the National School Lunch Program (722,000), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (156,000), housing subsidies (897,000), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program (472,000), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and general assistance (296,000).

We can and must provide enough for our young who have too little instead of padding the pockets of millionaires and billionaires who have far more than their fair share of public welfare. No child in our nation should live in poverty. Shielding children from the lifelong consequences of poverty will improve child lives now and reduce future child poverty. We have all the resources and know how to end child poverty and cannot wait. Our children's and nation's future depend on acting right now.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Making Their Mark: Senators Booker and Harris Stand for Justice

"Gentlemen, I have always been persuaded that the stability and success of the National Government, and consequently the happiness of the People of the United States, would depend in a considerable degree on the Interpretation and Execution of its Laws. In my opinion, therefore, it is important that the Judiciary System should not only be independent in its operations, but as perfect as possible in its formation."

— President George Washington, From George Washington to the United States Supreme Court, April 3, 1790

After four contentious days of testimony, one thing is absolutely clear from the Senate confirmation hearing for President Donald Trump's hand-picked Supreme Court nominee: there is no love lost between Senate Democrats and Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

Democrats were combative, and in some cases, defiant, as Kavanaugh's high-stakes confirmation hearing played out for the American public to see. Trump's nominee could drastically remake the court, cementing a conservative ideological balance that would affect many of the rights and fundamental liberties many Americans take for granted for generations to come.

Senators Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California were particularly forceful in their exchanges with Kavanaugh—and given what's at stake for our nation—rightfully so.

Sen. Harris interrupted the opening hearings over the loud objections of Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, demanding a postponement, especially in light of Republican's releasing over 40,000 pages of documents on Kavanaugh's time in the Bush White House the night before the start of the hearings. As Sen. Harris noted, given

the time and sheer volume of documents, the confirmation process needed to be delayed. But despite Sen. Harris' commonsense objection, the Republicans decided the show much go on.

Documents became a running theme in the Democrats' resistance to Kavanaugh's nomination. In a break with protocol, Sen. Booker released a trove of emails Republicans wanted to keep secret, arguing that there was no reason for them to be marked confidential. Republicans roundly dismissed Sen. Booker's attempt to shed further light on Kavanaugh, a potential lifetime appointee to the Supreme Court, as "theatrics." Senator John Cornyn, a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, framed Sen. Booker's document release as grandstanding, saying that, "Running for president is no excuse for violating the rules of the Senate or of confidentiality of the documents that we are privy to."

Whether the questioning was difficult, such as the exchanges between Kavanaugh and Sen. Harris on Robert Mueller or a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions; or the document was salient to understanding how Kavanaugh might rule as a Supreme Court justice, such as Sen. Booker's release of an email previously marked confidential entitled, "racial profiling," Republicans distilled any attempt by Democrats to provide the American public with more information than Republicans were willing to provide down to cheap political posturing.

No matter where you may fall on the motivations of either senator, or any senator on the op-

posite side of the aisle, there was a concerted effort to provide their constituents and their nation with as much information as possible on Kavanaugh, because, ultimately, this nomination has been nothing if not rushed and utterly devoid of meaningful vetting.

Republicans, who currently have a 51-49 majority in the Senate and do not require a single vote from Senate Democrats to confirm Kavanaugh, are sharing as little as possible about Trump's nominee. According to CNN, Kavanaugh has "the lowest level of support for a Supreme Court nominee since Robert Bork, whose nomination was rejected by the Senate in 1987." Rather than worry about shoring up the public's confidence in our nation's highest court, Republicans are worried that the more we know, the less likelier the chance of a consequence-free Kavanaugh confirmation.

If you are troubled by what hangs in the balance—a woman's right to choose, a citizen's constitutional right to vote, a consenting couples' right to marry, the limits of executive power, addressing climate change, and more—call your senators immediately at 202-224-3121 and tell them that you expect them to either vote "no" on Kavanaugh, or vote "yes" at grave professional risk.

Confirmation of Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court would represent a grave subversion of the will of the people, and the utter abandonment of the Senate's duty to advise and consent. We cannot allow such an abuse of power to go unchecked.

Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



Statement on the Appointment of Dr. Leana Wen as the New President Of Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON, DC (September 12, 2018)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today on the announcement that Dr. Leana Wen, Health Commissioner for Baltimore City, has been named the new President of Planned Parenthood:

"I join in congratulating Dr. Leana Wen on becoming the new president of Planned Parenthood. She has done an outstanding job in Baltimore as an advocate for public health and overseeing programs serving the most vulnerable populations in the city. She successfully took on the Trump Administration in court after it tried to rescind federal funding for preventing teen pregnancy and fought to keep clinics serving low-income families open. Planned Parenthood

is fortunate to have her at the helm during this critical time in its history, as the organization continues to help lead the fight for women to have access to the full range of health care options, including reproductive care.

"Planned Parenthood plays a crucial role in providing care to women and their families in communities across the country, and I will continue to stand up for its funding and the safety of its patients, physicians, and staff. I look forward to working with Dr. Wen to ensure that Congress recognizes the organization's important work and does not impede its ability to provide these critical services wherever they are needed. I thank outgoing president Cecile Richards again for her years of service."

The Prince George's Post



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Do you have news or events to share? We'd love to hear from you!

**Email the editor at
 pgpost@gmail.com**

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Should I take Social Security at 62?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: My husband took an early retirement at age 62, and I will be turning 62 next year. I am having some health issues and I'm thinking about taking an early retirement. Is this a good idea?
Signed: Uncertain what to do

Dear Uncertain: That's a difficult question to answer with so little information, but I'll try to give you some pointers, which may help you decide. In choosing when to start your Social Security benefits you should always look at several things, including how badly you need the money now, your current health and how long you expect to live. If you take your Social Security benefits when you are 62, the monthly amount you receive will be 27.5% lower than you would get at your full retirement age of 66 1/2. But if your current health issues mean that you must stop working and lose income you rely upon to make ends meet, then taking your benefits at age 62 will give you some badly needed financial relief.

The fact is that Social Security was designed to pay about the same total amount of money whether you claim early or wait until your full retirement age. However, whether you actually get the same total amount in either case depends upon you living long enough to break even. Most analyses I've done reveal that if you wait and take your benefits at age 66 you'll need to live until you are about 78 to collect the same amount of money you would have gotten if you claimed at age 62. If you live longer than your break-even age, you'll have collected more in cumulative benefits by waiting until your full retirement age to apply.

Another thing I suggest you consider is that by applying for Social Security benefits at age 62, you will be automatically deemed to be filing for both your own benefit and any spousal benefit you may be due from your husband's record. A lower earning spouse is entitled to a "spousal boost" from the other spouse's record, but only if that spousal benefit will be higher than they are entitled to on their own work record. At full retirement age (FRA) a lower earning spouse can get 50% of the higher earning spouse's "primary insurance amount" (or "PIA", what the 2nd spouse was entitled to at their FRA). But you only get that 50% if you have reached your full retirement age; if you take it earlier than that, for example at age 62, the spousal benefit will be cut to as little as 32.5% of the higher earning spouse's FRA benefit amount. So, is it a good idea to take your Social Security benefits at age 62? Again, it depends upon your health, financial status and your expected longevity. If you apply early, your payments are smaller, but you get more of them; if you wait to apply your payments are larger but you get fewer of them. Unless, of course, you live to a ripe old age, in which case the larger monthly payment you get by waiting will undoubtedly come in handy when you're older and your total cumulative benefits will be more. But all of that doesn't matter if your current health and financial status mean you need the money now. It's a choice only you can make.

And here are a couple of final thoughts: If you continue working while collecting early benefits you'll be subject to Social Security's annual earnings limit (\$17,040 for 2018). But if your current health issues are severe enough that you can't continue working, you may want to consider applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. If approved, SSDI benefits would be based upon your FRA benefit amount, resulting in a higher benefit at an earlier age. And you can file for both early retirement benefits and SSDI at the same time, which would allow you to collect benefits earlier while your SSDI application is being considered.

The Association of Mature American Citizens (A.M.A.C.), <https://www.amac.us>, is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the A.M.A.C. Foundation's Social Security advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security advisors program of the National Social Security association, LLC (NSSA), the A.M.A.C. 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 A.M.A.C. 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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org, or visit the Foundation's website at www.amacfoundation.org.

Christmas in April ★ Prince George's County

ATTENTION GOLFERS!

Christmas in April needs you!!

Help us Celebrate 30 years in the County!

Andrews Air Force Base, September 24, 2018

All Day at The Courses at AAFB

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 29th Annual Christmas in April★Prince George's County—Susan Mona I John Denison Golf Tournament on **September 24, 2018**, at the Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2019 program, which renovates the homes of the elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner. Golfers and sponsors are needed! Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more. Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 80 needy families in 2019.

Please call soon as space is limited.

Easterseals and Lourie Center Selected as Early Head Start and Head Start Grantees

By PRESS OFFICER
Easterseals DC MD VA

SILVER SPRING & ROCKVILLE, MD (September 12, 2018)—Easterseals DC MD VA (Easterseals) and The Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness (Lourie Center) have been selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human (DHHS) Services as the two Head Start grantees for Maryland's Prince George's County. Head Start programs promote school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families and were designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing a comprehensive program to meet children's emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs. These awards will enable more than 400 children to attend Head Start (3–5 years) and Early Head Start (0–3 years) programs at no cost.

Easterseals received a grant of \$18.6 million over 5 years plus \$3.3 million for start-up to serve 218 children annually in a center-based program. They will serve children living in southern Prince George's County, including, among other areas, Capitol Heights, Clinton, District Heights, Eastover, Forest Heights, Forestville, Fort Washington, Glassmanor, Hillcrest Heights, Oxon Hill, Temple Hills, Suitland, and Upper Marlboro.

Easterseals will begin serving children of eligible families on September 4, and its Head Start program will be delivered in partnership with Shine Early Learning, a leading national provider of Head Start service and training. In addition to providing the quality early care and education services that are the basis of Head Start, Easterseals will bring a broad range of support services such as early intervention, health, mental health, and family supports like financial literacy training and nutrition education through its own programming and in partnership with health and human services departments, and other local nonprofits in Prince George's County.

"We are honored to be selected as the provider of this critical program for the southern part of Prince George's County," said Jon Horowitz, President and CEO of Easterseals DC MD VA. "Having pro-

vided early care and education services for underserved children for over 70 years, Easterseals understands that participating in a high-quality child development program creates life-changing opportunities. Easterseals is committed to building a program that ensures that the children we serve—regardless of the challenge of poverty, disability, English as a second language, homelessness, or any other risk factor—are ready to thrive in kindergarten and beyond when they reach school age. This program is an important step in achieving our vision of creating a hopeful, inclusive community where all individuals realize their potential and live meaningful lives."

For more information about the Easterseals Head Start programs, please email headstart@eseal.org.

The Lourie Center was also awarded \$14.9 million over 5 years to provide center-based and home-based Early Head Start/Head Start programs to 200 eligible children annually living in the upper northern communities of Prince George's County, Maryland. This includes communities located in the North County and Central County areas, including Adelphi, Beltsville, Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Mt. Rainier, Hyattsville, College Park, Greenbelt, Landover, Laurel, and Riverdale.

"We are thrilled to have been selected as the Head Start grantee for the upper North and Central communities in Prince George's County. The award enables the Lourie Center to expand our ongoing services as part of Prince George's County's continuum of early childhood care with a focus on comprehensive early childhood development and education, and family engagement. We are especially honored with this award as two of our founders Dr. Reginald S. Lourie and Dr. T. Berry Brazelton were instrumental in establishing Head Start and researching its positive impact on child and family development," said Jimmy Venza, Ph.D., the Center's Executive Director.

The Lourie Center will expand services on October 1 through a seamless Early Head Start and Head Start model serving pregnant women and children birth to five. This program will provide full-day, full-week, and full-year Head

Start center-based and home-based options. Outreach will focus on the needs of teen parents, including pregnant teens, children with disabilities, children with social and emotional challenges, homeless families, and dual language learners.

For more information about the Lourie Center's Head Start Program, please visit <https://www.louriecenter.org>.

Head Start and Early Head Start are federal programs that support the mental, social, and emotional development of children from birth to age 5, and promotes school readiness. Head Start services encourages the role of parents as their children's first and most important teachers, and are responsive to each child and family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage.

Easterseals DC MD VA—For nearly 100 years, Easterseals has been the indispensable resource for children, adults, families and veterans living—and thriving—with disabilities and special needs in DC, Maryland and Virginia. Through the innovative, inclusive and person-centered work we do, we are strengthening our community and changing the way the world defines and views disability. We are committed to making profound, positive differences in the daily lives of the people we serve. Visit www.eseal.org

The Lourie Center for Children's Social & Emotional Wellness is a private, non-profit agency with a mission to improve the social and emotional health of young children and their families through prevention, early intervention, education, research and training. The Center was founded in 1983 by the late Dr. Reginald S. Lourie, a world-wide leader in the fields of pediatric child psychiatry and infant mental health, and his colleagues, including Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and Dr. Stanley Greenspan, as an outgrowth of their six-year clinical research project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. In July 2006, the Center joined Adventist HealthCare, Inc. Impacting more than 4,000 children and families in the Washington metropolitan area, the Center is a pioneer and leader in the field of infant and child mental health. Visit www.louriecenter.org

Practical Money Matters:

Why Might Your Credit Score Be Different Than Your Spouse's?

By HUGH NORTON

Like many others, when my wife and I got married, we decided to intertwine our finances along with the rest of our lives. For most couples, opening joint bank accounts and buying a car or home together is the norm. However, even after decades of living together and leading similar financial lives, spouses may find out their credit scores are different.

There are two primary reasons that your credit scores could be different from someone else's—spouse or not. Either the underlying information in your credit reports is different, or different credit-scoring models are creating the scores.

Marriage and your credit. First, let's quickly clear up a few misconceptions about marriage and credit. There was once a time when your marital status was part of your credit report and being unmarried or divorced could make it more difficult to get a loan or line of credit. That's no longer the case.

Now, your marital status isn't included in determining your credit score. It's illegal for creditors to discriminate based on an applicant's marital status. Since your credit score is entirely dependent on the information in your credit report, your score isn't directly affected by your marital status or your spouse's credit. Your credit also won't change if you

decide to take a new last name, but both names could appear on your report.

Now, to understand how or why you and your spouse may have different scores, there are two main factors to consider: the credit report itself and the scoring model used.

Your credit reports aren't identical. Consumer credit scores depend entirely on the information that's in a person's credit report. Therefore, if you and your spouse have a different score, it could be because there is different information in your respective credit reports.

The differences could be a result of a loan or credit card that you took out individually. Even if you closed a credit card five years ago, it could still be on your credit report and impacting your scores. Unless your spouse was a cosigner on the loan or an authorized user on the credit card, it won't show up on his or her report.

The credit bureaus are competitors and generally don't share information with one another. As a result, your credit reports could be different, and your credit scores could vary depending on which credit report gets used as the basis for the score.

You're looking at different credit scores. In the unlikely event that you and your spouse have identical credit reports,

you could still have different scores depending on the credit-scoring model used.

Similar to the way in which major credit bureaus compete to create accurate credit reports, some companies compete to develop credit-scoring models.

If you're looking at your credit score from Credit Score Company A based on your credit report from Credit Bureau Company A, but your spouse is looking at a their credit score from Credit Score Company B based on his or her credit report from Credit Bureau B, then your scores may be different.

Making the most of your credit scores. Having different credit scores isn't necessarily a cause for concern. It's not even uncommon for one person to have several different scores.

Rather than worrying about who has a higher score, try to learn about and understand the factors that will impact both of your scores. Then you can take steps to improve both of your scores, such as paying bills on time and only using a small portion of your available credit.

When it comes time to apply for a loan or credit card, knowing which of you has a healthier credit history and higher scores could also help

you strategize how to proceed. For example, only one parent needs to apply if you're taking out a federal student loan to help a child pay for school. Although a credit score isn't considered, the applicant's credit history is, and an adverse credit history could disqualify you. Therefore, you may want the parent with the cleaner credit history to apply.

As an additional example, if you're looking to open a new credit card with a 0-percent introductory offer to finance a large purchase, having the spouse with the higher credit score apply could increase the chances for approval.

Bottom Line: Although getting married won't have a direct impact on your credit, couples' financial lives often become intermingled, and each partner's credit could be important to the relationship's finances. Tracking your scores, understanding what can influence your scores and taking steps to improve your scores can put you in position to make informed financial decisions together.

Hugh Norton directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

This article is intended to provide general information and should not be considered health, legal, tax or financial advice. It's always a good idea to consult a tax or financial advisor for specific information on how certain laws apply to your situation and about your individual financial situation.

OUT on the TOWN

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day™

Get a Ticket for Saturday, September 22, 2018!

Museum Day is a one-day event in which participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. Participants are allowed to download one ticket per email address. The ticket provides free general admission on Saturday, September 22, 2018, for two people.

College Park Aviation Museum Museum Day

Museum Day Hours: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Description: At 2 p.m., join us for a free showing of **I Was a Jet Set Stewardess**

In the 1960s, jetliners changed passenger travel forever. They also changed the lives of a few fortunate women. Go back to this golden age of commercial flight, when pilots looked like movie stars, passengers ate seven-course meals in economy, and young, charming stewardesses became the glamorous faces of the industry. Through interviews and anecdotes, we detail the evolution of the “air hostess,” how they became icons for a generation and why the jet set era opened new career horizons that many women could only dream of.

Cost: FREE on Museum Day with a ticket
Location: 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544



CREDIT MICHAEL STEWART

Goddard Visitor Center

Museum Day Hours: 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Description: NASA captures your attention like no other organization. It offers unparalleled experiences, a key to knowledge and a window to the future. Activities, exhibits and events at the Goddard Visitor Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, provide inspiring and captivating educational experiences for all ages. Exhibits: Neighborhood Earth, Science On a Sphere, The James Webb Space Telescope, Solarium, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), Ozone Garden, Goddard Rocket Garden and Astrobiology Walk
Cost: FREE Everyday
Location: 8800 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20771
Contact: 301-286-8981

Laurel Historical Society

Museum closed Saturday; ticket valid Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018
Museum Day Hours: 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Description: The Laurel Museum, home of the Laurel Historical Society, explores the history of the 200-year old community. Built in the 1840s, the building originally housed four millworker families with separate basement kitchens. It opened as a museum in May 1996.

The Laurel Museum produces exhibits that change yearly. The museum also includes an interactive child-friendly area, museum shop, and research library. The Laurel Historical Society holds regular programs and special events.

The Laurel Museum's newest exhibit—We the People: How Civic Engagement Has Shaped Laurel—is a both celebration of Laurel citizens' community involvement and also a call to action. From saving the Laurel railroad station, to the fight for integration of schools, to defeating the proposed Redskin Stadium, the timely exhibit demonstrates how engaged average citizens have shaped and continue to shape the story of our town.

Visitors to exhibit will be asked, “When something is deeply important to you, what can you do to bring about change in your community?” Each section of the exhibit describes an issue of importance to the community.

Another attraction is located on the basement level, Diven's Den is a hands-on history and STEM-inspired interactive area for children and families.

Cost: FREE Everyday
Location: 817 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707
Contact: 301-725-7975

Montpelier Mansion

Museum Day Hours: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Description: Montpelier Mansion is a 1780's National Historic Landmark site, featuring elegant Georgian architecture and furnishings reflecting wealthy early 19th century living, including contributions made by enslaved African-Americans. Visitors enjoying self guided tours see a kitchen exhibit and an elegant plantation home reflecting early 19th century life. Select rooms have been researched and furnished as they would have appeared from the end of the 18th century until 1830. A boxwood-lined pathway runs through the garden to the original 18th century summer house.
Cost: FREE on Museum Day with a ticket
Location: 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Contact: 301-377-7817

Saturday, September 22; the ticket is valid for Sunday, September 23.

Decide which museum you'd like to visit and download a ticket at

www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-2018/

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day Live!

Riversdale House Museum
Museum Day Hours: 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Description: Riversdale is joining museums across the country to open its doors for FREE during this annual event. Check out this neighborhood gem and print the required ticket by visiting <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-2018/>.
Cost: FREE on Museum Day with a ticket
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: 4811 Riverdale Rd., Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

Riversdale was one of the most distinctive homes in the region during the early Federal period. Today, the central portion of the house serves as a museum interpreting the lifestyle of an affluent family. The rental areas include a large carpeted ballroom in late 19th century decor as well as a smaller meeting/banquet room and catering kitchen. Riversdale House Museum and the Museum Shop are open to the public Fridays and Sundays from 12 noon–3:30 pm year round. Admission Adults: \$5/person; Seniors and Groups of 10 or more: \$4/person; Ages 5–18 and Students with ID: \$2/person; Ages 4 & under: Free. Riversdale is available for weddings, receptions, and meetings. For fees and availability, please call 301-864-0420 for more information.

Riversdale House Museum: 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737 • 301-864-0420, TTY: 301-699-2544 • <http://www.pgparcs.com/3023/Riversdale-House-Museum>

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

.... Movie Review

The Meg

The Meg
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13, some profanity,
a lot of action violence, nothing very graphic
1 hr., 53 min.

Like most action movies, *The Meg* begins with its tough-guy hero (who is the best of the best at what he does) performing a mission that goes awry, causing him to blame himself, quit the business, and feel haunted. Then it's a few years later and we're introduced to the scenario that will require Mr. Quitter's expertise, for which he must be stoically dragged out of alcoholic retirement. *The Meg* lays it on extra-thick. Not only is he the ONLY person who can rescue the trapped divers, but the team he's rescuing is led by HIS EX-WIFE!

The Meg also features a giant shark, eventually, but don't hold your breath. Mostly it's about deep-sea diver Jonas Taylor (Jason Statham) trying to redeem himself. He's summoned to an undersea



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

A deep-sea submersible—part of an international undersea observation program—has been attacked by a massive creature, previously thought to be extinct, and now lies disabled at the bottom of the deepest trench in the Pacific ... with its crew trapped inside. With time running out, expert deep sea rescue diver Jonas Taylor (Jason Statham) is recruited by a visionary Chinese oceanographer (Winston Chao), against the wishes of his daughter Suyin (Li Bingbing), to save the crew—and the ocean itself—from this unstoppable threat: a prehistoric 75-foot-long shark known as the Megalodon. What no one could have imagined is that, years before, Taylor had encountered this same terrifying creature. Now, teamed with Suyin, he must confront his fears and risk his own life to save everyone trapped below.

lab 200 miles off the coast of Shanghai, where prickly billionaire Morris (Rainn Wilson) is funding research to the Mariana Trench, testing a theory that the ocean “floor” is actually a layer of hydrogen or something, with more water beneath it. This theory has proven correct, but the submarine capsule exploring it got its power knocked out by a mysterious giant creature and is now stuck in the ocean's basement, the crew running out of air.

Then it's disaster-movie tropes for a while, including a self-sacrificing death by the only character who mentioned having a spouse back home. The rescue mission is accomplished, but wouldn't you know it, the mysterious giant creature that almost killed them down there uses the opportunity to escape up into the regular ocean (where you'd think it couldn't survive, being accustomed to cold water and no sunlight, but whatever). This creature is Megalodon, a 60-to-80-foot prehistoric shark long presumed extinct. It menaces the undersea lab for a while before destroying some ships, leading Jonas and a crew to take a boat out there, *Jaws*-style, to try to kill it. The boat crew includes the usual quirky mix of characters, including the obligatory panicky black guy (Page Kennedy) who says, “None of this was part of the job description!” and the gruff military doctor (Robert Taylor) who blames Jonas for what happened a few years ago and didn't want him brought back for this job but is eventually forced to admit, “You might be a son of a bitch, but you're sure as hell no coward!” Also the ex-wife (Jessica McNamee), a potential new love interest (Bingbing Li), and, why not, a little girl (Shuya Sophia Cai).

Directed by high-octane schlock maven Jon Turteltaub (*National Treasure*, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*), *The Meg* offers well-executed shark thrills in which the characters you'd expect to get eaten get eaten, but the downtime between those sequences is slow and serious. Most of the action, as you've surmised, is out in the deep sea—not nearly as fun a setting for shark shenanigans as the beaches. The movie isn't campy or ridiculous enough to be entertaining for those reasons, though it feints in that direction occasionally (like when Jonas sings “Just Keep Swimming” from *Finding Nemo*). Do they not realize how many movies like this we've seen? Not just the giant shark, but the haunted hero, the ragtag crew, the rich jerk who doesn't respect nature—all of it. We've been here before. The shark is sufficiently large, but if you want to make an impression, everything around it needs to be zippier, shorter, and crazier than this.

Hispanic Heritage Month

2018 AFI Latin American Film Festival Lineup Announced

SILVER SPRING, MD [CapitalWirePR] (September 10, 2018)—The American Film Institute (AFI) announced today the full slate of films for the 2018 AFI Latin American Film Festival, which will take place September 13–October 3 at the historic AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD. Now celebrating its 29th edition, the festival showcases Latin America's prolific and varied filmmaking talent and, with the inclusion of films from Spain and Portugal, celebrates Ibero-American cultural connections during National Hispanic Heritage Month. This year's diverse selection of 43 films range from international festival favorites and award winners to local box-office hits and exciting debuts from a new generation of Latin American filmmakers.

The festival opens with the acclaimed crime saga *Birds Of Passage*, the latest from Colombia's Cristina Gallego and Ciro Guerra (2015's Oscar®-nominated *Embrace Of The Serpent*). A unique take on the mafia epic, the film explores the burgeoning Colombian drug trade of the 1970s, as told through the story of an indigenous Wayúu family. Earlier this year, the film became the first Latin American production ever to open the prestigious Directors' Fortnight sidebar at the Cannes Film Festival.

The Closing Night film, *Ruben Blades Is Not My Name*, is Panamanian director Abner Benaim's intimate look at the life and musical legacy of living Latin American legend Rubén Blades, who spearheaded the New York Salsa revolution in the 1970s, advancing Latinx identity, unity and empowerment on the international stage with his socially conscious interpretation of the art form.

Plan Ahead

Oscar, Emmy Nominated Ruth Carter Comes to Bowie State University

Date and time: Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:30–8 p.m.
Description: Join the VCDMA program at Bowie State University for a panel discussion featuring renowned costume designer Ruth Carter. She has worked on such films as *Selma*, *Malcolm X* and most recently, the blockbuster *Black Panther*. President Aminta Breaux will also present Ms. Carter with a Lifetime Achievement Award. This event is free and open to the public. **Ticket and RSVP required:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-panther-costume-designer-ruth-e-carter-honored-at-bowie-state-tickets-49796082423?ref=eios&aff=eios>
Cost: FREE
Ages: Adults
Location: Recital Hall, Fine and Performing Arts Center (FPAC), Bowie State University, 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: (301) 860-3731

Calendar of Events September 20–September 26, 2018

Pollinator Festival

Date and Time: September 22, 2018, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Celebrate the magnificent pollinators of North America! See biologist and volunteers tag monarch butterflies, and more! No registration necessary. Sponsored by Friends of Patuxent.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract), 230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD 20724
Contact: 301-497-5770

Family Fun Day at Marietta

Date and Time: September 22, 2018, 1 p.m.–6 p.m.
Description: **Rescheduled from July**—Join us for our Family Fun Day, featuring live music, local craft artisans, woodcarving demonstrations as well as face painting and 19th century games for the kids. Our Farmer's Market will be extending their usual hours of 9 a.m.–1 p.m. to be here for the event and our 1813 historic home will be open for timed tours throughout the day. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket, and enjoy a day celebrating where we live.
Cost: FREE, with food and crafts available for purchase
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Marietta Mansion
5626 Bell Station Rd., Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Chesapeake Oyster and Wine Festival

Date and Time: September 22–23, 2018, Noon–6 p.m.
Description: A shucking good time with wine! Taste excellent American and International wines paired perfectly with Chesapeake Bay oysters. Be sure to bring a hearty appetite—there will be an incredible selection of seafood dishes (and plenty of delicious non-seafood dishes).
Cost: \$40 in advance, \$55 Day of; (1 Hour Early Access) \$65 in advance, \$90 Day of
Ages: 21+
Location: National Harbor, 137 National Plaza, National Harbor (Oxon Hill), MD 20745
Contact: <https://oysterwinefest.com>

National Public Lands Day at Greenbelt Park

Date and Time: September 22, 2018, 8:45 a.m.–Noon
Description: Come discover Greenbelt Park and learn about the ten miles of trails, camp in the beautiful outdoors or volunteer to help the park. Volunteers can participate in a trail or campground improvement project. There will be a FREE movie shown in the Sweetgum Picnic Area at night. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the trail projects will begin at 9:00 a.m. **All participants will need to pre-register online:** https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-public-lands-day-needs-you-tickets-48512277528?aff=utm_source%3Ddeb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventname_text.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Greenbelt Park, Sweetgum Picnic Area
6565 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770
Contact: 301-344-3944; <https://www.nps.gov/gree/>

National Parks Free Entrance Days:

National Public Lands Day

Date and Time: September 22, 2018
Description: This year is the 25th anniversary of National Public Lands Day as well as the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System and National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. It's a big year for our public lands! This year's event will focus on restoration and resilience of our public lands. The fee-free day provides a great opportunity to visit a new place or an old favorite, especially one of the national parks that normally charge an entrance fee.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: **Maryland Participating Parks:** Antietam National Battlefield, Assateague Island National Seashore, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, **Fort Washington Park**, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Contact: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/public-lands-day.htm>

Fall Food Truck Frenzy and Family Fun Fest

Date and time: Sunday, September 23, 2018, 12 p.m.–4 p.m.
Description: Food Trucks and Family Fun will be the focus of the day! Listen to music provided by DJ Gully, enjoy a magic show or visit the Wonderful World of Watkins for special prices on the train/carousel and miniature golf. With over 10 food trucks on site, there will be lots of food to choose from!
Cost: FREE; Food, rides and games have a nominal fee.
Ages: All ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

Images of America Book Presentation

Date and Time: September 23, 2018, 3 p.m.–5 p.m.
Description: Aaron Marcavitch will present his new book, *Images of America: US Route 1 Baltimore to Washington, DC* (Arcadia Press, 2018).
Cost: FREE
Location: Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road (Knox Road and Dartmouth Avenue), College Park
Contact: <http://www.cpae.org>, 301-927-3013

Ladies Night: Self Defense Workshop

Date and Time: September 24, 2018, 6 p.m.–6:45 p.m.
Description: This program empowers women by teaching them realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. Course subject matter includes awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, as well as basic hands-on defense training.
Cost: \$15/person
Ages: 16 and older
Location: Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrook Dr., Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-464-1738; TTY 301-699-2544

Fall Trout Stocking Begins in September

Thousands of Trout Heading for Maryland Waters

By PRESS OFFICER

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, MD (September 11, 2018)—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will stock thousands of brown, golden and rainbow trout in select creeks, lakes and rivers from mid-September through the end of October.

Depending on location, anglers can expect this year's trout to range in size from one to 2 pounds.

This year, anglers can also claim bragging rights if they catch some of the larger trophy-sized trout—about 3 pounds—that will also be stocked.

“We really want the fall trout season to be a memorable one,” Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. “Whether you're fishing alone or with friends or family, your fishing trip shouldn't be just about the size of your catch, but about the experience.”

Some stocked streams have seasonal restrictions so anglers should consult the 2018–2019 Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing for all regulations and restrictions.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL EVERSMEIER

Brown trout

Stocking dates, times and locations are chosen based on temperatures, water flow and weather conditions, and are subject to change.

Anglers can sign up to receive daily stocking updates or can call a recorded hotline at 800-688-3467, which is updated every Friday. We also regularly publish stocking information on our website, and social media channels like Facebook and Twitter.

Visit <http://dnr.maryland.gov>

Maryland to Phase Out Hydrofluorocarbons

Maryland joins U.S. Climate Alliance states in reducing potent greenhouse gases

By PRESS OFFICER

MD Department of the Environment

BALTIMORE (Sept. 11, 2018)—Demonstrating the state's commitment to meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals, Maryland will be pursuing measures to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), greenhouse gases that are significantly more potent than carbon dioxide.

The Maryland Department of the Environment will develop regulations to phase out the use of the certain HFCs in foam products and refrigeration. Maryland is joining other U.S. Climate Alliance states in moving to phase out the use of HFCs. This action will help Maryland meet its requirements under the state's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act.

“This is an important and necessary step in our ongoing efforts to reach Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goals,” said Governor Larry Hogan. “Our administration is committed to climate leadership by preventing pollution and partnering with other states, businesses, and advocates to make critical progress toward protecting and preserving our environment.”

“These fast-acting super-pollutants are a major threat to our climate progress and deserve to be phased out at the state and federal level,” said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles.

In moving to phase out HFCs, Maryland is acting in concert with commitments of the U. S. Climate Alliance and other states that are alliance members to reduce climate-harming “super pollutants” such as HFCs. Secretary Grumbles is representing Maryland at the Global Climate Action Summit this week in San Francisco.

Fighting climate change in Maryland

In partnership with members of the Maryland General Assembly, Governor Hogan in 2015 signed legislation to strengthen and expand the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The governor signed into law the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2016, which requires reductions of greenhouse gases in Maryland by 40 percent by 2030—requirements that are among the most aggressive in the country and significantly more stringent than those in the Paris Climate Accord—while continuing to have a net positive effect on both the economy and job creation in Maryland. Earlier this year, Governor Hogan announced Maryland's commitment to participation in the U.S. Climate Alliance.

Maryland is also a member of the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Other recent climate initiatives include an announcement last month that MDE, in conjunction with the Maryland Energy Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation, has devel-

oped a draft spending plan that would invest tens of millions of dollars in settlement money from the Volkswagen “defeat devices” case toward the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the replacement of old, dirty diesel engines with clean diesel engines and other strategies to help improve air quality.

Climate change and hydrofluorocarbons

Under a federal Clean Air Act program designed to identify and evaluate alternatives to stratospheric ozone-depleting substances, HFCs have been one of the most common alternatives. However, HFCs are extremely potent greenhouse gases. One pound of one type of HFC is as potent as as much as 1,400 pounds of carbon dioxide.

After efforts have stalled at the federal level, states have begun their own phase out initiatives. The Maryland Department of the Environment intends to develop regulations similar to those in development in California, which would phase out the use of certain HFCs in foam products and in refrigeration equipment in retail establishments, such as supermarkets. The phase out of HFCs will encourage the use of substances with lower greenhouse gas emissions. Products with alternatives to HFCs are already available. Other states in the United States Climate Alliance are expected to take similar steps.

Earth TALK™

Monarch Butterfly Flutters On the Edge of Extinction

See Calendar of Events for the Pollinator Festival on Sept. 22!

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that the Monarch Butterfly is on the brink of extinction? How did we let that happen?

—Alex Degeneres, Cincinnati, OH

While the mighty Monarch Butterfly may not be on the endangered species list yet, environmentalists think it should be—and have petitioned the federal government accordingly. In a 2016 lawsuit, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety joined forces to successfully sue the fed to force a decision on whether or not to include the quickly vanishing Monarch on the list of endangered species.

According to a recent study published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Biological Conservation*, Monarchs have declined across their usual migratory path in the western United States by some 97 percent in just 35 years. Back in the 1980s, upwards of 10 million Monarchs traversed this flyway annually, whereas only 300,000 or so now make the journey in any given year. Even more troubling, researchers warn that if present trends continue, Western Monarchs face a 72 percent likelihood of going extinct within 20 years and an 86 percent chance of extinction within a half century.

What's causing this massive die-off of the once ubiquitous Monarchs? First off, global warming is wreaking havoc on the butterflies' instinctual triggers to migrate. “Every year, a new generation of these butterflies follows the same path forged by generations before them,” reports David Wolfe of the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). “The only thing guiding them on this migration is temperature telling them when they need to travel—like a biological trigger setting them in flight.”

“But in recent years, the monarch's fall south migration from Canada has been delayed by as much as six weeks due to warmer-than-normal temperatures that failed to trigger the butterflies' instincts to move south,” says Wolfe. “By the time the temperature cooled enough to trigger the migration, it's been too cold in the Midwest and many monarchs died on their trip south.”

Global warming is also causing a massive decline in the Monarchs' food source, the milkweed plant. Traditionally abundant in both native prairie habitats as well as on disturbed lands such as roadsides, ditches, cemeteries and even cornfields, milkweed is quickly becoming scarce due to the widespread application of herbicides to keep weeds down and fast changing seasonal climatic conditions as surface temperatures are rising across latitudes.

What can we do to turn things around for the ailing Monarchs? For starters, plant milkweed. This simple act not only provides vital habitat for migrating Monarchs but also makes a statement regarding what you value for plants—and in life—in your backyard or garden. The hardy plant is easy to find and easy to grow, and if you have it in your backyard keep your eyes peeled for Monarchs, hummingbirds and other wildlife.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently working to plant milkweed across some two million acres of public land along the Monarch's key migration routes. Agricultural landowners can get in on the envi-

ronmentally responsible action by signing onto EDF's innovative Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, which incentivizes farmers in Texas, Missouri and California through market forces to grow milkweed either between other crops or in fields that aren't otherwise in use.



CREDIT: W LAUZON, FLICKRCC

Environmentalists won a lawsuit forcing the federal government to decide by 2019 whether or not to list the once abundant Monarch butterfly as an endangered species.

CONTACTS: “Citizen science monitoring demonstrates dramatic declines of monarch butterflies in western North America,” sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320717304809; Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, www.edf.org/ecosystems/monarch-butterfly-habitat-exchange.

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Have a Safe Weekend

Ellicott City from A1

you know that demolition is the option of last resort after you have exhausted everything, and we are far, far, far from exhausting every option," said Shelley Davies Wygant, a 21-year resident of Ellicott City who has authored two books about the town.

Wygant started a Facebook group called "Let's work to save Historic Ellicott City." The group has over 1,300 members.

On Facebook, the group exchanges and explores other options on how to reduce flooding, while still preserving the historic character of the city, Wygant said.

Elly Colmers Cowan, director of advocacy of Preservation Maryland, a historical preservation non-profit based in Baltimore, also expressed reservations.

"More work is needed to understand the impact of demolition of these historic structures," said Cowan. "The economic, historic and hydrologic impact must be fully understood before an irreversible process begins."

Preservation Maryland is willing to pledge funds to the study and potential planning necessary to explore alternatives to the county's plan, Cowan testified.

James A. Massey of Woodbine, Maryland, a self-proclaimed "lifelong resident of Howard County," who was "born and raised in a house overlooking Main Street," said the newest proposal is long overdue.

"I support the county's plan in the essence of public safety," Massey testified. "The time for studies is over. We've lost too many lives."

The majority of people who spoke at the historic preservation hearing were in agreement that the city needs a solution.

But some residents remain ambivalent about the proposed demolition.

"It's just weird to think that they are just going to knock down a section of buildings that have been a part of Main Street for so long," Brian Douglas, a bartender at Ellicott Mills Brewery for over 10 years, told Capital News Service. "I feel bad for businesses like Phoenix (Emporium) ... who have been here for over 40 years."

Phoenix Emporium and Shoemaker Country are just a few of the several established businesses that would be displaced by the removal of the 10 proposed Main Street buildings.

"It's just a shame," said Douglas.

The plan also states that the county is planning to acquire and remove an estimated seven residential properties in the town's West End between Ellicott Mills Drive and Rogers Avenue to mitigate flooding there. The details of the West End plan have not yet been released.

Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman and Councilman Jon Weinstein officially announced the plan during a presentation to the County Council at a legislative session on Aug. 23.

"These storms are going to be more frequent, harder to predict and potentially more deadly," Kittleman said last month. "With all of this in mind, we can't wait any longer to act."

The next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Oct. 4, when county officials are expected to present the flood mitigation plan again for advisory comments, according to the Howard County Department of Public Works.

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2019 Alan Cooper Leadership in the Arts NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF) is pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2019 Alan Cooper Leadership in the Arts Award. Named after MAAF's Executive Director from 1994–2017, the Alan Cooper Award honors an arts leader who has impacted the arts sector in meaningful ways including creating model programs, developing innovative partnerships, and embodying dedication to the arts and diverse artistic expression. Though not necessary for nomination, MAAF is interested in recognizing an arts leader who has made significant contributions via public-private partnerships or in international cultural exchange.

Nominations are being accepted through **Thursday, November 8, 2018**. Eligible nominees will have demonstrated impactful leadership in the arts within MAAF's nine state region of DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, USVI, VA, or WV. For more information please go to <http://www.midatlanticarts.org/grants-programs/alan-cooper-leadership-in-the-arts-award/>

The awardee will be selected in spring 2019 and be recognized at the May 2019 MAAF board meeting. In addition to the acknowledgement event, the awardee will receive a cash honorarium of \$2,500.

For more information, please contact Adam Plantz at adamp@midatlanticarts.org or via telephone at 410.539.6656 x102.

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