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NAREB Takes Fight For Black Homeownership To Congressional Hearing

Hicks tells lawmakers: Black-White 'economic divide' was created by U. S. Government

By HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
for NAREB

(TriceEdneyWire.com) (Jun 4, 2019)—The rate of Black homeownership in America—now at 41.1 percent, according to 2019 U. S. Census numbers—is even lower than it was when the U. S. Fair Housing Act was signed into law 51 years ago on April 11, 1968.

This means Black homeownership is 32.1 percentage points lower than that of Whites, which stands at 73.2 percent. It also means Black homeownership is 6.3 percentage points lower than that of Latino-Americans, which stands at 47.4 percent.

These are just a few of the facts presented to a recent U. S. Congressional hearing by homeownership advocates. The hearing, held by the House Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance, was the first modern day hearing of its kind—intended to discover the barriers to homeownership for people of color.

"Federal housing regulators and agencies have aggressively pursued lending practices and policies that make access to homeownership more challenging for Black Americans. It is against this backdrop that I give my testimony," Jeff Hicks, president/CEO of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB)(Lanham, MD), testified to lawmakers at the hearing. "Our nation has a very complicated and checkered history with providing equal and equitable access to homeownership to Black Americans. At the end of World War II, when Black Americans sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom, dignity and human rights, the United States federal government created an economic divide between Blacks and Whites."

Hicks described how Black veterans and their families were "denied the multigenerational, enriching impact of home ownership and economic security that the G.I. Bill conferred on a majority of White veterans, their children, and their grandchildren."



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

NAREB President/CEO Jeff Hicks testifies before the Congressional hearing.

He concluded that the "unequal implementation of the G.I. Bill, along with federal government policies and practices at the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), including the redlining of Black neighborhoods, were leveled against Black veterans" while at the same time the government financed the construction of suburbs and provided subsidized mortgage financing for Whites-only. This scenario "set the stage for today's wealth and homeownership gap statistics," Hicks said.

The hearing, led by Housing Subcommittee Chair Rep. William Lacy Clay Jr. (D-Mo.), marked the anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act (FHA), signed into law one week after the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

President Lyndon B. Johnson described the road to the 1968 passage as a "long and stormy trip" after it failed three times. Together, the testimony of the 72-year-old NAREB—the oldest organization represented—and the string of witnesses at the 21st Century Congressional hearing, revealed that the storm is not nearly over.

See NAREB TAKES FIGHT Page A5

Mayah Promise Scholarship Fund

An evening of music, performances, and remembrances

Friday, June 14 in Bowie

By DAVID ANDRUSIA
Bowie Center For Performing Arts

Many knew Thomas Mayah: a beacon of light, a trusted friend, and leader in our community who served as Citizens Services Assistant to Prince George's County Council Member Danielle M. Glaros.

Last year, we lost Thomas to a valiant battle with heart disease. In his too-short life, he touched so many, did so much good, and lived his life with valor at every turn. Thomas showed bravery and goodwill toward all at every step of his lovely life.

We are proud to announce the inaugural Mayah Promise Scholarship Fund to memorialize Thomas and all he held dear. An evening of music, performances, and remembrances at the Bowie Center for Performing Arts on June 14 will raise funds for two scholarships for deserving Prince George's County students. These scholarships will be awarded by the Stars Foundation to graduating seniors next year.

Musical guests include The Colours, an ensemble arts leadership program that inspires civic duty and leadership through the arts, in which Thomas performed.

Also on hand will be 33 West, a fantastic cover band, as featured artists.

Tickets may be ordered at www.bowiecenter.org.

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation Honored at the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education's Youth Summit

Patuxent River Park and Clearwater Nature Center Recertified as Maryland Green Centers

By KIRA CALM LEWIS, IYANA MOORE

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

RIVERDALE, Md. (June 6, 2019)—Patuxent River Park and Clearwater Nature Center, both part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, were recertified as 2019 Maryland Green Centers by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE).

"These recertifications reflect our commitment to supporting the Maryland Green School program and to engage Prince George's County residents in stewardship of the County's natural resources" said Anthony Nolan, Chief of the Special Programs Division. "Part of the mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to educate the public on the importance of the environment and to preserve green space for future generations. The staff at Patuxent River Park and Clearwater Nature Center are setting an exceptional example in these areas with their amazing public program offerings and beautiful sites."

There are currently 42 Maryland Green Centers and 621 Maryland Green Schools. The Maryland Green Schools program is nationally recognized as having significant impact with students and

See M-NCPPC Page A8

Upper Marlboro Sailor Serves on the USS Abraham Lincoln



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT US NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN TRISTAN KYLE LABUGUEN/RELEASED

ARABIAN SEA (May 28, 2019) Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Joseph Turner, from Upper Marlboro, Md., inspects the ejection seat of an F/A-18F Super Hornet from the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 in the hangar bay aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. With Abraham Lincoln as the flagship, deployed strike group assets include staffs, ships and aircraft of Carrier Strike Group 12 (CSG 12), Destroyer Squadron 2 (DESRON 2), USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) and Carrier Air Wing 7 (CVW 7).

INSIDE

Two Local Non-Profits Are Energized to Continue Their Work With \$15,000 Award

The awards are the company's highest honors recognizing employees for their exceptional commitment to volunteering and serving communities.

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ChildWatch: Much More Than Summer School

We are especially eager to create a pipeline of desperately needed Black and Latino male teachers for our nation's public schools.

Commentary, Page A4

New Neighborworks America Survey: Homeownership Still Out Of Reach For Many Minorities, Low- to Moderate-Income Families

Eight out of ten Americans are unaware of any programs that provide information about the home buying process.

Business and Finance, Page A5

Calendar Spotlight: Juneteenth and Father's Day Events

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture 50th Anniversary "We Rise!" Events

Join us as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary with events scheduled for June 28 and 29.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that many household cleaners contain toxic ingredients that can pollute my indoor environment. How do I avoid such chemicals and can you suggest any safer alternatives?

—M. Sharp, Las Vegas, NV

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Morningside Memories: Wayne's Memories continue

Wayne Neale grew up on Poplar Road, son of two of my favorite people, the late Robert and Edythe Neale. He recently emailed a list of his memories of growing up in Morningside. Those of you, of a certain age, will remember when life in Morningside—or any small town—was sort of like this:

- The summer recreation program, including the crafts and fair day. And the Boys' Club with a sport for every season, coached by the Misters Pitts, Bivens, West, Patterson and many more.
- The Christmas tree lighting and carols at the Circle on Randolph Road.
- Cub Scout meetings at my den mates' houses hosted by the respective den mothers. And, swimming lessons at the Naval Research Lab, hosted by the den fathers. And, larger pack meetings at Bell's Methodist Church MC'd by Mr. Dice West, the father of 5 Cubs himself.
- The annual air show in May at Andrews Air Force Base, with the Blue Angels.
- A greaser haircut at Johnson's Barber Shop. For the girls, a beehive hairdo next door at Skyline Hair Stylists. And, a nickel Coke from the crank machine outside of Mr. Parr's 5+10 store.
- The Morningside Drum and Bugle Corps blasting away in the Fourth of July parade.
- Waiting with books in hand, in group, in the cold for the high school bus at the 7-11 or Marianne Circle stops.
- After high school was out, basketball at the elementary school with pickup teams. Or else, pinball and snacks at Aubrey's Snack Bar. And, in the fall, improvised football games on Saturdays.
- Sub-teen and then Teen Club dances on Saturday nights at the school, chaperoned by Tillie Seaman, Waverly Miller and Matt Roach.
- The Morningside Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary meetings on Tuesday nights. My Mother always attended, and judging from the pictures, I think it was for the desserts.
- These are just a few of my many

wonderful recollections of growing up in a small American town. I don't think that there could be a better one.

- Thanks for the memories, Wayne Neale!

Neighbors and other good people

In my May 23 column I listed area residents who died in Viet Nam. I had a caller who told me his friend, William H. Wardman, of Berkshire, also died in the War, in September 1969. He was a Suitland High graduate.

Elsie Mothershead died March 26 at the age of 94, still living in the house on Beauford Road that she and her husband Vernon bought 70 years before. Vernon died in 1993. Now their daughter Mary Knight lives there with her mom's cat, Little One, and her mom's amazing collection of vintage plates, statues, magnets and more, featuring Betty Boop, John Wayne, American Indians, 1950s autos, you name it—thousands of collectables, through three rooms, covering every wall. Beautifully arranged. It's magic. And Mary is working to keep it as Elsie left it.

Morningside volunteer firefighters visited Suitland Elementary School on Career Day, June 3. They discussed fire safety with the students, showed them around the Rescue Squad truck and let them try on fire helmets. They said it was a beautiful day, spending time with the community.

Morningside's next Town Meeting will be June 18, 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. And Morningside's annual Fourth of July Parade is coming up. Put it on your calendar.

Jazz Concert

Anita King is performing at Christ Episcopal Church in Clinton on Sunday, June 23, 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include light refreshments. As always, children are welcome. The church is at 8710 Old Branch Avenue. Info, 301-868-1330.

Changing landscape

Hogs on the Hill has closed and, in its space, Nana's Pit BBQ & Seafood has opened at 9021 Woodyard Road in Clinton. If you try it, email me a review.

OTO Development has broken ground on what will be Hyatt Place National Harbor, the first Hyatt-branded hotel in Prince George's County. The seven-story, 156-room waterfront hotel is scheduled to open in late 2020. It'll join National Harbor's eight other hotels: MGM, Gaylord, AC Hotel, Weston, Hampton Inn, Residence Inn, Wyndham and Harborside Hotel.

Joe Loscocco, security specialist

MSgt. Joseph F. Loscocco USAF (retired), 73, of Waldorf and formerly of Camp Springs, died April 26 in Waltham, Mass. He grew up in Boston and joined the Air Force after high school.

He served in Vietnam, and then became a security specialist at Grand Forks AFB, N. Dak., Berlin, and Andrews AFB. In retirement, he worked for ManTech International.

Joe was a longtime parishioner at Saint Philip's where he taught CCD. He was Past Master of Camp Springs Masonic Lodge #227. He enjoyed woodworking and square dancing.

Survivors include daughter Nicole VanZandt and six siblings. Mass of Christian Burial was at Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted Church in Waltham with burial at Cheltenham. Memorial donations may be made to The American Parkinson Disease Assn., the disease that Joe suffered for many years.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Rep. Steny Hoyer, June 14; Kara Dameron, Dot Pfeil and June Zaccagnino, June 15; Helen Padgett and Lucia Scott, June 16; Bill Kimbles, June 18;

Stephanie Phipps, June 19; Christian Nichols and Michael Taylor, June 20.

Happy anniversary to Jill and Ken Kimmel on their 21st, June 15; Ange and Marlyn Meoli, their 57th on June 16; Steve and Cornelia Blankenship, their 14th on June 18; and Calvin and Debbie Brown, their 26th on June 20.

And to my parents, Dick and Rose Mudd, on their 91st anniversary, celebrated in Heaven. They were married June 20, 1928, at St. Mary's Church in Ravenna, Nebraska.

Around the County

Local Students Honored

Leilani Djaouga Named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven

WEST HAVEN, Conn. (June 6, 2019)—**Leilani Djaouga**, of Glenn Dale, a student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Haven, has been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester, 2019.

Djaouga is working on a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

The University of New Haven, founded on the Yale campus in 1920, is a private, coeducational university situated on the coast of southern New England. It's a diverse and vibrant community of more than 7,000 students, with campuses around the country and around the world.

Within its schools and colleges, students immerse themselves in a transformative, career-focused education across the liberal arts and sciences, fine arts, business, engineering, and public safety and public service. More than 100 academic programs are offered, all grounded in a long-standing commitment to collaborative, interdisciplinary, project-based learning.

Information is available at www.newhaven.edu.

—Carolyn Meyer, University of New Haven

Local Resident Named to William & Mary Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (May 31, 2019)—**Delharty Manson** from Ft Washington, MD was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2019 semester.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

—Claudette Brooks, College of William & Mary

Upper Marlboro Student Graduates from Harvey Mudd College

CLAREMONT, Calif. (May 31, 2019)—**Eric Tyrell Contee II** of Upper Marlboro graduated from Harvey Mudd College on May 19. Contee II earned a bachelor of science degree, majoring in engineering. Contee II attended Georgetown Day School.

Harvey Mudd College is the premier liberal arts college specializing in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The College's mission is to prepare engineers, scientists and mathematicians to become leaders in their fields and understand the impact of their work on society. Students learn to problem-solve in a hands-on, collaborative environment; do research alongside outstanding faculty; and develop leadership skills to benefit an increasingly technological world. Located in Claremont, Calif., Harvey Mudd College is a member of The Claremont Colleges consortium.

—Judy Augsburger, Harvey Mudd College

327 Named to Union University President's List

JACKSON, Tenn. (May 30, 2019)—**Abigail Johnson** of Oxon Hill, MD was one of three hundred twenty-seven students who were named to the Union University President's List for the spring 2019 semester.

The President's List includes full-time students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average on a four-point scale.

Founded in 1823 and affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Union University is characterized by quality Christ-centered teaching and learning. Union offers liberal arts training in more than 100 majors and programs of study along with professional programs in business, education and nursing.

About 3,300 students are currently enrolled.

—Tim Ellsworth, Union University

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

COFFEE OR TEA

Come and join us Saturday, June 15, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. for coffee or tea with Sonya Williams District 9 School Board Member at Starbucks in Brandywine Safeway. The address is 15916 S. Crain Highway, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Board of Education office number is 301-952-6115.

JOB FAIR AND TEACHER PLACEMENT

Prince George's County Public Schools will have a Job Fair and Teacher Placement event Wednesday, July 24, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Candidates must apply online before coming to a job fair at hr.recruitment@pgcps.org. The event will be held at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

8TH ANNUAL BULLDOG GOLF CLASSIC

Bowie State University 8th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic will be held Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at Oak Creek Golf Club. The address is 600 Bowieville Manor Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Register Now. Honorary co-chairs are Dior Ginyard ('11) NFL Players Association and Patrina King Golf Women Mean Business.

Schedule of events are Registration: 8:30 a.m., Awards Luncheon: 2:30 p.m., Shotgun Start: 10:00 a.m. Lessons and clinics are offered to take your game to the next level. Professional instructions provided. Golf Pro Clinic is at 10:30 a.m.

Early Bird registration fees through September 1 are per Golfer \$150, per foursome \$500, Golf Pro Clinic: \$100 includes lunch and admission to awards reception. Registration fees after September 1 are per golfer \$175, per foursome \$525, golf pro clinic \$125 includes lunch and admission to awards reception. For more information: bsuf@bowiestate.edu 301-860-4300 or visit www.bowiestate.edu/bulldogclassic.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASS

This class will help educate and support participants in their quest to take control of their health and quit smoking

now. Class will be held every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at MedStar Health at Brandywine Community Room, 13950 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Registration is required. Cost for the class is \$10.00 one-time fee. Telephone number is 301-374-9098

OUR STORY

"Greater Baden-Aquasco Citizens Association (GBACA) is a non-partisan organization founded in 2000 to protect and preserve the rural tier in the southeast corner of Prince George's County, MD. It is a place for residents of Baden and Aquasco to voice their concerns about matters affecting the community and it represents the community's interests in public discussions."

GBACA welcomes all members of the community. Membership dues are \$10. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September) generally at the Baden Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m. Dues are used to fund association activities, community events, outreach, and donations. The annual community social place takes place every November. Please join us.

GBACA's correspondence address is: Greater Baden-Aquasco Citizens Association, P.O. Box 1072, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. If you'd like to be added to our email list, please send us your email address at community@gbaca.org.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Joachim and Esther Neckere, Nathaniel and Sheila Holmes, Tony, Sr. and Beatrice Chapman, Brewer and Pauline Clark, Henry and Idena Thomas, William, III and Quivianna Stroman, Robert and Sandy Miley, Daniel and Carolyn Glee, Joseph and Nadia Prah who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in June.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the students who are graduating from High School, Colleges and Universities in May and June. I wish you all the success in your future endeavors.

Free June Health Resources Provided by Doctors Community Health System

LANHAM, Md. (June 3, 2019)—Throughout the year, Doctors Community Health System offers numerous screenings and support groups. Some of the upcoming events include:

Free Cancer Prevention Workshop

June 20, 2019, 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Doctors Community Hospital, 8100 Good Luck Road, North Building, 4th Floor, Room 415, Lanham, MD 20706
301-552-7968 | DCHweb.org/prevention

Learn steps you can take to reduce the risk of cancer.

Free Bariatric Surgery and Weight Loss Seminar

Fridays: June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25 and November 22, 1–2 p.m.

Doctors Community Hospital, 8116 Good Luck Road, Professional Office Bldg., Suite 210, Lanham, MD, 240-965-4405 | DCHweightloss.org

Attend this free lecture presented by Dr. Hitesh Amin, medical director, Bariatric and Weight Loss Center. If you are at least 30 pounds overweight, learn whether weight loss surgery is right for you. **Registration required.**

Free Screenings on Mobile Health Clinic

Visit the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) mobile health clinic to receive free screenings (diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure) as well as medication reviews and education. For updated care locations, call 301-324-4968 or visit DCHweb.org/WOW.

June 15—Uplift Baptist Church Health Fair, 7100 Martin Luther King Jr Hwy, Hyattsville, MD (10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.)

June 17—St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 410 Addison Road, South Capitol Heights, MD (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)

June 18—John E. Howard Senior Activity Center, 4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD (9 a.m.–1 p.m.)

June 19—Powder Mill Village Apartments, 3625 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD (10 a.m.–4 p.m.)

June 25—Harmony Hall, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD (10 a.m.–2 p.m.)

June 26—City of Glenarden Nutrition Center James R. Cousins, Jr. Municipal Center, 8600 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, MD (10 a.m.–4 p.m.)

June 27—Hollywood Plaza Shopping Center, 9801 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park, MD (10 a.m.–4 p.m.)

—Chondria Andrews, Doctors Community Hospital

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let Summer Just Happen

Most of us, from young children to senior citizens, look forward to the opportunities of summer. While we may complain some days about the heat and humidity, the warmer weather and slower pace offers a chance to relax, to take advantage of more outdoor activities and perhaps to even enjoy a well-earned vacation.

But sometimes the temptation is just to sit back and let summer happen. This might sound tempting but it often means time suddenly flies by, the kids are bored and cranky, and you've missed many of the good things that summer had to offer.

The solution is simply to do some pre-summer planning in order to maximize the more-relaxed time that this season allows.

An important starting point is with your children. While their summer plans may revolve around staying up late every night and sleeping till noon the next day, experts advise that life goes more smoothly if a family has a set schedule and sticks to it. When meal times and bedtimes are on a consistent schedule, kids feel more comfortable and usually are more cooperative.

This is also the time to make plans with your kids for summer activities. If we're talking about a teenager this might mean encouraging him or her now to seek that summer job or to enroll in a summer enrichment program. For younger children it can mean organizing play dates or setting up a regular schedule for playground or pool visits.

Whether there are children in the family or not, this is the time of year to make some clear plans for a summer vacation, if that hasn't already been discussed. Last-minute vacation planning usually means increased stress and that's not the point of a vacation. A real vacation means leaving behind the responsibilities and demands of home and work. This is what really reduces stress levels. Recent studies have shown that the majority of us are living overly stressful lives, and high levels of stress, over prolonged periods of time, can negatively affect both our mental and physical health.

So plan now for a summer that will bring you relaxation and revitalization. Whether it's a long beach vacation, or just a drive to visit relatives in another state, taking the time to enjoy the season can bring many benefits and can keep you from waking up in mid-September wondering how the summer disappeared.

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

Want To Win \$4,000 in Cash and Food Prizes For Eating Hamburgers?

Z-Burger in Washington, DC opens search for contestants to participate in the 10th Annual Independence Burger Eating Contest, July 3, 2019

(PRNEWswire.COM) WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 5, 2019)—Z-Burger, a popular DC area hamburger chain, is actively recruiting a range of competitors—from local amateurs to international professionals—to compete in the tenth annual Independence Burger Eating Contest on Wednesday, July 3rd at 12:00PM.

The last winner of the nation's most competitive burger eating contest was the world's number one competitive female eater Molly Schuyler who will be returning to defend her title. Schuyler stomachached 27 burgers within the allotted ten minutes to take home the title and the grand prize. To prevent Molly from becoming a five-time champ, Z-Burger is searching far and wide for contestants to topple this amazing champion.

Serious rewards await serious eaters. In addition to custom trophies and bragging rights, Z-Burger will give away \$4,000 worth of cash and prizes! The prize breakdown is as follows: first—\$1,500 cash, second—\$850 cash, third—\$500 cash, fourth—\$400 cash and fifth—\$300 in Z-Burger food. Places sixth through tenth will also get Z-Burger gift cards.

Interested contestants should visit <http://www.zburgereatingcontest.com> or email zburgercontest@gmail.com with their name and age. The competition will be held on Wednesday, July 3rd at 12 p.m. at the Z-Burger in Tenleytown, located at 4321 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Those not interested in personally consuming 27 hamburgers in 10 minutes are encouraged to attend nonetheless. Just for attending, audience members will be treated to free burgers immediately after the contest is over.

For more information, contact Kenny Fried at kfried@aboutbwf.com.

Z-Burger is a quick-casual American restaurant known for its burgers, fries, onion rings and 75 milkshake flavors. Z-Burger operates locations in Washington, DC and Maryland. Visit www.zburger.com.

Innovation Station Presents 'NOAA Small Business Industry Day'

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Innovation Station, 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 350
Largo, MD 20774

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation is excited to partner with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration to present 'NOAA Small Business Industry Day,' on June 19th.

Join us to learn how to do business with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration and meet top officials and contractors with NOAA. Following the program, you will have an opportunity for one-on-one meetings with NOAA officials and contractors.

Space is limited. RSVP Today! www.pgcedc.com/

Two Local Non-Profits Are Energized to Continue Their Work With \$15,000 Award

After BGE employees receive company's highest honor for volunteerism and community commitment

By TASHA JAMERSON
BGE

BALTIMORE (June 4, 2019)—Exelon, BGE's parent company, honored two outstanding BGE employees at its annual Energy for the Community Employee Volunteer Awards ceremony in Baltimore. The awards are the company's highest honors recognizing employees for their exceptional commitment to volunteering and serving communities. A total of \$15,000 was awarded to the organizations where the two BGE employees volunteer.

Howells Ihekwe is a BGE general engineer and volunteers with the Family Development and Samaritan Foundation (FDSF) in Upper Marlboro, MD. Howells has volunteered in many capacities over the years, and he even took a year leave of absence in 2015 to go to Africa on a mission

trip where he served in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana. One of his duties was to fulfill the needs of less privileged families and communities by providing food, clothing, and medicine with FDSF. He has also supported FDSF in Maryland for many years now. Howells received the Achievement Award in recognition for his contributions to FDSF and the foundation will receive a \$10,000 grant in his honor.

John Woloszyn is a financial operations manager at BGE and volunteers with the Parks & People Foundation in Baltimore, MD. John is an active member of the Parks & People Foundation board of directors, where he serves as secretary, on the executive committee and on the revenue committee. John received the Merit Award and \$5,000 in his name will be given to the foundation, which works to unite and strengthen

Baltimore City's communities through green spaces and outdoor education.

"We applaud Howells and John for their passion and commitment to powering a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities across central Maryland," said Calvin G. Butler Jr., chief executive officer for BGE. "Through their volunteerism they inspire us to improve the quality of life for people in the communities where we live, work and serve."

This year, Exelon, through the Energy for the Community Awards, has recognized 24 employees across its family of companies and donated \$200,000 in their honor to non-profit organizations in the Baltimore, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. areas. In 2018, Exelon donated \$51 million in shareholder funds to charitable organizations nationwide.

Upper Marlboro Sailor Serves in Mediterranean Sea



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN APPRENTICE MADYSSON ANNE RITTER/RELEASED

190421-N-UM706-0024 MEDITERRANEAN SEA (April 21, 2019) Electronics Technician 3rd Class Marcus Floyd, from Upper Marlboro, Md., assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94), stands watch on the ship's bridge wing. Nitze is underway as part of Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (ABCECSG) deployment in support of maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th, U.S. 6th and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of operation. With Abraham Lincoln as the flagship, deployed strike group assets include staffs, ships and aircraft of Carrier Strike Group 12 (CSG 12), Destroyer Squadron 2 (DESRON 2), USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) and Carrier Air Wing Seven (CVW 7); as well as Álvaro de Bazán-class frigate ESPS Méndez Núñez (F 104).

Maryland Conservation Corps Recruiting for September Class

Stewardship and Real-World Job Training for Young Adults

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 6, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is now recruiting members for the Maryland Conservation Corps, an award-winning AmeriCorps program that engages young adults aged 17–25 in extensive conservation, environmental, and natural resources management projects across the state.

The department seeks to hire 35 full-time members who will work on seven teams for an 11-month period, beginning in late September 2019.

In an average year, Maryland Conservation Corps members will:

- Conduct interpretive state park programming
- Help preserve rich historical heritage sites
- Improve park nature centers
- Maintain hundreds of miles of trails

- Plant thousands of trees
- Provide environmental education programming for Maryland students
- Restore wildlife habitat
- Support the improvement of the Chesapeake and coastal bays
- Work with schools to plant bay grasses

"The Maryland Conservation Corps provides young adults hands-on, real-world experience in a team-based environment that supports community service and conservation stewardship," Maryland Park Service Superintendent Nita Settina said. "This outstanding program is a win for our state parks, the Chesapeake Bay, and our youth."

To be considered, interested individuals must submit an online application. Placement will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Maryland Conservation Corps program is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Millennial Town Hall and Social Hour by Millennials for a Better America

Social Hour 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 20, 2019 • 5:30–8 p.m.
Busboys and Poets, 5331 Baltimore Avenue,
Hyattsville, MD 20781

Millennials for a Better America is hosting a Town Hall to get feedback, whether positive or negative, from millennial residents of the Prince George's County, DC and the surrounding area in order to have open communication and determine the needs of Millennials.

Join us in a discussion over hors d'oeuvre and drinks about social and environmental justice issues impacting millennials and create ways our generation and the ones to come in the future. Free.

Smart Start Your Business Workshop

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019 • 1–5 p.m. • Fee: \$50.00
Register: <https://mdsbdc.eccenterdirect.com/events/15443>
Point of Contact: Sandra Conaway, 410-706-5463
Location: 15901 Excalibur Road, Room 243, Bowie MD 20716

The Smart Start Your Business workshop is one in a series of three workshops highly recommended for new start-up businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. Professional presentations will be made by an attorney, an accountant, a banker and an insurance professional. Discover how to: Legally define your business and register your business name. Keep proper financial records and report taxes. Assess the insurance requirements needed to safeguard your business and personal assets. The Smart Start workshop also reviews relevant Maryland business law and marketing resources available through the Corridor Region SBDC.

COMMENTARY

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Much More Than Summer School

Close your eyes and think about the words summer school. What comes to mind? If you picture a room full of children clapping, cheering, laughing and falling in love with reading you could be imagining the experience thousands of children across the country are about to have as they participate in the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® program. More than 1,400 college-aged servant leader interns, site coordinators and partners came together this week for National Training at historic CDF Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee to learn how to teach the "Freedom Schools way," strategies for productive classroom management, and everything in between so they'll be ready to lead the six-week summer literacy and cultural enrichment program for more than 12,000 K-12 scholars this summer.

The program's roots are in the Mississippi Freedom Summer project of 1964, but 55 years later its mission is as urgent as ever. Today data show the majority of public school students cannot read or compute at grade level and poor children and children of color are still particularly behind. Hostile school environments and exclusionary discipline policies disproportionately deny children of color and children with disabilities opportunities for success and contribute to their risk of entering the school-to-prison pipeline. Everyone today should ask the Department of Education why they are seeking to halt or

reverse some efforts to create a level education playing field for all children. Freedom Schools fills a gap created by an unequal and unjust system. The program stops summer learning loss using wonderful books that allow our scholars to read about their true history and see themselves in a range of age appropriate culturally diverse books selected by a distinguished committee of children's book writers, illustrators, historians, and educators.

The CDF Freedom Schools program is designed to serve children and youth in communities where quality academic enrichment programming is limited, too expensive, or non-existent. By partnering with schools, faith and community-based organizations, municipalities, colleges and universities, and juvenile detention facilities, the program is offered in these communities at no cost to low-income families who enroll their children. The model and the excellent, carefully-chosen books used in the multicultural Integrated Reading Curriculum are all designed to empower children to excel and believe in their ability to make a difference in themselves, their families, communities, country and world with hope, education and action.

The CDF Freedom Schools program is also a servant leadership incubator for two generations—the children served and the college-aged servant leader interns who teach and serve them. The teachers' energy and enthusiasm during National Training

is infectious and they carry that joy back to their classrooms throughout the summer and beyond. I am proud that many of our servant leader interns have gone on to become committed teachers, counselors, and school administrators. We are especially eager to create a pipeline of desperately needed Black and Latino male teachers for our nation's public schools. Not only do many servant leader interns fall in love with teaching during Freedom Schools, they also report back that they are now inspiring the next generation of teachers:

"I had an activity where my scholars had to list what they wanted to be when they got older. [One student] couldn't write down an answer. By the end of Freedom Schools when I did the activity again, she wrote down that she wanted to become a servant leader intern and a teacher. This impacted me because I know that I have impacted her life."

"One of my scholars keeps asking me what she can do to become a Freedom Schools intern, and that makes my heart so happy. She says she can't imagine a summer without Freedom Schools in it, and honestly, neither can I."

"I found my voice in Freedom Schools. I found my why. Freedom Schools is built in me. It's part of who I am."

We will send this year's young servant leader teachers—like the thousands we have trained before them—out to educate and empower the next generation and spend their lives committed to service for our nation's children. They will lead us forward and deliver on our promise to create a level playing field for all children.

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Leah Chase: "We Changed The Course Of The World Over a Bowl of Gumbo"

"I was taught that your job was to make this earth better. I hope my children will carry on. I hope I've taught them enough to keep trying to grow, keep trying to make people understand how to enjoy life. Look at all the beautiful things around you, look at the progress. You gotta enjoy that, you gotta appreciate that, and I do."

—Leah Chase

With the passing this week of New Orleans' Queen of Creole cuisine, Leah Chase, a part of New Orleans has died.

It was at her table where the Freedom Riders gathered to break bread after their dangerous journey into the segregated south. It was there where the NAACP planned strategy. She hosted musicians, artists, actors and Presidents. In typical fashion, she scolded President Obama for adding hot sauce to her already-perfectly-seasoned gumbo.

My earliest memories of Mrs. Chase were Friday night outings with my grandparents to her landmark restaurant, Dooky Chase. In the days of Jim Crow, most of the upscale restaurants refused to serve Black patrons, so Dooky Chase quickly became a cultural, social and political center for Black life in New Orleans.

When the National Urban League held our conference in New Orleans in 2012, I was proud to hold our Board of Trustees meeting there.

No visit home to New Orleans has ever been complete without a meal at Dooky Chase and a visit to the kitchen to catch up with its tireless proprietress.

The woman whose portrait is enshrined in the National Portrait Gallery, and whose life inspired a beloved Disney character was born in Madis-

sonville, Louisiana, across Lake Ponchartrain from New Orleans. One of 11 children, she was 6 years old when the Great Depression struck, and she recalled wearing clothes made from grain sacks and subsisting on food from their own garden.

She arrived in New Orleans to attend Catholic high school, and went on to work at a French Quarter restaurant for \$1 a day.

Just after World War II ended, she married jazz musician Edgar "Dooky" Chase, whose parents owned a po' boy stand in Tremé. Over the years she would transform the business into one of the most significant and celebrated restaurants in the entire country.

A generation of children were introduced to Leah Chase in the character of Tiana, Disney's first African-American princess, in 2009's *The Princess and the Frog*.

When he first visited Dooky Chase, the film's co-director John Musker, he was surprised to see a photo of General George Patton on the wall among Mrs. Chase's famed collection of African-American art.

"She goes, 'That was a man that I admired,'" Musker recalled. "It was just a great thing to see this warm and nurturing thing, but she has this flinty side, too, where she can be both. That's what we tried to get with Tiana, that she's very warm and vulnerable but she has a passion, spine and a backbone and she's really trying to get something done and doesn't give in easily to things."

Mrs. Chase always said, "In my dining room, we changed the course of America over a bowl of gumbo and some fried chicken." It was an honor beyond words to count her among my friends, and to carry forth her legacy.

New Alzheimer's Campaign Encourages Families to Discuss Cognitive Problems Sooner, Enabling Early Diagnosis

Alzheimer's Association, Ad Council join forces in first-ever collaboration to launch "Our Stories," real stories of people talking to loved ones about Alzheimer's disease

New survey reveals nearly 3 in 4 Americans say that talking to a close family member about cognitive problems would be challenging

By CINDY SCHELHORN
Alzheimer's Association

MCLEAN, Va. (June 7, 2019)—It's a conversation no family wants to have—talking to a loved one about memory loss or cognitive decline.

Close family members are typically the first to notice memory issues or cognitive problems, but they are often hesitant to say something—even when they know something is wrong. A new survey released by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that nearly 9 in 10 Americans experiencing memory loss, thinking problems or other symptoms of cognitive decline would want others to tell them and share their concerns. However, nearly three out of four Americans say that talking to a close family member about memory loss, thinking problems, or other signs of cognitive problems would be challenging for them.

During Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month this June, the Alzheimer's Association aims to bridge the current communication gap, not only by encouraging families to talk about cognitive concerns sooner, but also by launching a new national campaign in partnership with the Ad Council, to help facilitate these difficult conversations before a crisis occurs. The "Our Stories" campaign, created pro-bono by the community, is the first-ever collaboration between the two groups and features real stories of people who noticed cognitive changes in a family member and took the first, difficult step to initiate a conversation.

"By highlighting heartfelt, relatable stories of people who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, this new critical campaign will help ease the challenges associated with starting this difficult conversation. We hope it will encourage audiences to notice the signs early, trust their gut,

and have a talk. Having this conversation early can make a big difference in the lives of those who have been diagnosed and their families," said Lisa Sherman, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Ad Council.

The campaign demonstrates the importance of family members trusting their instincts and proactively raising concerns. The message, "When something feels different, it could be Alzheimer's—now is the time to talk," will be important for shifting people from being passive when they observe potential symptoms, to taking an important step and having a conversation.

"If you notice changes in yourself or a loved one, it's important to talk about it," said Ana Nelson, Vice President of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "Having that initial conversation can be challenging, though. The Alzheimer's Association is here to help empower families in sharing their concerns. We know that initiating this conversation sooner can lead to an earlier diagnosis, which in turn allows for more time for critical care planning, better disease management and providing diagnosed individuals a voice in their future care."

Video stories of caregivers who saw the signs and started a conversation are designed to help illustrate how other families can do the same. Additionally, the campaign's website (ourstories.alz.org) offers families tools and resources, including customizable conversations starters, a list of early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's, benefits of early diagnosis, a downloadable discussion guide and other resources.

See ALZHEIMER'S CAMPAIGN Page A8

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Van Hollen, Hoyer Call on CDC to Review Guidelines For Adenovirus Outbreaks

WASHINGTON (June 4, 2019)—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen with Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (all D-Md.) have written to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert R. Redfield, urging an evaluation of current CDC guidelines for adenovirus outbreaks. The request comes after an outbreak last year on the University of Maryland, College Park campus that sickened more than 40 students. The University System of Maryland's Board of Regents has recently said it will be investigating the response to the outbreak.

Reports indicate that University administration

and health officials relied heavily on CDC guidelines for appropriate notification of the campus community regarding the campus outbreak of adenovirus. The notification was too late for student Olivia Paregol, who tragically who died from complications related to adenovirus 7. Ms. Paregol had a weakened immune system from Crohn's disease and the lawmakers are asking CDC if the current guidelines take into account individuals with already compromised immune systems.

The full letter follows and can be found at www.cardin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/06042019_CDC Adenovirus Letter_Signed.pdf.

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Computing Benefits When “WEP” Applies

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

Dear Rusty:

My wife is subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and I'm trying to calculate what her monthly Social Security payment might be. The circular provided by SS says that her earnings will be calculated by multiplying the first \$895 of her average monthly earnings by 90%. According to the circular, since she doesn't have 30 or more years of substantial earnings the 90% will be reduced to 40%. My question is this: How many months do they use to divide into the total earnings to determine the average monthly earnings? If I use the number of total working years, her monthly average is very low and getting lower the longer she works. For example, she has been working since 1973 (46 years/552 months). However, she only paid SS taxes in 20 of those years (240 months). She turned 62 last November, so if she waits to draw SS until her full retirement age she will add another 56 months to the average calculation and reduce her benefit accordingly. I can't determine when it's better for her to apply unless I know how many months they will factor into the calculation. **Signed: Confused**

Dear Confused: First, I need to clarify for you the basics of how SS benefits are determined (before the WEP computation). Social Security will look at your wife's entire lifetime record of SS-covered earnings, adjust each year's earnings for inflation, and find the 35 years in which she had the highest earnings. If she doesn't have a full 35 years of SS-covered earnings, they'll put zeros in to bring the number of years to 35. They'll then total her earnings for those 35 years and divide by 420 (the number of months in 35 years) to arrive at her “average indexed monthly earnings” (AIME).

The WEP computation is done using her AIME. To arrive at the SS benefit amount, her AIME is divided into 3 parts, and a different percentage of each part contributes to her “primary insurance amount,” or “PIA”—the amount due at full retirement age. Normally, the first of the 3 parts is 90% of \$895 (for her eligibility year, which was last year). But when WEP applies, a different percentage is used for the first calculation. If she has 20 or fewer years of SS-covered significant earnings, the first part is multiplied by 40% instead of 90%. If she has more than 20 years of SS-covered significant earnings, the multiplier will increase by 5% for each additional year, up to 30 years of SS covered significant earnings when WEP no longer applies. So, for example, if she has 24 years of SS-covered significant earnings then the WEP multiplier would be 55% instead of 40%, thus increasing her WEP-PIA and lessening the amount of her WEP reduction.

For each year your wife now works and has significant SS earnings, one of those zero years in the 35-year computation will be eliminated, thus increasing her “AIME” and “PIA” (as described above). If your wife now has 20 years of SS-covered earnings, then each additional year she now works in SS-covered employment will add 5% to the multiplier used when doing the WEP computation (thus reducing the WEP effect and increasing her net SS benefit amount). If your wife claims before her full retirement age (FRA), her WEP-reduced benefit amount will be further reduced because she is claiming benefits early. WEP reduces her PIA, which is her FRA benefit amount; claiming earlier than her full retirement age further reduces her benefit amount.

So, to your specific question, the number of months they factor into the benefit calculation is always 420 (35 years times 12). If she doesn't have earnings in all 35 of those years working now will improve, not decrease, your wife's Social Security benefit.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<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>.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

New Neighborworks America Survey: Homeownership Still Out Of Reach For Many Minorities and Low- to Moderate-Income Families

For black and Hispanic people, bills and debt reduction take priority over long-term financial stability

By LINDSAY MOORE
NeighborWorks America

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 4, 2019)—The vast majority of Americans say owning a home increases financial stability, but when it comes to priorities minorities are more concerned about meeting everyday obligations, bills and paying off debt than putting away funds for a home down payment, according to a new NeighborWorks America survey. While 76 percent of Americans agree that owning a home increases a person's financial stability, many people still see homeownership as beyond reach, primarily due to not understanding the process. Seventy percent of U.S. adults say the homebuying process is complicated. Further, minority families, particularly black and Hispanic people, find that they are missing the financial planning skills and knowledge to transition from renting to home ownership.

The NeighborWorks America survey offers insight into patterns and attitudes regarding homeownership and renting in the nation and the impact of debt and other dynamics on buying a home vs. renting. The study was conducted in April and May with an online panel of 1,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and older and included a separate oversample of 614 minority adults.

“While two-thirds of the general population own their home, for black and Hispanic people, the numbers are much lower.

There is a clear opportunity to help minorities bridge the wealth and attainment gap by supporting them in making good financial decisions,” said NeighborWorks America President and CEO Marietta Rodriguez. “We want to make the opportunity to pursue homeownership more available.”

Overall, black and Hispanic people report more vulnerability and less cash on hand than whites.

- 21% of black people said their most important financial goal for 2019 is to pay bills and everyday expenses, with 6% ranking saving for a home as their No. 1 financial goal.
- Among Hispanic people, 20% said paying down credit card debt is their top financial goal for 2019. Eight percent ranked saving for a down payment to buy a home as most important.

Seeking Help With Finances

Eight out of ten Americans are unaware of any programs that provide information about the home buying process. As a result, they are likely missing out on key information that can help them make better decisions as they purchase a home. Black and Hispanic people express more interest in financial planning courses than the general population. Sixty percent of black and Hispanic people say they would be interested in financial planning classes that would help them improve their financial

situation compared to 46 percent of all U.S. adults.

NeighborWorks America recommends that people interested in homeownership always work with a HUD-approved housing counselor as a first step. A housing counselor can help improve their credit score, provide information about down payment assistance and down payment assistance programs, and help evaluate their situation and create the right plan. Find a housing counselor at a local NeighborWorks organization near you.

For more information on the NeighborWorks America survey, go to www.NeighborWorks.org/housingsurvey.

For 40 years, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp., a national, nonpartisan nonprofit known as NeighborWorks America, has strived to make every community a place of opportunity. Our network of excellence includes nearly 250 members in every state, D.C. and Puerto Rico. NeighborWorks America offers grant funding, peer-exchange, technical assistance, evaluation tools and access to training, as the nation's leading trainer of housing and community development professionals. NeighborWorks network organizations provide residents in their communities with affordable homes, owned and rented; financial counseling and coaching; community building through resident engagement; and collaboration in the areas of health, employment and education.

NAREB Takes Fight from A1

“We have not simply failed to make progress; we are losing ground. And we cannot continue to go backward,” Alanna McCargo, vice president for Housing Finance Policy, Urban Institute, stressed the urgency of the moment.

The Urban Institute was founded by President Johnson in 1968 to focus on “the problems of America's cities and their people and to inform social and economic policy interventions that would help fight the War on Poverty,” she described.

The witnesses gave facts and anecdotes describing why new legislation and homeownership policies are needed. Among the proposals:

The passage of The American Dream Down Payment Savings Plan, a proposal with bipartisan support, which would allow prospective homebuyers to save money in an authorized account, where the savings could grow and be removed for the specified purpose of a tax-free down payment for purchasing a home.

A fairer mortgage and underwriting process in which borrowers meet a minimum threshold for approval and all interest rates and costs are the same for everyone; regardless of race; including loan level equality, approval rates, pricing and terms for borrowers—without adjustments for neighborhoods, zip codes or census tracts.

Accountability for non-bank financial institutions such as the examination their lending practices to ensure fair, equitable, and non-discriminatory origination, pricing, and terms. This would also include greater accountability and modernization of the Community Reinvestment Act to eliminate loopholes that limit access to mortgage credit to existing and potential Black homeowners.

Overall promotion of homeownership as a High Priority for Public Policymakers.

Equal and equitable access to mainstream mortgage credit as prospective Black homeowners have been trapped in

predatory mortgage schemes or by an absolute denial of access to home loans.

Historically unequal access to credit for people of color was repeated as a key problem during the hearing.

“Wide access to credit is critical for building family wealth, closing the racial wealth gap, and for the housing market overall, which in turn, contributes significantly to our overall economy,” Nikitra Bailey, executive vice president of the Center for Responsible Lending, told the Committee. “Today's hearing is a good step toward acknowledging this history and presents the potential to create opportunities to address it.”

The other four witnesses were Joseph Nery, president, National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals; Carmen Castro, managing housing counselor, Housing Initiative Partnership; Joanne Poole, liaison for the National Association of Realtors and Joel Griffith, research fellow, Financial Regulations, The Heritage Foundation.

Bi-partisan lawmakers on the subcommittee listened intently then fired questions and remarks.

When U. S. Rep. Al Green (D-Texas) asked the witnesses to raise their hands if they “believe that invidious discrimination has been a significant reason for the inability for African-Americans to achieve wealth in this country...to this very day,” all seven witnesses extended their hands into the air.

“I'm grateful that you've done this because we've been trying to build a record to let the world know that we still have discrimination,” Green said. “Our original sin was discrimination. To be more specific racism...institutionalized racism.”

Chairman Clay saw eye to eye with the witnesses. “It is clear by the evidence in front of us that 51 years later, there is still much work to be done to promote and assure fair housing in America,” he said. He said Congress must bear the responsibility to end the discrimination largely because

of its failure to continue to make and maintain fair housing policies.

Clay concluded, “Although many private actors were complicit, research has shown that the government played a significant role.”

U. S. Rep. Maxine Waters, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, which oversees the Housing Subcommittee, pressed the lawmakers, saying many of the oppressive policies are still used by banks and are “taken for granted.”

Waters described interest rates that are so high that homeowners—paying both interest and principal—have faced foreclosure because they can no longer afford the loan. She also described banks that won't do loan modifications until two payments are missed making it difficult to catch up on the payments.

“We need to scrub this market and all the rules and practices and come up with a laundry list of what we think needs to be taken out of the way,” Waters said.

The Congressional hearing was held on launch day for NAREB's 2019 Spring Policy Conference May 8. NAREB, founded to fight for civil rights in order to win economic justice for its members and the people they serve, has set a goal of at least two million new Black homeowners within five years. They view working with Congress as their next best hope.

“Together with Congress, we must overcome the discrimination that continues to limit Black homeownership,” Hicks said. “The reason for this “dismal reality,” as stated in NAREB's most recent SHIBA (State of Housing in Black America) report, is “that Blacks have never enjoyed equal and equitable access to mainstream mortgage credit. Rather, Black families attempting to become homeowners have largely been trapped in a vicious cycle of predatory mortgage schemes or by an absolute denial of access to home loans...We need to vigorously renew the importance of homeownership to all families, regardless of their race or ethnicity.”

Governor Hogan Announces Launch Of Student Debt Repayment Plan

Will Provide Additional Access for Maryland State Employees in Critical Areas

By SHAREESE CHURCHILL
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 3, 2019)—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the launch of SmartWork, an important component of the administration's overall college affordability and student debt relief package. The governor introduced SmartWork in 2018 as part of a comprehensive series of initiatives to make a college education more af-

fordable and provide relief to Marylanders burdened by student debt. The SmartWork component for state employees is now being launched following completion of negotiations with the state employee unions.

“Our administration is doing everything we can to ensure that all Marylanders have access to a college education, which includes making college as affordable and accessible as possible,” said Governor Hogan. “This innovative program will pro-

vide many of our hardworking state employees relief from the high levels of college debt that many families face.”

SmartWork's Student Loan Repayment Plan (SLRP) will offer Maryland state employees working in specified shortage areas—such as nurses, correctional officers, police, and IT workers—the opportunity to receive state assistance with student loan debt. Current state employees in eligible job classifications who are paying down their children's student loans may also qualify for this benefit, for children age 25 and younger.

The explosion in student loan debt in the last 20 years is unprecedented. Student loan debt now totals \$1.6 trillion, which has recently surpassed credit card debt in volume. With nearly 60% of

Maryland college students graduating with student debt, averaging more than \$27,000 per student, this massive debt is preventing Marylanders from buying homes and investing in their retirement.

Eligible state employees [may] download an application and other documents verifying school(s) attended and loan payments that have been made by the employee during the repayment interval. The state expects demand to be robust and is preparing for a large volume of applications.

The maximum benefit is \$20,000 over a ten-year period. The initiative is administered by the Office of Personnel Services and Benefits of the Department of Budget and Management. Additional information can be found at <https://dbm.maryland.gov/employees/Pages/SmartWork.aspx>.

OUT on the TOWN

Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture 50th Anniversary “We Rise!” Events

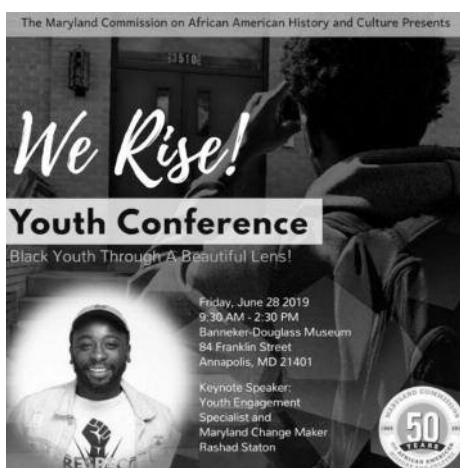
This year marks the yearlong 50th Anniversary of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and this year's theme is “We Rise, Preserving Maryland's African American Heritage”.

Since its founding in 1969 by Senator Verda Freeman Welcome (the nation's first African American female State Senator) and Dr. Benjamin Arthur Quarles (Morgan State University Professor of History and renowned African American Historian), the Commission has given rise to a 21 seat statewide commission appointed by the Governor.

Our key resources include operating the State's official museum on African American History and Culture (Banneker Douglass Museum) and the States \$1-million African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program.

Events

Join us as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!



“We Rise!” Youth Conference: Black Youth Through A Beautiful Lens
Friday, June 28, 2019

9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Banneker-Douglass Museum
84 Franklin Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Curated by young people, for young people, this day will consist of a motivational message from Maryland Change Maker, Rashad Staton, a youth led panel discussion on imagery, education, and

social justice, as well as an exhibit opening, featuring works from participants in the “We Rise: Photojournalism Project.”

This conference will celebrate the shared experiences of its participants and focus on capturing the beauty of black culture through imagery and photojournalism. We welcome youth (13–17) of all backgrounds, to explore history, art, and culture during this event. Lunch will be provided.

MCAAHC Legacy Symposium

Saturday, June 29, 2019
10–3 p.m.
Morgan State University
New Jenkins Hall
1600 Havenwood Road
Baltimore, MD 21251



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) during the Legacy Symposium hosted on the campus of Morgan State University.

Enjoy a panel discussion with renowned experts including Harvard Professor and ASALH President Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, as they share the impact the MCAAHC has made on preservation projects throughout the state. The event will feature The Honorable Kweisi Mfume, 50th Anniversary Honorary Chair, the newly elected first Woman and African American Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, Speaker Adrienne Jones, a special presentation from The Quarles Institute High School & College Student Scholars and much more. Lunch will be provided.

Register for both events at <https://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/>

—Banneker-Douglass Museum

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

... Movie Review ...

Rocketman

Rocketman

Grade: A-
Rated R, scattered harsh profanity, drug use, brief sexuality
2 hrs., 1 min.

Having seen your share of formulaic biopics, you brace yourself when the first scene of “Rocketman” has Elton John (Taron Egerton) in full concert regalia (orange bird-man costume with devil horns) striding down a corridor in slow-motion while the music swells. “He’s on his way to take the stage,” you think with an internal sigh, “only he’s going to pause and have flashbacks about his whole life first.” Then he bursts through the door and enters ... a support group. He’s in rehab.

“Rocketman” doesn’t subvert all the tropes, or even most of them, but it shows enough creativity to distinguish itself from its shopworn brethren. One of those, “Bohemian Rhapsody,” was half-directed (after Bryan Singer was fired) by Dexter Fletcher, who has now directed all of “Rocketman” with the fervor of one liberated. Watching the film, with its energetic, imaginative musical numbers and impressionistic approach to history, it’s amusing to think how hamstrung Fletcher must have felt by “Bohemian Rhapsody’s” earthbound literalism (not to mention its host of other problems).

Unlike that other film, “Rocketman” is a full-on musical. People burst into song, and the songs they burst into are Elton John songs. The screenplay (by “Billy Elliot” writer Lee Hall) uses rehab as John’s excuse to reminisce about his past. Asked about his childhood, he starts singing “The Bitch Is Back”—“I was justified when I was five / Raising Cain, I

spit in your eye”—and we transition to a scene in the muted pastels of ’50s suburbia where 6-year-old Reggie Dwight (Matthew Illesley) leads town-folk in a rousing song-and-dance number through the streets of Middlesex.

Do the lyrics to “The Bitch Is Back” accurately describe Reggie Dwight’s childhood? Not really. (How could they? He didn’t write them.) But the song conveys the feeling that the film needs in that moment, and that’s enough. Other songs are used in situations more apropos to their lyrics, including a sweet scene where John composes “Your Song” and sings the words, penned by Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell), to Taupin, the heterosexual man with whom John is hopelessly in love. (Their friendship is the film’s tender, wholesome center.) That is not how that tune came to be composed, but “The Bitch Is Back” already established that that’s not the point. Reggie Dwight didn’t really choose his stage surname by glancing at Mr. Lennon in a picture of the Beatles, either, but it’s a good story. John, his band, and the audience didn’t all briefly float in the air when he played “Crocodile Rock” at the Troubadour, either, but it makes a hell of an exhilarating image.

Young Reggie (played as a tween by Kit Connor) has a free-spirited mother (Bryce Dallas Howard) but a withholding father (Steven Mackintosh) who responds to a request for a hug with “Don’t be soft.” The boy’s lifelong struggle to love himself and feel worthy of love stems from this and influences all of his adult relationships: his romance with manager John Reid (Richard Madden) that turns sour; his brief, futile marriage

to Renate Blauel (Celinde Schoenmaker); a promiscuous phase depicted symbolically in a musical number. The film is more open about John’s sexuality in the ’70s than John was, but it’s still pretty chaste in terms of what it actually shows, painting him as one who was keen on drugs and rock ‘n’ roll but only occasionally interested in sex.

Egerton, who starred in Fletcher’s “Eddie the Eagle” as another real-life person who was famously much less handsome than himself, shows range and vulnerability as the conflicted performer while also meeting the demands of the music. The major points of John’s career are addressed, but they aren’t the focus. There are never any captions telling us what year it is or what people’s names are. Centered more on John’s personal arc and its relatable themes, this could almost be the story of a fictional rock star, culminating in a powerful, theatrical climax where he faces the demons of his past.

Unfortunately, the spell is broken by the onscreen titles at the end that tell us how many albums Elton John has sold,

how much money he’s raised for AIDS research, and how he did eventually find true love. The movie, of which John is an executive producer, never feels like a vanity project until that moment. Still, one misstep (curse you, tropes!) can’t undo the electrifying goodwill built up over the previous two hours. The way Fletcher incorporates music and emotion into the story should be instructive to anyone making a rock biopic hereafter.

(In the spirit of Robert Warshaw’s famous quote—“A man watches a movie, and the critic must acknowledge that he is that man”—I must acknowledge that when he’s made up as Elton John, Taron Egerton reminds me strongly of someone I used to be in love with, right down to the receding hairline, imperfect teeth, and ultimate lack of interest in me. It was a long time ago and I am Over It, but there’s no denying the similarity amplified my emotional connection to the character. You won’t have the exact same reaction ... but that’s true of every movie, on account of we’re all different people with different life experiences.)



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

ROCKETMAN is an epic musical fantasy about the incredible human story of Elton John’s breakthrough years. The film follows the fantastical journey of transformation from shy piano prodigy Reginald Dwight into international superstar Elton John. This inspirational story—set to Elton John’s most beloved songs and performed by star Taron Egerton—tells the universally relatable story of how a small-town boy became one of the most iconic figures in pop culture.

Juneteenth and Father’s Day

Juneteenth

Date and Time: Saturday, June 15, 2019, 12 noon–5 p.m.
Description: “Juneteenth” is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Marking the date that the last enslaved people learned of their freedom, the month of June and the nineteenth day were combined to form the word Juneteenth. Join us as we provide exciting and unique cultural programming for the entire family! Bring a blanket and lawn chairs for a joyous day of live entertainment, children’s activities, exhibitions, historical interpretation, and art and food vendors. Learn about your history and have fun at the same time!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Contact: 240-264-3415; TTY 301-699-2544;
<http://www.pgiparks.com/780/Juneteenth>

Juneteenth: Remembering & Celebrating Freedom

Date and Time: Sunday, June 16, 2019, 2–4 p.m.
Description: Join us in remembering and celebrating the resilient people who have gone before us, “Lest we forget—lest we forget!” Join us on the Hampton National Historic Site’s farm in front of the overseer’s house for festivities. Historical performance with singing and African drumming by Womb Work Productions: 2:15–3 p.m.; Storytelling in the African oral tradition by the Griots’ Circle of Maryland; and newly discovered information about those enslaved at Hampton by Ranger Anokwale.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome. Wheelchair accessible
Location: Hampton National Historic Site, 535 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286
Contact: 410 823-1309 x254; www.nps.gov/hamp

Juneteenth: Journey to Freedom

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 1–5 p.m.
Description: Join us on a walking tour; step through time and see how life changed in Prince George’s County after slavery was abolished. Starting in 1770 where it began on the Bolton farm, traveling through to 1870 and beyond to see how Juneteenth played a role in Maryland’s history. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes due to uneven terrain.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: National Colonial Farm, Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
Contact: 301-283-2113, info@accokeek.org

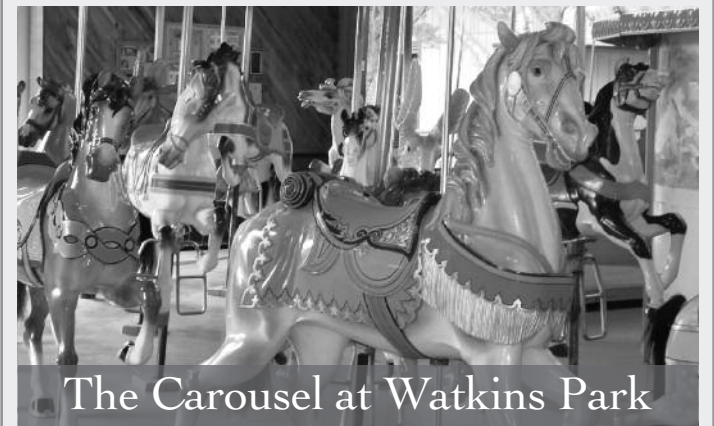
Dad’s Day Challenge

No reservation necessary
Date and Time: Sunday, June 16, 2019, 12 p.m.–3 p.m. Activities begin on the hour at 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.
Description: Celebrate Father’s Day colonial-style! Bring the entire family and help dad learn how to be a proper 18th-century gentleman. Try fun hands-on activities highlighting different colonial trades, 18th-century entertainment, and more!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Darnall’s Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Father’s Day Tours and Seasonal Selections at Riversdale

Date and Time: Sunday, June 16, 2019, 12:15 p.m.–3:15 p.m.
Description: Treat your father, grandfather, or other special gentlemen in your life to a FREE tour of the historic house. Make this special day even better with this foray through our historical grounds and museum!
Cost: One FREE tour per paid admission. Adult: \$5; Senior: \$4; Student: \$2; FREE for ages 4 and younger
Seasonal Selections: Father’s Day Favorites
Description: Grab some 19th-century inspiration and a new recipe or two as you pop into the open hearth kitchen to watch the Riversdale Kitchen Guild demonstrate 19th-century foodways and recipes. This week features favorite recipes of founding fathers in celebration of Father’s Day.
Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



The Carousel at Watkins Park

PHOTO BY LEGUSTIA FLOYD, JR.

Located within Watkins Regional Park, the **Chesapeake Carousel** is believed to have been constructed by Gustav Dentzel at the turn of the century. The carousel operated at Chesapeake Beach through 1972. Restoration has been ongoing since its acquisition by M-NCPPC in 1974. In 2018, we celebrated 40 years at Watkins Regional Park. The carousel is open seasonally and provides delightful experiences for the young and the young-at-heart. Carousel is wheelchair accessible. Summer hours for the carousel are from Memorial Day–Labor Day, Monday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sunday, 12 noon–5 p.m. On July 4, the carousel closes at 4 p.m.

Watkins Regional Park: 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 • 301-218-6700, TTY 301-699-2544
• <https://www.mncppc.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/-287>

Calendar of Events

June 13–June 19, 2019

Greek Cultural Festival: Lanham

Date and Time: Thursday, June 13, 2019, 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Sunday, June 16, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Description: Annual celebration of Greek culture, food and music. Come by for a real treat.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church, 7101 Cipriano Road, Lanham, MD 20706

Contact: 301-552-3540

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams

Date and Time: Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15, 2019, 8 p.m.; Matinee Sunday, June 16, 2019, 2 p.m. Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, 2019, 8 p.m.

Description: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* has been often cited as Tennessee Williams' masterpiece. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, it is a drama about the burning conflict and passion that grips a dysfunctional Southern family as it finally confronts and speaks the truth. Directed by Michael McCarthy. A Rude Mechanicals production.

Cost: Adult \$22, Senior/Student/Military \$20, Youth \$12 (Order Fees Apply, \$2.00 per ticket). Order: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=91857>

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20768

Contact: 301-441-8770

Men In Black Concert: Mozart, Motown & More

Date and Time: Saturday, June 15, 2019, 4–6 p.m.

Description: Hear eight of the area's most exciting Black male opera singers as they perform a variety of musical genre including opera, classical, theatre, jazz, and R&B. Presented by the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts.

Cost: \$0–\$40 eventbrite

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Bowie Center for the Performing Arts, 15200 Annapolis Rd, Bowie, MD

Contact: 301-805-6880

Campfire Program: NASA Goddard

Date and Time: Saturday, June 15, 2019, 8:30 p.m.

Description: Discover the fascination of space. NASA Goddard is just three miles from the park. Campground guests and the public are welcome to join at the Campfire Circle for a traditional NPS campfire program.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Greenbelt Park, 6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Contact: 301-344-3944; <http://www.nps.gov/gree>

Sunday Sunset Concert: Benfield Pops Symphony Band

Date and Time: Sunday, June 16, 2019, 7–8 p.m.

Description: Concerts are held every Sunday through September 1. Concerts canceled in case of inclement weather.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Allen Pond Park, 3330 Northview Dr., Bowie, MD 20716

Contact: www.cityofbowie.org/concerts; Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Fitness in the Parks: Family Zumba®

Date and Time: Monday, June 17, 2019, 6:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Description: This class brings together all members of your family for fun and easy-to-follow dance moves to upbeat music! Exercise level: Recommended for all levels of fitness. Classes may be canceled due to inclement weather or wet grounds. Call 301-927-0822 for weather-related cancellations.

Cost: FREE!!

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Sasser Field (Located on the track), 14201 School Lane, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-446-6845; TTY 301-699-2544

“Reel & Meal” Film Series Features *Purgatorio*

Date and Time: Monday, June 17, 2019, 7 p.m. (Optional meal served at 6:30 p.m.)

Description: The Rodrigo Reyes 2014 documentary depicts the humanitarian crisis on our southern border, near Tijuana into southern Texas, with shots of beautiful scenery juxtaposed with images of desperate poverty on one side of the border and protectionism on the other side. Discussion of related US policy will follow. Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition presents program.

Cost: Free program

Ages: Adults

Location: New Deal Café, 113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: Donna Hoffmeister, donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net

Black Voices Community-Led Book Discussion

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Description: *72-Hour Hold: A Novel* (2006), a contemporary mental health and wellness realistic fiction by Bebe Moore Campbell, is the title being discussed in June.

Cost: FREE!!

Ages: Adults

Location: Surratts-Clinton Branch Library, 9400 Piscataway Rd., Clinton, MD 20735

Contact: 301-868-9200

Summer at Montpelier Farms

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 9 a.m. Season open: June 19–August 17, Wednesdays–Saturdays 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Closed Thursday, July 4)

Description: Enjoy hayrides, animals, giant hill slides, kids corral playground, cub corral playground, roping range, pallet maze, barnyard basketball, barnyard bowling, penalty paddock, pedal karts, life-sized checkers & tic-tac-toe, cartoon screenings and Cow Belly Bounce. Gem Stone Mining and Duck Races are available at an extra charge.

Cost: \$7.00

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Montpelier Farms, 720 Crain Highway North, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 410-320-0464, www.montpelierfarms.com

“Breathe Easy” Summer Campaign Asks Everyone To Work Together to Improve Air Quality During Ozone Season

Small steps make a big difference during summer months when air pollution increases

By JEFF SALZGEBER

“Breathe Easy” Summer Clean Air Campaign

WASHINGTON DC (June 5, 2019)—Summertime means outdoor fun across our region, but the season's warmer temperatures also mean conditions are right for an increase in the production of ground-level ozone, the most common form of air pollution. For more than 8.8 million people in the greater Baltimore-Washington region—especially the more than 700,000 adults and 200,000 children with asthma—summertime doesn't just mean sunscreen and sandals, it means having your daily activities dictated by whether the air is healthy enough for you to breathe easy.

This summer Clean Air Partners is launching its Breathe Easy Summer Ozone Campaign, a regional effort to raise awareness of the link between the everyday actions that determine air quality and public health.

“We all share the air we breathe,” said William Ellis, Chairman, Clean Air Partners Board. “The small steps you take today can make a big difference to our friends and neighbors. Simple things like turning off the lights when you leave a room or waiting until the evening to fill up your gas tank can add up to a big improvement in air quality across our region and help mitigate climate change.”

The Breathe Easy campaign encourages residents to help reduce ground-level ozone and keep everyone breathing easy all summer by following these simple steps:

- Use public transit
- Telecommute or carpool
- Wait until dusk to refuel your car
- Inflate your tires to the proper level

Download the Air Quality App

Get real-time air quality information and protect your health. The Clean Air Partners app allows residents living in the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region to get daily air quality forecasts, current air quality information, and alerts when the air is unhealthy to breathe.

<http://www.cleanairpartners.net/air-quality-resources/#DownloadtheAirQualityApp>

- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use
- Clean HVAC filters each month
- Use a gas or electric grill instead of charcoal
- Use an electric-powered lawn mower
- Download the Clean Air Partners App to check daily air quality levels in your area

To learn more about the Breathe Easy campaign and learn how you can join the thousands who have already pledged to make a difference, visit cleanairpartners.net and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @CleanAirPartner.

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership educating the greater metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region about health risks associated with poor air quality and the impacts everyday actions have on the environment. Since 1997, Clean Air Partners has been dedicated to empowering individuals and organizations to take simple actions to reduce air pollution, protect public health, and improve air quality.

Earth TALK™ Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products: Now They're Everywhere

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that many household cleaners contain toxic ingredients that can pollute my indoor environment. How do I avoid such chemicals and can you suggest any safer alternatives?

—M. Sharp, Las Vegas, NV

It's true that many common household cleaning products contain synthetic chemicals that can make the inhabitants of your home sick. The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) looked into the ingredients lists of more than 2,000 cleaning supplies commonly available on store shelves across the country and found that hundreds of them contain substances linked to serious health problems.

“A large and growing body of evidence links frequent use of many ordinary cleaning supplies at home or on the job with development of asthma and other respiratory problems,” reports EWG. Furthermore, many cleaning products contain carcinogenic elements like 1,4-dioxane and formaldehyde. Still others can cause chemical burns, allergic reactions or other irritations upon exposure to the skin.

“Despite these health concerns, cleaning product labels often do not give consumers enough information about their ingredients to allow people to make informed decisions on which ones are safer and which ones might harm their health,” adds EWG. To fill the void, EWG launched its “Guide to Healthy Cleaning” to point consumers toward products made from natural ingredients that won't make us sick.

This free online database provides short reviews and letter grades regarding the eco-friendliness of thousands of cleaning products. Among the dozens of products scoring an “A” grade are: Meliora's Unscented Soap Flakes (general cleaning), Nature Clean Automatic Dishwasher Pacs (dishwasher detergent), Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Mist (air freshening), MamaSuds Toilet Bombs (toilet bowl cleaner), Aspen Clean Kitchen Cleaner



CREDIT: MARCO VERCH, FLICKRCC

A few good scrubbies, some elbow grease and a little all-natural soap is all it takes for many household cleaning jobs.

(kitchen disinfectant), Attitude Laundry Detergent (laundry soap) and BuggyLOVE Organic No-Wash Stain Remover (carpet and upholstery cleaner).

If you are a “do-it-yourselfer” you can make your own all-natural cleaning formulations for a small fraction of the cost of what you would pay for any manufactured name brand's version of the same thing. National Geographic suggests that a 1:1 mix of distilled white vinegar and water in a spray bottle is all you need to clean stovetops, countertops, backsplashes, porcelain and ceramic tile, and that you can dissolve mineral deposits at the base of faucets by wrapping the offending areas in a vinegar-soaked rag for a few minutes and then wiping clean. Meanwhile, freshening indoor air without compromising indoor air quality is as simple as wringing out a towel soaked in vinegar and whirling it around the room.

If bad smells are coming up from the bowels of your sink, pour a 1:1 mix of baking soda and vinegar (about a quarter-cup of each) into the drain and then once the ensuing bubbles dissipate, flush with hot

water. You can even avoid the nasty smell and chemical exposure inherent in using oven cleaning formulations by doing it yourself with an 8-hour, on-the-hour application of hot water and baking soda on oven splatter spots. It literally costs pennies to clean your house without any chemical exposure. With so many good all-natural, inexpensive options to choose from nowadays, why would anyone in their right mind pay the big bucks for name-brand, toxin-laden cleaners anymore?

CONTACTS: EWG, ewg.org/guides/cleaners; Meliora's, meliorameansbetter.com; MamaSuds, mamasuds.com; Aura Cacia, auracacia.com; Nature Clean, natureclean.ca; Aspen Clean, aspenclean.com; BuggyLOVE, buggylove.com; Attitude, attitudeliving.com.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. To donate, visit <https://earth-talk.org>. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

FLOOD AWARENESS MONTH

TUESDAY TIP

June is Flood Awareness Month in Prince George's County. Learn how to protect your home before flooding becomes a problem.

www.fema.gov

- A watch means flooding is possible, whereas a warning means flooding is occurring. Sign up for alerts at alert.mypgc.us.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing products and use sand bags when necessary.
- Most home insurance policies do not cover damages from floods. Contact your insurance company to make sure you are covered.
- Find out if you live in an area prone to flooding, where local levees are and more info by visiting www.fema.gov.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.

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Dr. Henry P. Davis III, Pastor
www.fhbp.org

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Stephen L. Wright, Sr., Pastor

5018 Lakeland Road
College Park, MD 20740
301-474-3995
www.fbc-cp.org

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Sunday Worship 11a.m.
Holy Communion 1st Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7-8p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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United Methodist Church

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Upper Marlboro, MD

Church (301) 627-5088

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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Fax (301) 839-1721
E-mail: FHBC@verizon.net
Pastor: Rev. Waymond B. Duke

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Elder Willie W. Duvall, Pastor

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Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Ad-

M-NCPPC from A1

schools. The program encourages educational opportunities for preK-12 schools that increase awareness and understanding of environmental interrelationships that impact public health and our society, and that promote responsible environmental stewardship practices. Patuxent River Park and Clearwater Nature Center first became Green Centers in 2011 and 2015, respectively.

The Department of Parks and Recreation delivers an award-winning park system through progressive, innovative leadership and a commitment to the community and the environment in Prince George's County. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, and Instagram. The M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Alzheimer's Campaign from A4

In addition, the Alzheimer's Association helps families and friends navigate challenges and considerations at each stage of the disease, through face-to-face conversations with experts in local communities, our free 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900) and comprehensive support and resources on alz.org.

About the Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month 2019 Survey: Versta Research conducted an omnibus survey of 1,234 U.S. adults on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. Sampling was balanced on age, gender, ethnicity, region, and income to accurately represent the U.S. adult population based on U.S. Census data. The survey was conducted May 6 through May 9, 2019. Assuming no sample bias the maximum margin of sampling error is ±3%.

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing public awareness of Alzheimer's disease, available resources and how you can get involved to support the cause. Visit alz.org/abam to learn more about Alzheimer's, share your story and how you can support the cause during Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.

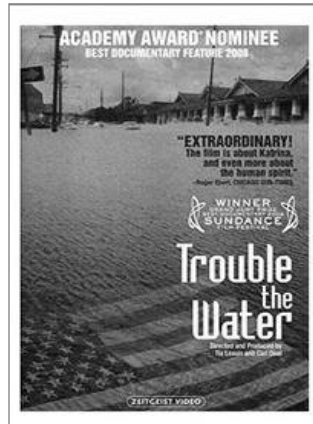
The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, visit alz.org or call 800-272-3900.

Join DoE for lunch:

Brown Bag Summer Series Environmental Film Fest

Grab your lunch and join us for another film fest screening! Back by popular demand, DoE is replaying some of our highly requested documentaries. This month we will be showing *Trouble the Water* on June 21st. RSVP by June 20th to BGarner@co.pg.md.us.

First Floor Conference Room
1801 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
12-2 p.m. Runtime: 96 minutes
Friday, June 21, 2019 • RSVP by June 20, BGarner@co.pg.md.us
Free Admission



Trouble the Water
On August 28, 2005, two days before Katrina came to town, Scott and Kimberly Roberts (also an aspiring rapper whose stage name is Black Kold Madina), start shooting footage with their own video camera and keep at it even as the hurricane forces them, and other family members to hole up in the attic as the rain, wind, and floodwaters take their toll.

—Prince George's County MD, The DoE Sprout

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Narconon New Life Retreat would like to remind families to stay educated on the signs and dangers of drug abuse. Methamphetamines and opioids are on the rise in both rural and city areas. Learn the signs and protect your loved ones from drug abuse and addiction.

The amount of deaths caused by Methamphetamines has almost tripled since 2014. To learn more, visit: <https://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/the-other-drug-epidemic.html>

Free Drug Education
Narconon provides free drug education materials covering a wide range of topics. Please call today for your free drug education materials at: 1 (800) 431-1754

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Lutheran Mission Society

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