

# The Prince George's Post



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## Prince George's Sierra Club Presents Its 2019 Environmental Service Award to Nancy J. Meyer, CEO of Community Forklift

By JANIS OPPELT  
The Prince George's Sierra Club Group

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (June 10, 2019)—The Prince George's Sierra Club Group has awarded its 2019 Walter "Mike" Maloney Environmental Service Award to Nancy J. Meyer, C.E.O. of Community Forklift, a non-profit reuse center for home improvement supplies in the Port Town of Edmonston. The award is presented annually to a County resident for excellence in local environmental service.

"This award honors Nancy J. Meyer's outstanding leadership in putting Community Forklift on a positive and sustainable trajectory—to promote reuse, reduce waste, and conserve resources; create green jobs; and build the community in Prince George's County," said Martha Ainsworth, Chair of the Prince George's Sierra Club Group. The award was presented to Meyer on Saturday, June 8th, at the Prince George's Sierra Club picnic at Watkins Regional Park in Kettering, Maryland.

In presenting the award, Ainsworth reminded those present that "At the outset, Community Forklift was not assured of success. Meyer's leadership has been a critical factor in securing the organization's survival and sustainability while pursuing its environmental, economic, and community development objectives."

### Community Forklift

Community Forklift is a non-profit reuse center that accepts donations of unwanted and salvaged building materials and home improvement supplies and makes them available to the public at low cost. It occupies a 34,000 square foot warehouse on



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARIAN DOMBROSKI

Nancy J. Meyer (center) receives the Prince George's Sierra Club's 2019 Environmental Service Award from Martha Ainsworth (left), Chair of the Prince George's Sierra Club Group, and a congratulatory Proclamation from the Prince George's County Council from Councilwoman Jolene Ivey (right), at Watkins Regional Park.

three acres in Edmonston, a working-class town along the Anacostia River.

However, the non-profit's objectives go beyond providing low-cost building and home improvement supplies. "The heart of Community Forklift is building community and people," according to Meyer. "Reuse provides not only a cycle keeping the value of materials, it also creates jobs." Forklift's mission is to lift up local communities by: promoting reuse, conserving resources, and keeping discarded building supplies out of the landfill; creating green

jobs that build the local economy; offering education on reuse, recycling, and sustainable living to the community; and donating supplies to local non-profits and needy neighbors.

### Meyer's Leadership

When Community Forklift opened in 2005, it was struggling. Meyer saw an end for an opening and wanted to help. "In addition to a life-long interest in the environ-

See SERVICE AWARD Page A7

## Greenbelt Middle School Educator Named 2019 Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 14, 2019)—Greenbelt Middle School science teacher Manuela Pagusan is the recipient of the 2019 Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher Award from Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

Pagusan, a 32-year veteran educator, teaches seventh-grade science and biology and coaches the Science Bowl team. She previously worked as a science teacher, department chair and science fair coordinator at Oxon Hill Middle School.

"Ms. Pagusan's ongoing dedication to building her skills and making science fun for students epitomizes the spirit of this award," said Dr. Monica Goldson, Interim Chief Executive Officer. "Getting students engaged in STEM subjects goes a long way towards developing future scientists, engineers and mathematicians."

Pagusan was one of 20 teachers selected for scholarships to the STEM-focused administrative certification program, a partnership between PGCPS and the University of Maryland. She has focused recent professional development efforts on teaching science to Talented and Gifted (TAG) students, special education, and integrating technology into the classroom.

"Ms. Pagusan is a hardworking, well-organized, committed teacher who has given much to our pupils," said Dr. Solomon Osfero, Greenbelt Science Department Chair. "She enjoys the respect of her pupils, their parents, her fellow teachers and the school administration."

Pagusan [was] honored at the annual Employee Recognition Dinner on June 14 at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. Her name will be added to the Christa McAuliffe award plaque at the Sasser Administration Building in Upper Marlboro.

Other nominees included Jennifer Findlater, Benjamin Tasker Middle School; Shanita Graves, CMIT Academy-South Middle High Public Charter School; Benora McCain-Wigfall, CMIT Academy-North Elementary Public Charter School; Romelita Panga, Dodge Park Elementary; Stephanny Powell-Williams, Melwood Elementary; Gillian Richards, Accokeek Academy and Carolyn Sauer, Kenilworth Elementary.

The Christa McAuliffe Award honors an outstanding educator based on competitive standards of excellence established by other teachers. The award is a tribute to McAuliffe, the Teacher-In-Space who lost her life aboard the space shuttle Challenger in January 1986. McAuliffe taught in Prince George's County from 1971 to 1978.



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT MAURICE FITZGERALD

Prince George's County Maryland District 8 Students

## Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. Awards Scholarships at "Empowering Future Leaders Scholarship Breakfast 2019"

By SHAWN HAY  
for The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

OXON HILL, Md. (June 13, 2019)—The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. held its 8th Annual Empowering Future Leaders Scholarship Breakfast for the 2019–2020 academic year on June 13, 2019, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Harborside Hotel, 6400 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. awarded 23 scholarships to students in the Prince George's County, Maryland District 8 area. The students who have been awarded this scholarship had to reside in Prince George's County, Maryland District 8

(Camp Springs, Clinton, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Glassmanor, Marlow Heights, Oxon Hill), provide an official transcript, write a one page essay and provide other documentation as listed on the application, etc. Over the past eight years The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. has given over \$150,000.00 in scholarships to students, making a tremendous difference in the lives of the youth in Prince George's County.

Every year we have VIP's, elected officials, and community leaders come out to celebrate with us. This year Mr. Ronald Blakely, Former Deputy, White House Initiative on Historically Black Col-

See SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST Page A8



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT HARVARDGRADARTIST, MORGUEFILE.COM

## Bowie Offers Early Independence Day Celebration With Free Concert and Fireworks on July 2 at Prince George's Stadium

By UNA COOPER  
City of Bowie

BOWIE, Md. (June 11, 2019)—The City of Bowie will host a free concert and fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day on Tuesday, July 2 at Prince George's Stadium. The concert, by legendary band The Fabulous Hubcaps, begins at 7:30 p.m. and the fireworks are expected to shoot off at around 9:15 p.m. The fireworks show will include an exciting array of pyrotechnics that will be visible beyond the stadium.

The Fabulous Hubcaps have been together for over 40 years. They play cover music from

many famous singers and bands of yesteryear. Attendees can expect songs by Tom Jones, Billy Joel, The Drifters, Benny Goodman, Cher, The Platters, Elvis, Buddy Holly, Tina Turner, Frank Sinatra, Little Richard, the Beach Boys, and others more during the performance.

Prince George's Stadium is located off Ballpark Road near BJs. (The address is 4101 Crain Highway, Bowie). The parking lot opens at 5 p.m. and the stadium doors open at 6 p.m.

Food and drink will be available for purchase at the stadium. For more information, call the City's Special Events Division at 301-809-3078.

### INSIDE

#### High School Students Attend 'STEM Boys Night In' at NASA Goddard

The boys completed the rover challenge, actively listened to NASA Astronaut Frederick Gregory speak, and admired visuals and animations made by the Scientific Visualization Studio.

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#### To Be Equal: Why is the Insurance Industry Pushing Repeal of Discrimination Protection?

The National Urban League will not tolerate the erosion of the provisions of the Fair Housing Act, or the failure of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fulfill its duty.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Leadership Meets with County Leaders

The state's percentage of residents without health insurance is at a historic low of 6.1 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Close to 85,400 individuals still remain uninsured in Prince George's County.

Business and Finance, Page A5

#### Movie Review:

*Amazing Grace* (documentary)

So this is a behind-the-scenes documentary as much as it is a concert film, and you can see the cameramen scrambling around, wires and cables everywhere, even Pollack himself sometimes, emphatically gesturing instructions to his crew.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What the heck is a "bionic leaf" and how does it help the planet?  
—William Friend, Billings, MT

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

### Jody responds to Wayne's Memories

"Thanks, Wayne, for the memories, and to Mary for sharing them.

"I completely agree that growing up in Morningside was as good as Mayberry. The friendships we made are still strong today. In my case, I had two aunts and my grandparents in town and it was great to have family that close.

"Riding bikes from the top of Suitland Road (aka near the GI Supermarket) all the way through town ending at the Morningside Firehouse was one of my favorite things to do.

"The parade, as Wayne said, along Suitland Road to the VFW, was always a fun time. I loved being a majorette with my cousins Michael & Ronda Himes and my sister Tammy Bowman while my (male) cousins, Lee, Randy, Dennis & Mike Himes, were in the Drum & Bugle Corps, led by Mr. Tony!!

"Dances at Morningside Elementary and Foulis Junior High were always a blast and staying out late to play Kick the Can was the best.

"And I had my ears pierced (shhh! my Dad never knew) at age 13 by my friend who was only 12. Oh the memories....I carry them with me always."

Thank you to Jody (Bowman) Nyers for the Memories.

### Morningside 4th of July is the best

The annual Morningside Independence Day Parade will kick off about 11 from the firehouse, march Suitland Road and wend its way to Patterson Park in the Town. I'll be watching the Parade from beneath the big tree at Suitland Road Baptist Church. Come by and introduce yourself.

Then follows several hours of fun family activities and vendors in Morningside. I'll verify what's going to be there in next week's column.

And at dusk there'll be fantastic fireworks.

### Neighbors and other good people

I've received word that Thomas "Tommy" Franks died in January. He owned the Village Barn back in the 1950s or '60s. I can't find an obit. Can anyone tell me more about him?

The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department regularly highlights a member of the department. This week it's Spencer Drakontaidis, a West Point graduate and software engineer. He joined the MVFD last year "to serve the public and contribute to a cause greater than himself." A former live-in volunteer told him the Morningside Fire Department was the perfect place to challenge himself and share a sense of community with other volunteers. He came to the Department with his firefighter certifications and is currently learning his emergency medical technician certification.

### Pastoral changes

Every June the Archdiocese of Washington announces priest transfers. For our greater area:

Fr. Edward Hegnauer, pastor of St. Philip's, will become pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Washington.

Fr. Patrick S. Lewis will be moving from the Shrine of the Little Flower Parish in Bethesda to be administrator (pastor) at St. Philip's. ("Administrator" is a title used for first-time pastors.)

Fr. G. Paul Herbert, pastor at St. Ignatius Parish in Oxon Hill, will go into retirement.

### Changing landscape

In Clinton, the Surratt House property now extends to Woodyard Road at Brandywine Road. This new green space will soon include a variety of plants and trees appropriate to Southern Maryland during the mid-1800s. It'll include benches and a memorial plaque honoring Judith Miller, granddaughter of BK Miller who years ago sold the Surratt House and one acre of land to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) who now manages the House.

County Exec Alsobrooks has announced nine winners of Commercial Property Improvement Program grants, a total of \$1.9 million to revitalize shopping centers. Among them are several near us: The Shops at Iverson, St. Barnabas Plaza and The Landing at Woodyard in Clinton.

Surratts-Clinton Branch Library is due to close July 1 for renovation. The County budget includes \$6.9 million for the library, which is scheduled to reopen in 2020.

"It's Academic," the long-running local high school quiz show, has been in need of a new home because NBC Studio is scheduled for renovation. Now they have that new home—World MediaNet Studios in National Harbor.

### Cats & Dogs

Imagine taking care of eight puppies, and their mom. That's what my daughter Sheila and John Mudd and their kids Sam and Claire are doing. They responded to a request by an animal rescue organization and took on puppy care when the pups were only two weeks old. The organization has provided most of the required supplies and loads of instruction, including having them weigh the pups and record weight daily. The family will care for them until they are 8 weeks old, at which time the pups will be vaccinated and offered for sale. Sheila tells me they have never had so much company—everyone wants to see these little critters.

I understand that June is Adopt-a-Cat Month. And the price is only \$5, including spay/neuter, vaccines and microchip. Check your local shelter for information.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to grandson Conor McHale, Aletheia Fadness, Mark Witherow Sr. and Antonio Jackson, June 21; Gary Fadness, June 22; Edson Cook, June 23; Gloria R. Johnson, June 24; Michael Taylor and Larry Frostbutter, June 25; Angela Booth and Mable Hemmes, June 26; Charles "Chuckie" Henry, Rose Hoffman, Veda Curcio, Shawn Kumra and Cathryn Cordero Pracht, June 27.

Happy 18th anniversary to Tim and Becki Cordero on June 23; and happy 46th to Mary and Mike Dawes on June 23.

Happy First Day of Summer 2019 on June 21!

mond Porchea, Alston Knight, Kendra Neal, Christopher Quarm, Rodney Tyree, Shiloh Bell, Barbara Harris, Rahaan Silas Thomas who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of June 2019.

### MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Westphalia United Methodist Church will be celebrating Men's Day, Sunday, June 23, 2019. Guest Preachers are Rev. Eldridge Spearman Jezreel Baptist and Rev. Jason Robinson Senior Pastor Brooks United Methodist Church. Music by Westphalia Men's Choir. Phone number is 301-735-9373. Website is www.westphaliaum.org Church address is 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Rev. Dr. Timothy West Senior Pastor.

### SENIORS 60 AND BETTER

Enjoy a wide range of recreation service for seniors 60 and older. Some of the activities are recreation classes, senior clubs, tours and trips, health and fitness programs, nutrition program, special events, free fitness Room ID card, free community Center ID card for county residents and many more services. Call 301-699-2255, TTY 301-699-2544 or visit pparcs.com for more information.

### M-NCPPC TRIALS

Patuxent River Park at 16000 Croom Airport Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland has 8 miles of trails great for hiking, biking, walking, or horseback riding. Canoe or kayak rentals are available at a cost. Please call 301-627-6074 for more information.

Watkins Regional Park/Nature Center has 6 miles of trails for walking, hiking, and bike riding at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Telephone number is 301-218-6702.

### "THE BODYGUARD THE MUSICAL"

Come and go with us to Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland to see "The Bodyguard the Musical" sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church (New Hope Fellowship (Parish) Outreach Ministry 229019 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. Contact Deborah Proctor (301) 275-2544, Beverly Cole (240)-419-7258.

## Around the County

### Local Students Honored

#### Local Student Graduates From Clarion University

CLARION, Pa. (June 13, 2019)—**Maria Farmer**, District Heights, MD, graduated with a MSLS Information and Library Science during May commencement ceremonies at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

—*Tina Horner, Clarion University*

#### Cory Simmons Named to Dean's List at Anderson University

ANDERSON, S.C. (June 13, 2019)—**Cory Simmons** of Bowie was named to the Dean's List at Anderson University for the spring semester, 2019. In order to be named to the Dean's List, a student must maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester.

Anderson University congratulates our entire student body for a successful 2018–2019 academic year.

Anderson University is a selective comprehensive university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees on campus and online. Anderson is ranked in the top tier of *US News and World Report's* "Best Regional Universities South," and is on the publication's "Most Innovative;" "Best Value" and "Best Online Programs" lists. Anderson also is ranked a "Best College" among institutions of higher learning in the southeast by *The Princeton Review* and is a three-time Apple Distinguished School.

—*Andrew J. Beckner, Anderson University*

#### University at Albany Announces Dean's List of Distinguished Students For Spring 2019

ALBANY, N.Y. (June 12, 2019)—The University at Albany has announced the Dean's List of Distinguished Students for the Spring 2019 semester.

In order to qualify for this distinction, students at the University at Albany must earn a grade point average of 3.25 or higher during their first semester of study. In subsequent semesters of study, students must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

The following students have been named to the University at Albany Dean's List:

Bowie, MD: **Olubusayo Odusanya**

Laurel, MD: **Kyara Frames**

—*Michael Parker, University at Albany*

#### Local Student Named on Dean's List at Denison University

GRANVILLE, Ohio (June 12, 2019)—The following student was among the 466 students named to Denison University's 2019 spring semester dean's list by Provost Kim Coplin. "Denison students thrive as they learn new modes of thought and are challenged to see the world in complex ways by faculty who share their own personal enthusiasm for research and scholarship," says Coplin. Students who achieve dean's list status have maintained a grade point average of 3.7 or better (out of 4.0) for the semester.

Laurel: **Maya Carolina**, Class of 2021

Built on a foundation of academic breadth, depth, and rigor and lasting relationships, Denison University unlocks the potential of our students to be architects of their own lives. We create pathways for our students to quickly make friends and find mentors. We help them figure out what kind of lives they want to lead, and we help them develop the skills, values, habits, networks, and experiences to launch into professions so they can build those lives. As Denison continues to build upon its strengths, our focus is on deepening mentorship; expanding the liberal arts curriculum; reinventing the career exploration process; and leveraging our close proximity to Columbus, one of the nation's best cities for the arts, internships, and entrepreneurship.

—*Ginny Sharkey, Denison University*

#### Upper Marlboro Student Named to President's List at Berkeley College

**Nichole Williamson** of Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County, MD, has been named to the President's List at Berkeley College for the winter 2019 semester.

"I am proud of our students and their academic accomplishments," said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College. "Their work ethic and talent will serve them well as they prepare to graduate and progress toward their future successes."

Berkeley College students who achieve a grade point average of 4.00 with a minimum of 12 academic credits qualify for the President's List.

A leader in providing career-focused education since 1931, Berkeley College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and enrolls more than 7,000 students—including more than 350 international students—in its Master's, Bachelor's, and Associate's degree and Certificate programs. Students can study in more than 20 career fields. Berkeley College is comprised of the Larry L. Luig School of Business®, the School of Professional Studies, the School of Health Studies and the School of Liberal Arts. The School of Graduate Studies offers an MBA in Management online and in Woodland Park, NJ.

Berkeley College has three New York campuses—Midtown Manhattan, Brooklyn and White Plains. In New Jersey there are four campuses—Newark, Paramus, Woodbridge and Woodland Park. Berkeley College Online® serves a global population. For six consecutive years, U.S. News & World Report has named Berkeley College among the Best Colleges for Online Bachelor's Programs and among the Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans. The website address is www.BerkeleyCollege.edu.

—*Ilene Greenfield, Berkeley College*

#### Local Student Sofone Elira Named to Spring Dean's list at Pitt-Bradford

BRADFORD, Pa. (June 7, 2019)—The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has named 300 students to its spring 2019 Dean's list.

Dean's list status is awarded to students who have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Among those named to the Dean's list was **Sofone Elira**, a senior accounting student from Riverdale, MD.

—*Kimberly Marcott Weinberg, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### SUMMER TEEN SITES

This summer teens can enjoy trips, painting, sports, dodgeball, video game tournaments and DIY Kits at Teen Sites from June 24–August 9, 2019. Registration fee is \$60 only open to Prince George's County Residents only. Operating hours are 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Ages 13–17.

Teens can participate in a variety of scheduled trips throughout the summer along with additional fee on trip-by-trip basis. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Area Sites are Oxon Hill/Fort Washington, Brandywine, Upper Marlboro/Rosaryville, Suitland/Morningside areas. For more information please contact Alexandria Wilson at 301-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544.

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Angelica Brooks ('02) a Bowie State University graduate and high school choral director was named the 2019 Prince George's County Teacher of the Year for her outstanding work nurturing young vocalists.

"She was selected from among 24 outstanding nominees from one of the nation's 25 largest school districts. An 11-year veteran educator in the county, Brooks is the choral director at Bowie High School. Under her direction, the Bowie High School choral program is known as the best in the school district and the state." "She has built a reputation for being one of the best in her field," said her principal, Robynne Prince.

"Brooks was nominated for the county's top educator award in 2012. A year later, she was a quarterfinalist for the Grammy Music Educator of the Year Award. The Maryland Music Educators Association gave her superior ratings in choral excellence from 2013–2018, and in 2014, she received a Board of Education Award for superior state chorus ratings. She will compete against educators from the state's other 23 school systems for Maryland Teacher of the Year."

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to William King, Stephnie Samuel, Jasmine Taylor, Tony Hall, Sandra Miley, Ruth Wilson, Rendell Crawford, Rita Pinkney, June Fauber, Louise Gordon, Sally Fauber Lucas, Yolanda Jackson, Atara Serene Scott-Bourne, Avis Balkcom-Williams, Jazzmyn Simmons, Carol Bell, Eddie Wilson, Beverly Baker, Madison Falby, Ray-

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### You Can Overcome Feelings of Shyness

Each of us, at times, feels anxious about a situation we're currently in or about to enter. If such feelings are the norm for you, you may feel you're "shy" and may find you're labeled as such by others.

Being shy seems cute when it's a small child hiding behind a parent's leg but as we get older, being shy can leave us feeling needlessly anxious and often keeps us from opportunities and relationships from which we might benefit. Extreme cases of feeling shy can sometimes meet the criteria for social anxiety disorder or social phobia.

Fortunately, there are a number of steps a person can take to try to overcome shyness and social anxiety. The simplest is to act with more confidence and to try new things. Shy people often suffer from poor self-esteem and low self-confidence. Taking positive action can help minimize those problems.

An important step is to try new things even if doing so may make you anxious. Often a shy person imagines how poorly doing something like going to a party or engaging in a new social activity will turn out, and then avoids it. But when someone ignores that anxiety and takes that step toward doing something new, it often turns out better than expected.

One way to head in that positive direction is to increase your interaction with others. Start up a conversation in a checkout line or talk to a stranger at the coffee shop or gym or in a store. Having small, positive social contacts helps build confidence and open up new horizons.

You can also demonstrate growing confidence just in the way you walk and talk. Make eye contact in conversations, hold your head high and speak clearly and effectively. Don't be afraid to make physical contact such as shaking hands or giving hugs.

The key to overcoming social anxiety and shyness is to take some chances in order to recognize and overcome your fears. Try going to a movie with an acquaintance rather than just a close friend. Be a bit vulnerable by offering opinions, asking questions and carrying on meaningful conversations. As you do things that normally you'd be afraid to try, you'll find your self-confidence increasing.

Overcoming shyness takes effort and can seem frightening. If you need help in moving forward, consider talking to a professional counselor who can assist you in building a more confident you.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

## Mid-Atlantic Foundation For Safety And Education Honors Outstanding AAA School Safety Patrollers in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area

By JOHN B. TOWNSEND II  
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C. (June 11, 2019)—Heroine: [her- oh-in] "one who shows great courage; a woman, or girl, noted for courageous action or nobility of character." Each year AAA honors the exceptional actions of children who serve in their schools as school safety patrollers.

This year, a duo of young AAA School Safety Patrollers from Silver Spring, Maryland, Shelby Taft and Sadie Haynes, acted quickly when a kindergarten student broke free from the safety of his mother's hands and ran towards the road. Both hometown heroines receive[d] the Lifesaving Medal during a ceremony at Oakland Terrace Elementary on Tuesday, June 11th at 9:30 a.m.

"The tremendous stories of courage and sacrifice demonstrated by this year's winners give us all something to celebrate," said Leah Scully, Traffic Safety Community Educator, Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety & Education.

In addition, the following students have been designated Outstanding AAA School Safety Patroller in each of their schools. They were nominated by their school for excelling in their duties and going above and beyond the line of duty on a regular basis.

- Other hometown heroes and heroines include:
- **Marco Assam, Thomas G. Pullen Creative & Performing Arts Academy, in Landover, MD**
  - Noah Blaine, Sycamore Park Elementary in Culpeper, VA
  - Benjamin Hawkins, Canterbury Woods Elementary, Annandale, VA
  - Emily Ivanich, Crossfield Elementary, Herndon, VA
  - Anthony Rodriguez, Meadowland Elementary, in Sterling, VA
  - Savannah Simmons, Saratoga Elementary, Springfield, VA
  - Summer Smith, Bradley Hills Elementary in Bethesda, MD
  - Alexandra Stephens, Waynewood Elementary, Alexandria, VA

The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education, a non-profit charitable organization affiliated with AAA Mid-Atlantic, will provide each honoree with a \$100 VISA gift card and a plaque recognizing their accomplishments.

The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), tax-exempt corporation dedicated to educating, training and raising the level of traffic and travel safety awareness for all. Through your generous contributions the Foundation works to make schools, communities and roads a safer place for everyone by providing resources & education programs for children, teens, adults and seniors.

## High School Students Attend 'STEM Boys Night In' at NASA Goddard

By TAMSYN BRANN  
NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Early Friday afternoon, June 7, nearly 50 high school boys arrived at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, to attend the first STEM Boys Night In sleepover, following a similar event held for girls in November.

These rising juniors and seniors traveled from public school systems in Virginia and Maryland to the Greenbelt campus to learn, experiment, network, and connect with male role models in STEM careers. It was intended as an analog to the STEM Girls Night In, which was last hosted in 2018.

The event began at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 7 in the Goddard Visitor Center. Dozens of

students toting backpacks, sleeping bags, and pillows wandered through the scientific displays and exhibits before gathering in the theater for opening remarks by Chief of the Office of Communications Michelle Jones.

Jones spoke of the diversity of career options at Goddard. "We have seamstresses. We have lawyers. We have engineers, doctors, and teachers—there's something for everyone here."

Goddard Director Chris Scolese spoke to the boys about the role of Goddard in the history of space exploration and what endeavors the center focuses on today.

"It's difficult to say what's impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow," Scolese said, quoting center namesake and rocketry pioneer Robert Goddard. "That's what we do at NASA. We try to turn dreams and hopes into reality."



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT NASA/GODDARD/DEBORA MCCALLUM  
A boy races his moon rover on an image of Moon craters after designing, building and testing it with his team at STEM Boys Night In at the Goddard Visitors Center.

For Justin Carroll, a rising senior at Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Virginia, contemplating a future with NASA was already part of his motivation for attending the STEM Boys Night In.

"For my whole life I've been interested in space," Carroll said. "Right now, I'm looking at aerospace engineering. I want to design spacecraft—anything to help the effort to further mankind."

Following an enthusiastically received pizza work-

ing dinner, the boys split into groups and began their first project of the night: the rover challenge. Group members selected their own official roles in the building and eventual presentation of functioning lunar rovers that would even have their own student-designed mission patches.

"I'm both the communications specialist and project manager for my group," said Heith Haroo, rising junior at Tuscarora High School in Leesburg, Virginia. "I like to be in control of situations," he added.

Though still unsure about what specific career he wants to pursue, Haroo spoke of an interest in becoming a mathematician.

"I like math because I can understand it," Haroo said. "Solving problems is satisfying. I don't really know what I want to do in the future, but I might want to work at Goddard."

The boys completed the rover challenge, actively listened to NASA Astronaut Frederick Gregory speak, and admired visuals and animations made by the Scientific Visualization Studio.

Leslee Scott, public affairs specialist in Goddard's Office of Communications, coordinated the event.

"They stepped outside their comfort zone and embraced new challenges," Scott said. "They truly immersed themselves in the experience."

The boys headed home the morning of Saturday, June 8. Scolese said he hopes the experience was a rewarding and meaningful one for all involved.

"We wanted the students to think, 'There's a place for me at Goddard, and there's a place for me in the STEM fields,'" Scolese said. "I would say it was very much a success."

## Five-Year Cancer Survivor from Capitol Heights Celebrates Life with More than 100 Fellow Survivors

Survivors from Across the Nation Gathered for 31st Annual Celebrate Life event—Celebration of Hope and Commemorative Tree Planting Ceremony—at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® Chicago

By MADDIE WOJTALEWICZ  
for Cancer Treatment Centers of America®

ZION, Ill. (June 7, 2019)—Recently, Dalitso Chinkhota, a rectal cancer survivor from Capitol Heights, Md., joined more than 100 fellow five-year cancer survivors at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA) Chicago for its 31st annual Celebrate Life® event.

By 2040, it is estimated that there will be more than 26 million cancer survivors in the United States. As medical research and treatment options continue to advance, more people than ever are living as cancer survivors. Survivorship is the new frontier in cancer care, and hospitals like CTCA® Chicago offer an integrated care approach to help patients achieve a high quality of life.

Occurring during National Cancer Survivor Month each June, Celebrate Life is an annual event that brings together both cancer survivors and caregivers for a day of empowerment and celebration. Survivors stand united to support one another, celebrate the moments they've gained and encourage those who are currently navigating their own cancer journey.

At the hospital campus in Zion, Ill., the event officially started as the first of seven coach buses, filled with jubilant celebrants, caregivers and loved ones rolled to a stop in front of the hospital. As the doors opened, the eager passenger's first step was on to a red carpet lined with hundreds of cheering families, friends, caregivers and hospital care team members.

After the red-carpet walk, Chinkhota took part in a commemorative tree planting ceremony, symbolizing the wonder of life and growth. The 2019 Celebrate Life event marks the 31st year that a tree has been planted in honor of each five-year survivor in attendance, helping replenish and strengthen our nation's landscape with a thriving forest of life-giving trees symbolic of cancer survivorship.

As an added level of significance to this year's Celebrate Life, for the first time ever, all five CTCA hospitals, located in Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Philadelphia, and Phoenix, hosted a local Celebrate Life event during the same week, where in total over 1,500 five-year cancer survivors were honored, representing 47 of 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

"Our experience with CTCA Chicago has been amazing," said Chinkhota. "Being a five-year celebrant means the world to me. More than anything, I am blessed to enjoy my family and everything else that life has to offer. I cherish every moment and experience."

As celebrants and their families enjoyed the festivities, they shared stories of survivorship with one another and took time to visit patients in the hospital who are currently going through their cancer journey, offering a traditional "Hope" pin coupled with words of support. Many also reflected on moments they have been able to share with their families and how they view life through a new lens due to their cancer journey. Before the day concluded, each celebrant was personally honored on stage, in front of and along with their fellow five-year survivors.

"Five years ago, this astounding group of cancer survivors came to Cancer Treatment Centers of America Chicago with a great sense of hope, searching for answers and innovative treatment options that fit their specific needs," said Pete Govorchin, President and CEO, CTCA Chicago. "We're proud to honor each celebrant's strength and perseverance through their journey. Today is not only a testament to the CTCA five-year cancer survivors, but to all survivors."

For more information on Celebrate Life or CTCA Chicago, please visit: [www.cancercenter.com](http://www.cancercenter.com).

Cancer Treatment Centers of America Global, Inc. (CTCA) is a comprehensive cancer care network of hospitals and outpatient care centers in Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Tulsa. Specializing in the treatment of adult cancer patients, CTCA® offers an integrative approach to care that combines surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy with advancements in precision cancer treatment and supportive therapies designed to manage side effects and enhance quality of life both during and after treatment. CTCA also offers qualified patients a range of clinical trials that may reveal new treatment options supported by scientific and investigational research. CTCA patient satisfaction scores consistently rank among the highest for all cancer care providers in the country. Visit [cancercenter.com](http://cancercenter.com), [Facebook.com/cancercenter](https://www.facebook.com/cancercenter) and [Twitter.com/cancercenter](https://www.twitter.com/cancercenter).



PHOTO COURTESY CTCA  
Dalitso Chinkhota, Chris Stephenson, DO, Member of CTCA National Board of Directors.

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Why Is the Insurance Industry Pushing Repeal Of Discrimination Protection?

*"As long as the color of a man's skin determines his choice of housing, no investment in the physical rebuilding of our cities will free the men and women living there. ... A nation that aspires to greatness cannot be a divided nation—with whites and Negroes entrenched behind barriers of mutual suspicion and fear."*

—President Lyndon B. Johnson, letter to Congress, April 1966

Racial discrimination in housing harms not only families who struggle to find homes, but communities still plagued by segregation. Housing segregation reinforces racism and diminishes us as a nation.

So why is the insurance industry fighting to tear down one of the most important tools we have for preventing discrimination?

Under pressure from the insurance industry, the

Department of Housing and Urban Development is considering revising its regulation on "disparate impact" claims in the Fair Housing Act, the landmark legislation that bans housing discrimination on the basis of race and other factors. Other federal agencies are considering similar action.

Under the concept of disparate impact, actions can amount to discrimination if they have an uneven effect even if that was not the intent.

The Supreme Court affirmed the principle of disparate impact in its 2015 decision in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project*. Writing for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy said "recognition of disparate-impact liability under the FHA also plays a role in uncovering discriminatory intent: It permits plaintiffs to counteract unconscious prejudices and disguised animus that escape easy classification as disparate treatment."

That case revolved around the tax credits the federal government provides for developers who build low-income housing. The Inclusive Communities Project sued the Texas agency responsible for administering these tax credits for allocating

too many tax credits "in predominantly Black inner-city areas and too few in predominantly white suburban neighborhoods." The policy effectively kept Black families out of predominantly white neighborhoods.

But even though the disparate impact principle is settled law, the insurance industry continues to push the Trump Administration to challenge it.

Economic justice is dependent upon fair housing. Moving from a high-poverty neighborhood to a low-poverty neighborhood raised incomes, improved college attendance, and reduced teenage pregnancy, a Harvard study found. Zip code is a better indicator of life expectancy than genetic code.

To stand in the way of fair housing is to oppose racial equality itself.

As a civil rights organization devoted to fair housing for more than 100 years, the National Urban League will not tolerate the erosion of the provisions of the Fair Housing Act, or the failure of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fulfill its duty.

## Steny H. Hoyer

Maryland Congressional District 5



## Hoyer Statement on USDA's Relocation of ERS and NIFA

WASHINGTON, DC (June 13, 2019)—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the relocation of the Economic Research Service (ERS) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to the Kansas City region:

"The USDA's announcement today that it will relocate the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to the Kansas City region is the wrong decision. This relocation will prove to be not only disruptive to the important work being done by both agencies

on behalf of the American people, but harmful to the morale of our federal civilian workforce. Furthermore, it will have negative consequences for many families in the Fifth District forced to choose between uprooting their lives in Maryland or losing their jobs. I worked to include language in the Fiscal Year 2020 Agriculture Appropriations bill that would prohibit USDA from using any funds for this relocation. It is alarming that the Administration is rushing ahead with this relocation in order to circumvent Congress. I will continue to explore all options to reverse this decision."

## Hoyer, Brown Participate in Roundtable On Disparities in Health Care

LARGO, Md. (June 14, 2019)—[On June 14], Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) and Congressman Anthony Brown (MD-04) participated in a roundtable discussion on health disparities among minority groups in Maryland. During the discussion, Congressmen Hoyer and Brown discussed the ongoing efforts by Democrats in Congress to lower health care and prescription drug costs and reduce disparities in health care. They also heard from community stakeholders about the work being done in Prince George's County to expand access to affordable health care.

"Among the most persistent health care challenges facing our communities are the disparities among minority populations," said Congressman Hoyer. "In Prince George's County, African Americans have higher rates of death from diabetes, strokes, and heart failure. Only 60% of Hispanic American adults in our county have health coverage compared to 87% of county residents overall. The Affordable Care Act made significant strides in expanding affordable health coverage and bringing down the rate of uninsured Americans, but there is still much more we must do to work to end disparities in health care."

"As Majority Leader, I've brought to the Floor legislation to stop the Trump Administration from sabotaging the Affordable Care Act and ensuring those with pre-existing conditions can't be denied

coverage," continued Congressman Hoyer. "But we must do more. I appreciated the opportunity to sit down with stakeholders from across the region to discuss how best to meet the challenges facing families in the Fifth District. Congressman Brown and I will continue to advocate for Marylanders in Congress, and work to expand access to affordable, quality care to more families."

"House Democrats are working to help more Americans get access to affordable health care even as the Trump administration continues to undermine our health care system," said Congressman Brown. "By working in a bipartisan manner to shore up the Affordable Care Act, lower the cost of prescription drugs, and protect innovative state programs that lower health care premiums, Democrats are keep our promises to the American people. But we can't stop there. I'm glad to join Majority Leader Hoyer in discussing how we can better meet the health care needs of residents living in low-income and medically underserved communities."

Since January, House Democrats have passed ten bills to address the cost of health care and prescription drugs. Additionally, Democrats authorized the House to intervene in the *Texas v. United States* lawsuit and passed a resolution expressing opposition to the Trump Administration's efforts to sabotage the law.

## Inmates Recognized For Obtaining High School Diploma

By ANDREW R. CEPHAS  
Prince George's County Department of Corrections

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (June 14, 2019)—On June 14, 2019, 18 individuals were recognized by the Prince George's County Department of Corrections for completing all the necessary requirements to obtain their high school diploma while incarcerated in 2018 and 2019. Only five of the 18 graduates were still in the jail's custody and available to attend the commencement ceremony.

Department of Corrections administrators were present for the commencement ceremony, including Director Mary Lou McDonough and her Deputy Directors. The room was also filled with graduates' family members and inmates currently working to attain their high school diplomas.

The guest speaker was Marie Crabbe, Division Chief of Inmate Services, who congratulated honorees and encouraged them to use their life for good and service to the community. Her speech addressed each graduate directly and described the characteristics that made them strong enough to complete the program.

"Obtaining a high school diploma opens the door for a lot of employment opportunities. Some of our officers' formal education stops at a high school diploma and they have careers, families, homes and successful lives," Director McDonough told the graduates, clarifying that they are receiving high school diplomas and not General Educational Development certificates.

Each of the five graduates were called to the front of the room where they were presented their high school diploma and posed for a picture with Department administrators.

## Larry Hogan

Governor of Maryland



## Governor Hogan Urges Federal Treasury To Release Tubman \$20 Bill in 2020

*Pens Letter to Secretary Mnuchin to Reconsider Extended Timeline*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 11, 2019)—Governor Larry Hogan today sent a letter to U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, urging the federal administration to reconsider its decision to delay the release of the Harriet Tubman twenty-dollar bill. The governor cited concerns that, while the release was originally slated for 2020, "citizens across Maryland and the country will instead have to wait nearly a decade for this new bill to reach general circulation."

"Dorchester County, Maryland is incredibly proud to be a steward of Harriet Tubman's lasting legacy, but her influence reaches far beyond the borders of our great state," wrote Governor Hogan. "I hope that your department will reconsider its decision and instead join our efforts to promptly memorialize Tubman's life and many achievements."

Tubman overcame abuse, war, chronic illness, and extreme injustice to make her mark on American history as a suffragette, an abolitionist, and a Civil War veteran. People from across the nation and around the world have shown great interest in preserving and promoting her story. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitors Center in Church Creek, which Governor Hogan marked the grand opening of in 2017, receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year from all 50 states and over 60 countries.

"She dedicated her life in selfless service to others and to the cause of freedom," the governor said. "Her unbelievable acts of heroism, courage, and sacrifice have more than earned her rightful place among our nation's most pivotal leaders. She deserves this honor."

## Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Chosen For Douglass Leadership Institute Leadership Award

*Award Announced During Juneteenth Celebration with Dr. Alveda King, Niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

By HANNAH MARR  
Maryland Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (June 14, 2019)—[Last Friday,] Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford was announced as the recipient of the Douglass Leadership Institute's Leadership Award. Dr. Alveda King, activist, author, and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., announced the recognition during the 2019 Juneteenth celebration at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, the official African American museum of the State of Maryland. Juneteenth is an American holiday that honors the announcement of the abolition of slavery on June 19, 1865 and the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this award, and I would like to thank the Douglass Leadership Institute and Dr. King for this incredible recognition," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "In reflecting on the history of Juneteenth and the significance of figures like Frederick Douglass, I find myself profoundly grateful for the generations of African American leaders who came before me and made it possible for our community to have a voice in the leadership of our state."

"Maryland will never forget the important and impactful legacy of our African American community, and our administration remains committed to preserving its history and heritage," he continued. "I am immensely proud to receive this award as we encourage future generations to continue recognizing how our history has built our present, and will influence our future."

The celebration also featured a panel discussion including Dr. King and Rev. Dean Nelson, President of the Douglass Leadership Institute. In addition to her activism, Dr. King is a commissioner for the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Committee. She is currently visiting historic places for African American leaders and communities in Maryland to commemorate Juneteenth.

Both Douglass Leadership Institute and Banneker-Douglass Museum are named after Frederick Douglass, a national leader of the abolitionist movement and former U.S. Ambassador to Haiti. He is also known as the author of "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave."

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Couple With Age Difference Planning Benefits

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

Dear Rusty:

I am nearing my full retirement age of 66 and given the differences in age of my wife and I, and the retirement benefits we will each receive; I was wondering what the best options are for us claiming SS and when. I am 65 and will turn 66 (my full retirement age) in September and my benefit then will be \$2347/month as per the latest estimate on the SSA website. My Wife is currently 58 years old. Her full retirement age is 67, which will be in January 2028. Her estimated SS benefit at full retirement age will be \$2498/month. I have read some things regarding being able to defer one of the benefit payments and receive the other (higher) amount based on certain criteria. I'm not sure if it would apply or be of benefit to us but was wondering if it would. I am looking for the best options to receive the most in benefits that would apply to us.

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: I think you're referring to the "restricted application" which can be used to collect spousal benefits while allowing your own to grow, but I'm afraid that is not something you can take advantage of. It's an option not available to your wife because her birth year is after the cutoff imposed for that option by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and it's not available to you because your wife isn't yet eligible to collect Social Security on her own work record.

You have the option to take your full benefits in September at your full retirement age (FRA) or, if it's financially feasible, you may also choose to delay past your FRA to claim. If you delay past your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of 2/3rds of 1% per month of delay (8% per year of delay) up until age 70 when your benefit would be 32% more than it will be in September. Whether that's a good choice for you depends upon how badly you need the money right now, and your health and expected longevity. If you enjoy at least average longevity (mid-80s) then you'll get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

Your wife cannot collect Social Security benefits until she reaches age 62 in 2023. If she claims at that time she'll be automatically deemed to be filing for both her own SS retirement benefit and any spousal benefit she might be due from your record. However, given the benefit estimates you've shared she'll not be eligible for a spousal benefit from you (nor will you be eligible for benefits from her). Spousal benefits are only paid if 50% of the higher earner's benefit at FRA is more than the lower earner's FRA benefit amount. Since neither of you will be eligible for a spousal benefit, your wife should also consider delaying past her full retirement age if her personal and financial circumstances at the time permit. To do so, she will gain 24% more benefit at age 70 than she would get at her full retirement age of 67.

So, for both of you to achieve the most you can get, the longer you both delay past your respective full retirement ages the more your benefit will be, up to age 70 when the maximum is reached. Since your wife won't reach her FRA until January 2028 but will be eligible to apply for benefits in 2023, be aware that if she applies before her FRA her benefit will be reduced (according to the number of months before her FRA that she applies), and that if she starts her benefits before her FRA and continues to work, she'll be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit changes annually, so I can't tell you what it will be in 2023, but it will be more than the 2019 limit of \$17,640.

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>.

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## Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Leadership Meets with Prince George's County Leaders to Discuss Future of Maryland's Marketplace During Regional Forum Initiative

By HILLARY SCHRUM  
for Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

BALTIMORE, Md. (June 14, 2019)—Maryland Health Benefit Exchange leadership met with community leaders in College Park yesterday as part of its regional forum initiative. The forums are an opportunity for MHBE leadership to engage with local leaders and share ideas to strengthen the future of Maryland Health Connection, the state's official health insurance marketplace.

"Meeting with our partners and community leaders in Prince George's County allows us to recap our success in this area and recognize the needs of the members of this community," said Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. "This forum was a chance to discuss what's ahead and strategize on how to make the 2020 enrollment period even more successful in Prince George's County. We are excited to implement the feedback we received at this forum and continue to plan for our next open enrollment period starting November 1."

The state's percentage of residents without health insurance is at a historic low of 6.1 percent, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Close to 85,400 individuals still remain uninsured in Prince George's County. Of those, an estimated 26,000 individuals would qualify for Medicaid and another 55,000 would qualify for financial assistance to lower the cost of health insurance. The 2020 open enrollment period will run from Nov. 1 to Dec. 15, 2019. Marylanders eligible for Medicaid can enroll year-round.



PHOTO COURTESY HILLMAN PR

Andrew Ratner, Chief of Staff for Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, discusses the future of Maryland's marketplace with Prince George's County leaders during the fourth regional forum.

## Maryland's Protect the Chesapeake License Plate Selected Best Plate of 2018 by the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association

MDOT MVA & Chesapeake Bay Trust Recognized for Creative Partnership Supporting the Environment

By KELLIE BOULWARE  
MDOT MVA

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (June 11, 2019)—The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) and the Chesapeake Bay Trust were honored today by the Automobile License Plate Collector's Association (ALPCA) with its Best Plate of 2018 Award for the new Protect the Chesapeake license plate design. The award recognizes how license plates serve an important role in identifying vehicles, and also provide a colorful snapshot of state geography and culture.

"MDOT MVA is honored to receive this award for this unique license plate design," said MDOT MVA Administrator Chrissy Nizer. "Today's recognition is a great example of how creativity, collaboration and hard work can create positive benefits for both people and the environment."

The 2018 Protect the Chesapeake license plate was unveiled in October and can be purchased through MDOT MVA and the Bay Trust websites. The award-winning design was the culmination of a process that engaged Maryland-based artists and incorporated input from thou-

sands of Marylanders, resulting in more than 250 potential designs. TM Designs, a Frederick-based design firm and member of the Maryland State Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program, created the winning design. More than 30,000 of the plates have been sold, with proceeds benefiting the Chesapeake Bay Trust as it works to restore Maryland's shorelines, provide environmental education for students and fund the beautification of local rivers and streams.



IMAGE COURTESY MDOT MVA

"The Chesapeake Bay Trust is proud to have the Chesapeake Bay Plate honored by the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association," said Jana Davis, executive director of the nonprofit Chesapeake Bay Trust. "The process to create the final product was truly a partnership of many, and we accept this award in recognition of the input and effort of MDOT MVA, TM De-

signs, the Maryland Correctional Enterprises, law enforcement agencies and many other partners."

"Congratulations to Maryland for winning ALPCA's 2018 Best Plate Award for the redesigned Protect the Chesapeake license plate, which features the iconic blue crab and Chesapeake Bay Bridge," said ALPCA President Cyndi McCabe. "The visually appealing and highly legible embossed plate surpassed plates from 10 states, two Canadian provinces and Japan to become the top vote-getter among our membership."

The Automobile License Plate Collectors Association is the largest license plate collector's organization in the world, with 2,849 members from 50 states and 19 countries. Founded in 1954, the organization is dedicated to the promotion of license plate collecting and the exchange of information and plates.

Funds raised through the sale of the Chesapeake Bay Plate help the Chesapeake Bay Trust provide about 400 grants per year to schools, faith-based organizations, civic associations, homeowners associations, watershed groups, environmental organizations and others. For more information on the Bay Trust, go to <https://cbtrust.org/>.

## Van Hollen, Raskin Lead Introduction of Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act

By BRIDGETT FREY  
Office of U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen

WASHINGTON (June 13, 2019)—[Last week,] U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congressman Jamie Raskin (both D-Md.) announced the introduction of the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act, along with Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (all D-Conn.). The bill creates a federal grant program to incentivize state and local governments to enact laws requiring individuals to obtain a license before purchasing a handgun—which have been statistically proven to be effective in reducing firearm homicides and keeping guns out of the hands of prohibited individuals. It comes as the John Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research released a new white paper detailing the effectiveness of handgun licensing—including fingerprinting and in-person applications—in reducing gun violence.

This new grant program would be structured so

that to qualify, a state's permit-to-purchase (PTP) law must require the individual applying for the license is at least 21 years old and go through a law enforcement agency. Applicants would be required to provide fingerprints and photographs to law enforcement, as well as undergo a background check, before receiving the purchasing license.

"Every single day, gun violence tears at the fabric of our families and our communities. And of the thousands of Americans murdered every year by firearms, over 90 percent of those deaths occur with a handgun. Permit-to-purchase laws have been proven to change that, and we should be doing everything we can to encourage states to put these programs in place," said Senator Van Hollen, who first introduced this legislation in 2015. "States require licenses to drive a car in order to protect public safety—requiring a license to buy a handgun should be a no-brainer."

"Handgun licensing saves lives for the same reason drivers' licensing saves lives," said Con-

gressman Raskin. "It takes the dangerous people out of our way as much as possible. That's why I'm happy to introduce this legislation in the House with Congresswoman Jahana Hayes and to work alongside my Maryland colleague Senator Chris Van Hollen as he pushes this bill in the Senate. When I was in the Maryland State Senate, I worked to pass one of the most comprehensive gun safety laws in the nation, and Maryland now has some of the nation's best firearm safety laws, including stringent licensing requirements for all handgun purchasers. Since I came to Congress, I've been working to bring our best state innovations to the federal level. The Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act will strengthen the federal-state partnership as we advance commonsense gun safety reform."

"The evidence is clear: sensible handgun laws save lives. All states require licenses to drive a car or hunt or fish—so why not handguns, which can kill? Requiring a license to purchase a deadly weapon is at least as important as requiring one to drive a car. A bill as basic as encouraging states to adopt responsible handgun licensing should win broad, bipartisan support," said Senator Blumenthal.

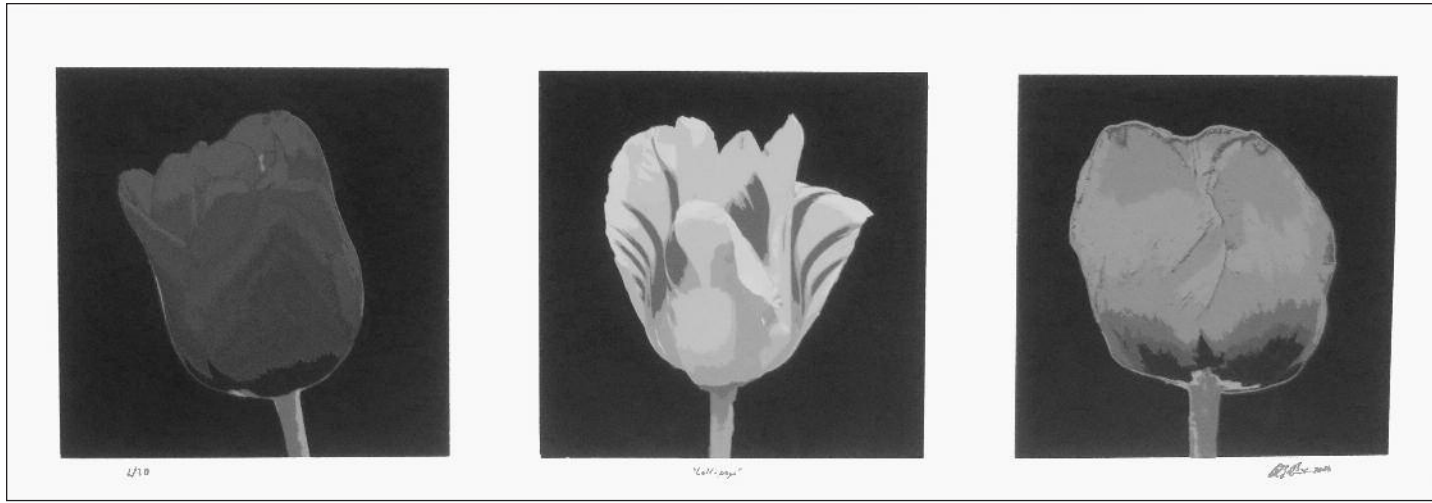
"The evidence is clear. When Connecticut passed a permit-to-purchase law we saw gun homi-

cides go down by 40 percent. That's an astounding number. Our state is working tirelessly to reduce gun violence and save lives," said Senator Murphy. "This bill helps to reduce violence by encouraging states to keep guns out of the hands of criminals or people who fail a background check. It's time for Congress to listen to the vast majority of the American public who want action on commonsense gun violence prevention."

"It is often said that states are the laboratories of democracy. This is a perfect example of that idea. We know Connecticut's permit-to-purchase law has saved lives and we need to replicate it on the federal level to bring this commonsense approach to the rest of the country," said Congresswoman Hayes.

Maryland and Connecticut are among the 9 states that currently have PTP laws on the books. Using mortality data from the Center for Disease Control, a 2015 study by Johns Hopkins University determined that when comparing to similar states with no PTP laws, Connecticut's PTP law reduced firearm homicides by 40 percent. In 2007, Missouri

# OUT on the TOWN



“Lollipops” by Allan Akman

IMAGE COURTESY PYRAMID ATLANTIC ART CENTER

## PRECISION: Screenprints by Allan Akman

Opening Reception: Friday, June 21, 6:30–9 p.m. at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center

HYATTSVILLE, Md. (June 3, 2019)—With dreams of being an artist tempered by his father’s advice for practicality, Akman didn’t seriously make art until his retirement. Ten years ago he came to Pyramid Atlantic to explore the possibilities of screenprinting. The results are exhibited in this solo show of prints he created between 2009 and 2019. Akman’s meticulous nature is evident in these rich and carefully layered works that represent a decade of art-making.

PRECISION opens Friday, June 21 with a reception from 6:30–9 p.m. The exhibition runs through July 14, 2019. Gallery hours: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 12–5 p.m. on Sunday. The exhibition and reception are FREE and open to the public. Pyramid Atlantic is located at 4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville Maryland 20781. More at pyramidatlanticartcenter.org or 301-608-9101.

Specializing in hand-pulled screenprinting, Akman is mostly self-taught. While precision is a goal, he has realized that each layer of printing poses risks and challenges that lead him to a different outcome than first imagined. Akman wryly admits that screenprinting has taught him to “adjust my dreams to the reality of the squeegee.”

Akman spent his “working” years making a “living” as a consultant to the federal government where he developed policies and procedures to assess the impact of new equipment on soldiers, sailors, and airmen. Throughout his career, there was always an art project somewhere in the background—painting, graphics, and paper cutting, among others. “I have been an artist most of my life, simply not a professional artist.”

This exhibition is made possible in part through funding from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County.

*Founded in 1981, Pyramid Atlantic is a nonprofit contemporary art center fostering the creative disciplines of papermaking, printmaking, and book arts within a collaborative community. We equip, educate, and exhibit in our historic Hyattsville home. Our vision is to create an artistic hub in Hyattsville that inspires and enables local, national, and international artists to create and innovate in our core disciplines; elevates the local arts and small business scene; and enhances the quality of life for artists and neighbors. We value artistic excellence, infrastructure for artists, hands-on experiences, and collaboration.*

## PLAN AHEAD FOR THESE EVENTS!

### Hamilton: How the Musical Remixes American History

Date and Time: Thursday, June 27, 2019, 6–8 p.m.

Description: University of Maryland Associate Professor of History and MdHS trustee, Dr. Richard Bell, will present a lecture exploring the success of the Tony Award-winning musical, “Hamilton,” and what it tells us about the marriage of history and show business. Learn more and register to attend. Light refreshments to follow. This lecture coincides with “Hamilton” coming to the Hippodrome Theatre, June 25–July 27.

Cost: \$15/members; \$20/nonmembers; **Register** at [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org)

Ages: Adults

Location: Maryland Historical Society, 201 West Monument St., Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4674

Contact: 410-685-3750

### Beer, Blues, & Burgers at Marietta House Museum

Date and Time: Saturday, June 29, 2019, 1–6 p.m.

Description: Enjoy various styles of beer from the Calvert Brewing Company, along with the sounds of blues musicians; Higher Standards Jazz (1–3 p.m.) & The Lovejoy Group (4–6 p.m.) Burgers and other foods available for purchase through our food vendors. Visit our craft vendors and artisans, watch woodcarving demonstrations, tour the historic 1813 home (included with admission). Our Farmer’s Market will be here with fresh produce, herbs, plants, food and bakery items, beautiful decorative cutting boards, and more. Bring a lawn chair and blanket! Beer available for purchase.

Cost: \$10/person

Ages: 21 & older to attend this event

Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769

Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

## ERIC D. SNIDER’S IN THE DARK

### .... Movie Review ....

## Amazing Grace (documentary)

Amazing Grace (documentary)  
Grade: A-  
Rated G  
1 hr., 27 min.

“Amazing Grace,” Aretha Franklin’s 1972 double-album of gospel songs, was the top-selling record of her career and the best-selling live gospel album of all time. (There might have been more live gospel albums than you realize.) It was recorded over two nights at a Baptist church in L.A.’s Watts neighborhood, filmed by director Sydney Pollack and five cameramen so that Warner Bros. could release a movie version as a companion to the album. But there were technical problems for a few decades, followed by legal problems, and so the “Amazing Grace” documentary is only now being released, 47 years later, over Aretha Franklin’s dead body. (I recommend this Rolling Stone article for a succinct and fascinating overview of the movie’s history.)

If it seems disR-E-S-P-E-C-Tful to watch a movie that Aretha didn’t want you to see, take solace in knowing that 1) it wasn’t because she thought the movie was bad and 2) it’s

doesn’t engage in between-songs banter with the audience, doesn’t say much of anything when she’s not singing. She’s backed by a powerhouse choir and small band, with the Rev. James Cleveland banging away on the piano and serving as emcee. Everyone is at the top of their game.

Contrasting the polished sound of the event (which millions have already heard) is its scrappy, unpolished look. The purpose of the two nights was to record an album, after all—filming it was a secondary concern. So this is a behind-the-scenes documentary as much as it is a concert film, and you can see the cameramen scrambling around, wires and cables everywhere, even Pollack himself sometimes, emphatically gesturing instructions to his crew. The

New Temple Missionary Baptist Church, with its ancient choir seats and uncomfortable-looking pews (familiar across all religious denominations), doesn’t look any different from a normal Sunday service except that Mick Jagger and Charlie Watts are standing in the back. It’s January, but a lack of air conditioning has everyone sweating profusely, especially Aretha. All of this rawness makes the show feel more intimate, the reactions from the congregation more like our own. A meticulously “cinematic” concert film wouldn’t have been nearly as effective at capturing the Queen of Soul’s majesty.

(Note: The film played for one week in December and is thus technically a 2018 release, but its real run began April 5, 2019.)



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Concert footage from 1972 of Aretha Franklin performing songs from the best-selling gospel album at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

## Calendar Spotlight: Science Fun

### SERC Science Saturday

Date and Time: Saturday, June 22, 2019, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Description: Learn about marine biodiversity with marine biologists. Join us for explorations of SERC research with our Science Saturdays. Bring the family for a day of hands-on activities alongside Smithsonian scientists! Bring: No food will be available for purchase, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch or snacks. We hope to see you all there! NO Pre-registration Required

Cost: FREE

Ages: Open to all

Location: SERC campus, 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater, MD 21037. We’ll show you where to park when you get here. Directions can be found at: <https://serc.si.edu/directions>

Contact: Karen McDonald, [mcdonaldk@si.edu](mailto:mcdonaldk@si.edu); 443-482-2216

### Science Saturdays

Date and Time: Saturday, June 22, 2019, 1 p.m.

Description: Visit the Museum for a fun-filled afternoon of science activities in the Learning Center. This month’s theme is DNA Analysis. Explore the structure of the double helix and extract real DNA right before your eyes! DNA Analysis introduces participants to biology and mathematics through engaging activities suitable for all types of learners. Feel free to stay for the full duration or drop by for one or two activities.

Cost: Free with admission to the Museum (Adult: \$21.95;

Youth (ages 6–11): \$14.95; Seniors (ages 65 and up): \$19.95;

College student with ID: \$19.95; Law Enforcement Professional or Military (ID should be provided): \$17.56; Survivor:

\$17; Children (ages 5 and under) admission is free)

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: National Law Enforcement Museum, 444 E St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

Contact: [info@LawEnforcementMuseum.org](mailto:info@LawEnforcementMuseum.org), 202.737.3400

### Medical Museum Science Café:

#### The Neuroscience of Elite Performance

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 6–7 p.m.

Description: Join U.S. Army Captain Allison Brager, Ph.D., to learn about her experiences as a neuroscience researcher for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. She will describe what makes the brains of high-performing soldiers and athletes unique and discuss new sleep research that aims to prevent injuries, such as concussions, and maximize performance.

Cost: FREE! Open to the public. No RSVP required.

Location: National Museum of Health and Medicine, 2500 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Contact: 301-319-3303

### STEM-tastic: Sphero

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

Description: Learn a new technical skill at the library. This week, learn how to code using Sphero robots. Beginners welcome!

Cost: FREE!

Ages: 5–12

Location: Glenarden Branch Library, 8724 Glenarden Pkwy.,

Glenarden, MD 20770

Contact: 301-772-5477, 240-696-3844

### Legos: Modeling The Universe

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 7 p.m.

Description: Join us for Summer @ Your Library! Tonight we will be modeling the universe with Legos. Legos will be provided and kids can let their imaginations run wild!

Cost: FREE!

Ages: 5–12

Location: Accokeek Branch Library, 15773 Livingston Rd.,

Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-292-2880

### Cub Corner

Date and Time: Thursday, June 27, 2019, 10:30 a.m.

Description: Come to the Cub Corner story time for preschool fun! Ideal for little learners to enjoy a flight-themed story and hands-on craft activity.

Cost: FREE with museum admission (see below)

Ages: 5 and younger

Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank

Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



### College Park Aviation Museum

PHOTOGRAPH BY PRESERVATION MARYLAND, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Located on the grounds of the world’s oldest continuously operating airport, the **College Park Aviation Museum** opened in 1998 with the goal of preserving and promoting the history of aviation innovations at College Park Airport while encouraging further research and inspiring curiosity in the history and science of flight. The museum houses historic and reproduction aircraft related to the history of the airfield. The rotating exhibits and family-friendly, hands-on activities make for a unique experience with each visit. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., except for major holidays. Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children \$2 (FREE for children 1 and under).

College Park Aviation Museum:

1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD 20740

301-864-6029 • [www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com](http://www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com)

# Calendar of Events

June 20–June 26, 2019

## Melwood Safety Day: S.A.F.E. 4 All

Date and Time: Friday, June 21, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Rain date: Friday, June 28.

Description: June is National Safety Month. Join Melwood on June 21 for a FUN, interactive day of health and safety demonstrations from expert community leaders.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Melwood, 5606 Dower House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: 301-599-8000

## Platinum Series: Memphis Gold Blues Band

Date and Time: Friday, June 21, 2019, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Description: Special matinee performance for Seniors. The Blues world continues to discover and love the music of Memphis Gold. He has shared the stage with such artists as James Brown, George Clinton and the Funkadelic All Stars, Shamekia Copeland, Bobby Parker, and many more. Don't miss your chance to experience the sounds of this Blues legend!

Cost: \$10/person. Purchase through PARKS DIRECT!

Ages: Seniors

Location: The Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20784

Contact: 301-277-1710

## Fairy Trails: Grand Opening!

Date and Time: Friday, June 21, 2019, 6–8 p.m.

Description: Celebrate the grand opening of the Piscataway Park Fairy Trail on the summer solstice—a magical day for the fairy folk. The grand opening will include fairy crafts, special “Fairyologist” guides, face painting, and music. Plus you'll get your very own Fairyologist Trail Guide to help you explore the forest through the eyes of the fairies.

Cost: \$5–\$10. <https://accokeekfoundation.simplertix.com/e/44874>

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Piscataway Park, 3400 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

Contact: 301-283-2113

## Movies in the Park: The Lego® Movie 2

Date and Time: Saturday, June 22, 2019, 7 p.m. The featured movie will be shown at dusk.

Description: Bring the whole family for a movie under the stars on the big screen! Add even more family fun by bringing snacks or a picnic dinner. Don't forget your blanket or lawn chairs as the event is in the grass! **Rain location:** Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center, 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774

Cost: FREE!

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: On the Green at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## Reading Ranger: The Raft

Date and Time: Sunday, June 23, 2019, 10 a.m.

Description: Join a Park Ranger to read the award-winning “The Raft” written by Jim LaMarche and explore a young child's journey into nature on vacation. Meet at the Ranger Station.

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>

## Community in the Courthouse:

### June is Public Safety Month

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 8:30–10 a.m.

Description: Join the Office of the State's Attorney for Community in the Courthouse. This month we are focusing on public safety and have invited our partners in law enforcement and Fire/EMS Department for Prince George's County.

Cost: Free, **Register** via eventbrite

Ages: Adults

Location: Prince George's County Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Room M0421, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Contact: Thelmetria Michaelides at 240-508-2018 or [tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tamichaelides@co.pg.md.us)

## Gymnastics Workshops

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Spaces available on first-come, first-served basis (Max. 3 children to 1 adult). Parents required to be on the floor with the children. Looking for a fun activity for your children? Need them to burn some energy? The workshops are open play time for your children to explore gymnastics in a safe and fun environment.

Cost: \$7/per participant

Ages: Walking to 12 years

Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

## A Journey through America's National Park System

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 7:30–9 p.m.

Description: Come hear the story of David Kroese, who visited every National Park during the Centennial 2016 and collected the Centennial and Find Your Park pins throughout the country. It is an effort to say “thank you” to the wonderful people who staff and protect our nation's parks, and how the exhibit project led to the first narrative ever published introducing all 419 units in our National Park System.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contact: 301-344-3944

## Teens Create: Learn to Draw Comic Strips

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 3 p.m.

Description: Do you love comics? Have you ever wanted to create your own? Come to the library and learn to draw your very own comic strip. Supplies will be provided.

Cost: FREE!

Ages: 13–18

Location: New Carrollton Branch Library, 7414 Riverdale Rd., New Carrollton, MD 20784

Contact: 301-459-6900

## Service Award from A1

ment and in reuse, Nancy brought an impressive set of skills uniquely suited to help Forklift's mission,” Ainsworth explained. “She had experience in the building trades, having worked nearly 4 years as a carpenter-apprentice, witnessing usable discarded building materials at many construction sites. And she had experience running non-profits, including the recycling center for the University of Maryland and the Community Art Center at the Stamp Student Union.”

Initially hired as a part-time Business Manager, Meyer eventually took on more responsibilities and became the C.E.O. of Community Forklift. With her input and under her leadership, the non-profit negotiated a more favorable lease, boosted income by finding new sources and opportunities, was restructured to facilitate grants, and its debt was refinanced.

Meyer took advantage of every little “niche” and opportunity to expand the reuse operation and improve its economic viability. The initial reliance on a deconstruction company for materials was augmented by a consignment arrangement in antique and vintage items, purchased not only locally but by Hollywood film-makers. A tree-felling company now sends its milled boards to Forklift for sale. The number of employees has risen from half a dozen to 50 full- and part-time workers, with benefits. Forklift has acquired an additional 16,000 square feet of storage next door and an on-line business. The community has been engaged via outreach and education. Forklift's numerous awards are testimony of its success.<sup>1</sup>

Asked about the future, Meyer responded that her vision is to find the resources to acquire the full 12 acres of brownfield in the current location (of which Forklift occupies 3 acres) to develop a park or commons where reuse businesses could co-locate. “This would promote community economic development through waste,” she said. “There's a bigger picture goal: Live differently.”

Adam C. Ortiz, former Director of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and former Mayor of Edmonston, calls Meyer “a visionary for a closed-loop green economy and the heart of our movement.” A member of the Community Forklift Board, he remarked that “after a rocky startup, Nancy has steered the Community Forklift ship and charted its future. She professionalized its operations, developed relationships with contractors and non-profits, and created a community space and a green destination in the region for people in all walks of life.” (Ortiz was the recipient of the 2018 Environmental Service Award and is currently Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.)

On hand at the award picnic was Prince George's County Councilwoman Jolene Ivey (District 5), who presented Meyer with a Proclamation from the Prince George's County Council, congratulating her on receiving the 2019 Environmental Service Award and saluting her “personal commitment to the community, environment, and Prince George's County.”

“Nancy manages to salvage building materials, our environment, and people, all at the same time,” remarked Councilwoman Ivey.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MARIAN DOMBROSKI

**Nancy J. Meyer receives the 2019 Environmental Service Award from Martha Ainsworth, Chair of the Prince George's Sierra Club Group, at Watkins Regional Park.**

“She figures out where she can have the best impact and goes beyond expectations. Whether it's stopping a concrete batching plant from setting up in her community or expanding a salvaging business into an award-winning community jewel, Nancy is a force of nature. I'm so proud to have her not only in my county but in my district.”

Nancy J. Meyer grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey. As a girl, she hunted for treasures that neighbors put out at the curb for the town's “junk days,” salvaging a unicycle, an accordion, and a surf board, among others. She organized stream clean-ups in junior high school, and in high school started a battered women's shelter. After high school, she traveled through Appalachia with a friend, taking in the struggles of the local people, leaning about the appropriation of land, coal mining, labor issues, and environmental impacts. She holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Prince George's Sierra Club Group established the annual Environmental Service Award in 2005 to honor the late Walter “Mike” Maloney—a civic activist, County Council member, and attorney dedicated to the rights and the quality-of-life of everyday people. Nominees are County residents who have shown excellence in local environmental leadership. Previous winners include Thomas Dernoga (2005), Fred Tutman (2006), Imani Kazana (2007), Carmen Anderson (2008), Paul Pinsky (2009), Kelly Canavan (2010), Bonnie Bick (2011), Dan Smith (2012), Vernon Wade (2013), Jacqueline Goodall (2014), Mary A. Lehman (2015), Lore Rosenthal (2016), Marian Dombroski (2017), and Adam C. Ortiz (2018).

*The Sierra Club is the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in the nation. Its mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth.*

<sup>1</sup> [www.communityforklift.org](http://www.communityforklift.org).

# Earth TALK™ Saving the World One Bionic Leaf at a Time

Dear EarthTalk:

*What the heck is a “bionic leaf” and how does it help the planet?*

—William Friend, Billings, MT

Brainchild of Harvard biochemist Daniel Nocera, the “bionic leaf” is a small man-made solar collector that takes sunlight and water and turns it into any of a variety of usable fuels or fertilizers. Nocera's first iteration, the so-called “artificial leaf,” was developed in 2011 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and could split water into oxygen and hydrogen when exposed to sunlight in a process similar to (and inspired by) Mother Nature's photosynthesis.

Nocera soon thereafter moved his lab to Harvard and teamed up with Pamela Silver there to create the “bionic” version which takes the concept further. There they fed the resulting hydrogen to an on-board catalyst, resulting in the generation of immediately useable downstream liquid “fuels” such as fertilizer for farms, isobutanol to run generators and engines, and PHB, a precursor for bio-plastic.

The team's first version of the “bionic” leaf was about as efficient as natural photosynthesis, that is about one percent of the solar energy flowing in came out as biomass dense enough to use as fuel. But their most recent

version ups the ante considerably, clocking in at 10 times more efficient than Mother Nature's fastest growing plants.

“If you think about it, photosynthesis is amazing,” Nocera tells the *Harvard Gazette*. “It takes sunlight, water and air—and then look at a tree. That's exactly what we did, but we do it significantly better, because we turn all that energy into a fuel.”

When mass-produced, these tiny solar “carbon-negative” fuel factories could be inexpensive enough for everyday people to use to power their vehicles and run their lights and appliances. Farmers with a small on-site array of bionic leaves could create

enough fertilizer for their own needs instead of buying container-loads of synthetic fertilizer produced at sprawling CO<sub>2</sub>-spewing factories and shipped for thousands of miles.

The widespread application of bionic leaves could be especially advantageous in developing countries (and remote areas in general) where access to conventional fuels and fertilizers is limited and expensive or non-existent. Nocera hopes his work can bring the poor of the world their “first 100 watts” of energy through one form or another of the technologies he is developing. A Harvard-funded pilot program putting bionic leaves to use in India is just getting off the ground and Nocera hopes to expand globally within the near future.

The vision is for retiring every fossil fuel out there and replacing them with solar fuels from your own “bionic” garden. Imagine a world with no more utility bills or lining up at the gas pump? “You can use just sunlight, air and water,” concludes Nocera, “and you can do it in your backyard.”

**CONTACTS:** Nocera Lab, [nocera.harvard.edu](http://nocera.harvard.edu); Silver Lab, [silver.med.harvard.edu](http://silver.med.harvard.edu); Harvard Gazette, [news.harvard.edu/gazette](http://news.harvard.edu/gazette).

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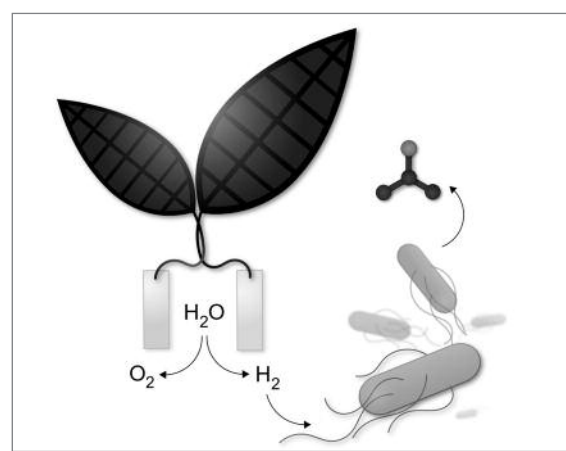


IMAGE CREDIT: JESSICA POLKA, CREATIVECOMMONS

**The bionic leaf is a system for converting solar energy into liquid fuel developed by the labs of Daniel Nocera and Pamela Silver at Harvard.**

## BE PET PREPARED

With hotter weather and hurricane season upon us, emergencies can come in many forms. Be sure to include your furry family in your disaster plan.

- Make sure your pet is microchipped or has a collar ID tag with the most recent contact information.
- Secure your pet in an escape-proof area if loud noises from thunderstorms or fireworks spook them.
- Watch for signs of overheating and bring your pet indoors when needed. Never leave your pet in a car, even with the windows cracked.
- Keep pets away from toxic items like citronella, glow sticks or areas that have been sprayed with chemicals, such as insecticides.

**second NATURE** 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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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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## Scholarship Breakfast from A1

leges and Universities offered Words of Encouragement to the students. Ms. Ebony N. McMorris National News Correspondent for Reach Media, Radio One, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Judge Arthur Burnett, National Executive Director of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. and Jerome Haggins gave the inspiring remarks to the students. Pastor Orlando J. Bego gave the invocation before the breakfast was served.

Dr. Valencia Campbell, PGCDPC President, indicated that: "Although we were extremely proud of the students' academic accomplishments, we were very impressed with the students' vast involvement in their communities. That included serving seniors and the homeless, mentoring younger students, working on Mission trips abroad, working in their church and participating in many school related extra curricular activities." The Coalition presented 23 students with awards totaling \$18,000 this year. Maryland State Senator Obie Patterson and Rachel Jones, representing U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's office, presented the students with Senate citations. Tiffany Hannon representing U.S. Congressman Anthony Brown's office and Former MD State Delegate Tony Knotts congratulated this year's honorees before closing music by the Entourage Jazz band.

The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that promotes policies and laws that embrace the public health nature of drug abuse. Through our scholarship program, we provide community-based support to families within the county with a focus on students obtaining higher education and living a drug-free life. The Prince George's County Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. represents one of many local affiliates of the National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc. Our national organization consists of a coalition of 25 preeminent organizations. Through the support of our national organization, interested organizational partners, and grassroots members like you, we hope to prevent and reduce illegal drug abuse and related crimes in Prince George's County. Visit our website at [www.pgcdpc.com](http://www.pgcdpc.com) or email at [pgcdpc@hotmail.com](mailto:pgcdpc@hotmail.com) for more information about upcoming events and how to partner with us.

## Licensing Act from A5

repealed its requirement that handgun purchasers obtain a PTP and statistics show their state's gun homicide rate rose by 25 percent.

"Permit-to-purchase systems are already saving lives where they have been enacted," said Lindsay Nichols, Federal Policy Director at Giffords. "We know these laws are effective. Congress should encourage states to establish systems of their own that can better stop a dangerous individual from obtaining a handgun to harm others. We applaud Senator Van Hollen and Representative Raskin for introducing this legislation and urge Congress to move swiftly so we can better protect more communities around the country from gunfire."

"The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence would like to thank Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Raskin for introducing the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act of 2019. This bill creates a grant program for states to implement and improve handgun purchaser licensing programs. The research and data show that handgun licensing has proven to be incredibly effective in reducing firearm deaths and injuries. State legislatures across the nation should support licensing as an invaluable tool to save lives," said Executive Director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Josh Horwitz. "Recent polling shows that 77 percent of Americans support requiring licenses to purchase firearms. This legislation is evidence-based, politically popular, and should be supported by elected officials on both sides of the aisle. America's gun violence epidemic is out of control; it is time to focus on life-saving, meaningful solutions like the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act."

"Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence applauds Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congressman Jamie Raskin's reintroduction of the Handgun Purchaser Licensing Act. Background checks serve as a good starting point to screen out prohibited individuals, but we cannot stop there. 'Permit to purchase' strengthens the background check process by requiring the applicant to apply to their local law enforcement agency, provide a photo and submit fingerprints. These additional measures have been shown to significantly reduce the number of straw purchases of handguns. The decrease in this diversion of gun into the illegal market lowers homicide rates in urban areas," said Elizabeth Banach, Executive Director, Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence.

## Help Scientists Track Dolphins in The Chesapeake Bay

Data sourced from public helps scientists to better understand dolphins

By AMY PELSINSKY  
UMCES

SOLOMONS, Md. (June 11, 2019)—The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Chesapeake Dolphin-Watch app is back for the 2019 summer season with new features, including the ability to upload videos of dolphins spotted on the bay by citizen scientists. The Chesapeake Dolphin-Watch app allows users to mark the location of dolphin sightings on a map of the Chesapeake and its tributaries so scientists can better understand where the dolphins are and where they go.

Last year more than 1,100 sightings were reported, and more than 4,000 people logged on to use the Chesapeake Dolphin-Watch app, which is available for iPhone and Android and also at [www.chesapeake-dolphin-watch.org](http://www.chesapeake-dolphin-watch.org).

Bottlenose dolphins are frequently spotted in the Chesapeake Bay during the summer with reports of them leaping in the air or bow riding boats. However, very little is known about how often dolphins actually come into the Bay, how long

they spend there, what areas of the Bay they are using and why.

The Chesapeake Dolphin-Watch app has four main sections. There is a map where users can see all of the reported sightings and tap to report their own sighting. Users can either enter the location where they saw the dolphins or have the device use the current location to mark their location. There is also an information section with responsible wildlife viewing guidelines and to learn more about dolphins and the Chesapeake Bay.

New features this year include a section where users can listen to dolphin calls recorded on underwater microphones in the Chesapeake Bay and a feature that allows dolphin watchers to upload a video of a dolphin sighting and view photos and videos of confirmed sightings.

More information on the program is available at [www.umces.edu/dolphinwatch](http://www.umces.edu/dolphinwatch). Tag your photos of dolphins to @dolphinwatch\_cb on Instagram. Funding for Chesapeake Dolphin-Watch was provided by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Tracks Software, and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

# CLASSIFIEDS

**AUTOMOBILE DONATIONS**

DONATE AUTOS, TRUCKS, RVs Lutheran Mission Society of MD. Compassion Place ministries help local families with food, clothing, counseling Tax deductible. MVA licensed #W1044. 410-636-0123 [www.CompassionPlace.org](http://www.CompassionPlace.org)

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Place your ad on Facebook; Twitter; LinkedIn and Google Ads Words through MDDC's Social Media Ad Network; Call today to find out maximize your presence on Social Media; 410-212-0616; or email Wanda Smith at [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Join other advertisers of the MDDC Small Display Advertising Network. Grow your Revenue with a business size ad in this network; Let the Multi-Media Specialists help you increase your customer base; CALL TODAY 410-212-0616—See your results NOW

**SERVICES MISCELLANEOUS**

Placement & One Bill; You'll Reach the Entire Mid-Atlantic Region; Call 410-212-0616

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Let the Multi-Media Specialists of MDDC Advertising Network assist you in growing your business and increasing your customer base. Call today at 410-212-0616 and start seeing results NOW. [www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com)

Bulk advertising at its best: advertise in over 70 newspapers and reach millions of readers with ONE call. Broaden your reach and get results for pennies per reader. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com).

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE**

Delaware New Move-In Ready Homes! Low Taxes! Close to Beaches, Gated, Olympic pool. Homes from low \$100's, No HOA Fees. Brochures Available 1-866-629-0770 or [www.coolbranch.com](http://www.coolbranch.com)

Place a business card ad in the Regional Small Display 2x2/2x4 Advertising Network—Reach 3.6 Million readers with just one call, one bill and one ad placement in 71 newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and DC TODAY! For just \$1450.00, Get the reach, Get the results and for Just Pennies on the Dollars Now...call 1-855-721-6332 x 6 or email Wanda Smith at [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com)

**BUSINESS SERVICES**

Increase your presence by advertising on FACEBOOK; TWITTER AND GOOGLE-ADS; Call our Multi-Media Specialists to experience the success of social media advertising today; CALL 410-212-0616

Increase your Frequency with your Advertising Call one of MDDC's Multi-Media specialists to grow your business. Call Wanda at 410-212-0616 or email [wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com).

**EDUCATION/ CAREER TRAINING**

AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING—Get FAA certification to fix planes. Financial Aid if qualified. Approved for military benefits. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-823-6729.

**SERVICES—MISCELLANEOUS**

Increase your customer base and get great results by placing your ads in the MDDC—Classified Advertising network! Call today 410-212-0616 Ask for Multi-Media Specialist—Wanda & watch your results grow.

**THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!**

Call today for a quote.  
**301-627-0900**

SAVE loads of money with your advertising BUDGETS; CONNECT with the Multi-Media Specialists of the MDDC Advertising Networks; GET Bulk Advertising Opportunities NOW; CALL TODAY; With One Call; With One Ad

Enter To **WIN \$3,000**

Newspaper sponsored shopping survey. No purchase necessary.

Enter to win now, go to:  
**www.pulsepoll.com**

**Lutheran Mission Society**

Alan Amrhine, Communications Director  
Lutheran Mission Society

"MDDC has connected donors with the LMS Vehicle Donation Program for over six years! Great exposure, cost effective, and Wanda is so helpful."

Call Wanda: 410-212-0616  
[wsmith@mddcpress.com](mailto:wsmith@mddcpress.com)  
Local touch, infinite reach.

Your advertising resource  
**MDDC press**  
[www.mddcpress.com](http://www.mddcpress.com)

**Dental Insurance**

This is real dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company that helps pay for over 350 procedures – cleanings, fillings, crowns, even dentures.

- No annual maximum, no deductible
- See any dentist you want – including your own
- Over 50? Coverage as low as \$1 per day

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit  
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**AARP AUTO INSURANCE FROM THE HARTFORD**

TO SPEAK WITH AN AGENT AND REQUEST A FREE QUOTE CALL THE HARTFORD TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU COULD SAVE:  
**1-877-579-9788**