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UMD Presents Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Awards at Maryland Municipal League Conference

Nine Prince George's County communities honored

By PRESS OFFICER
Sustainable Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (October 17, 2019)—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland honored 17 Maryland municipalities at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 in Cambridge, Maryland.

Nine Prince George's County municipalities were among those honored at the event with Sustainable Maryland Certified Awards, three of which received their first certification in the program: The City New Carrollton, the Town of Brentwood, and the Town of Capitol Heights.

New Carrollton:

"New Carrollton is thrilled to be recognized as a Sustainable Maryland Certified municipality," said Mayor Duane Rosenberg. "It was the hard work of our Green Team—made up of residents, business leaders, houses of faith, local schools and City staff—that led to our being worthy of this honor. It became truly a community undertaking. New Carrollton made improve-

ments to vegetation planning, how we manage stormwater, and reduced our carbon footprint. Thanks to Sustainable Maryland for providing the goals and guidance as inspiration to the New Carrollton team!"

Highlights of New Carrollton's accomplishments include:

- The City has two community gardens that it has operated since 2011. Lamont Community Garden has 30 plots and is located behind Charles Carroll Middle School. St. Christopher's Church Community Garden has 16 plots. The Gardens are located in different sections of the City and all ways fully utilized.

- In 2019, the City Council of New Carrollton, desiring to use its best efforts to purchase environmentally preferable products whenever the products perform satisfactorily and are available at a reasonably competitive price, adopted a Sustainable Purchasing Policy. The Policy supports the purchase of materials, products and services in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts relating to City business.

Brentwood:

"This award recognition is part of our Town's continual effort to-

wards an environmentally sustainable future," said Mayor Rocio Treminio-Lopez and Councilmember Jerry Burgess. "Many of our members have been consistently striving for an increase in eco-consciousness for some time, while others toil quietly in the background for often unrecognized yet significant work for the ongoing greening of Brentwood. We are immensely proud of our community, our government and the leadership from our Green Team."

Highlights of Brentwood's accomplishments include:

- The Town hosts a Pollinator Festival every June in conjunction with National Pollinator Week. The festival features honey tasting, a beekeeper, native plants for sale, pollinator crafts and games, a pollinator face-painter, a master gardener table, and tables full of literature and information on pollinators.

- The Town initiated a "Nature Notes" column in its Lamplighter newsletter. The column appears monthly and is translated into Spanish as well as English. Topics covered have included town trees, non-toxic mosquito control, our neighbor the possum, and other nature-related themes.

Capitol Heights:

"Sustainable Maryland is a voluntary certification program that demonstrates a Town's commitment to going green, being a good steward of tax payers' dollars, and improving residents' quality of life," said Mayor Shawn Maldon. "It was a no-brainer for us, as elected officials, to get behind this effort—and we are sincerely proud of the work that each member of our Capitol Heights Green Team put in to achieve this remarkable designation. I am particularly proud of the hard work that our Neighborhood Services Department contributed."

Highlights of Capitol Heights' accomplishments include:

- The Town has a Community Garden located in the Metro station area. The Town has partnered with Feed 5000 to maintain and manage the garden. Residents are able to obtain a plot and grow crops organically. Instructions, guidance, and advice are provided by Feed 5000 for those who are not experienced with growing in a garden. The garden currently hosts 18 plots.

See SUSTAINABLE Page A4



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND

Community representatives proudly pose with their Sustainable Maryland Certified Awards. Top (from left): Council Vice-Chair Roy Peterson; Council Chair Phelicia Nembhard; Mayor Duane Rosenberg; and Council Member Steven John of New Carrollton. Middle (from left): Council Member Marcus Monroe; Mayor Rocio Treminio-Lopez, and Council Member Alicia Tarr of Brentwood. Bottom (from left): Council Member Elaine Williams; Venus Drummond, Neighborhood Services Department Director; and Lea Johnson, Administrative Assistant-Neighborhood Services Department of Capitol Heights.

Prince George's Playwright Debuts on Bowie Center Stage

Love is Blind, a new play by County native Rhonda R. Gladden, debuts at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts this November



PHOTOGRAPH BY RHONDA GLADDEN, COURTESY OF BOWIE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

By DAVID ANDRUSIA

Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md.—The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to present the world premiere of *Love is Blind*, a play by writer/producer Rhonda R. Gladden.

"Presenting the work of emerging artists is always a privilege," says the Center's Executive Director Jason Cook, "but never more so than when we have the honor of presenting the fruits of homegrown talent. Ms. Gladden, a Lanham native, graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt Maryland and she also attended Prince George's Community College.

Love is Blind is a story about a group of friends as close as siblings. When jealousy rears its ugly head, these friends find themselves on an emotional roller-coaster ... and the choices they make bring not only love and laughter, but betrayal and violence. Will their faith in God save them, or will they allow the Devil to destroy them?

Ms. Gladden, a playwright since childhood, "had always wanted to mount plays, especially in area churches." Last

year she decided to move past fear and started self-producing her own work, forming her company, Battle Ready Productions. The name comes from Ephesians 10:11 KJV "putting on the whole armor of God, acknowledging you are ready for spiritual battle, and calling upon His strength," Ms. Gladden advises, and tells us, "I produce plays about real-life situations that show how people can identify and work through live challenges. It's a spiritual battle in our day-to-day lives."

Love is Blind features 11 cast members, whose age ranges from early 20s through 60s. "This play is very personal to me," says Ms. Gladden, whose mother remarried after her husband became abusive. "But I didn't want to come through a husband-wife perspective, but rather from a young adult, college-age perspective [to tell] the story." When seeing what a healthy re-

See GLADDEN Page A3

Hoyer, Cardin, Van Hollen, and Brown Announce New Partnership to Recruit Mental Health Professionals for Prince George's County Schools

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Congressman Steny Hoyer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05), Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, and Congressman Anthony G. Brown (all D-MD) announced the recent award of more than \$280,000 in federal funding to support a new partnership between Prince George's County, the University of Maryland College Park, and Bowie State University.

Allocated through the U.S. Department of Education's Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Program, the award supports the first of an expected five years of funding for the Build, Recruit, & Improve Ca-

capacity & Knowledge (BRICK) for Mental Health in Schools initiative. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) will recruit and train fifty graduate students from the University of Maryland's and Bowie State University's departments of school counseling, school psychology, and social work, including twenty placed at the high needs schools throughout the school district.

"Well-trained mental health professionals can make an enormous difference in the well-being and life of a student. By drawing upon the talent that is being developed right here in Prince George's County, this collaboration represents a promising path forward to ensure that students in Maryland public

schools can get the support that they need," said the Members.

The Mental Health Service Professionals Demonstration Program provides competitive grants to test and evaluate innovative partnerships between institutions of higher education (IHE) and States or high-need local education agencies (LEA) to train school counselors, social workers, psychologists, or other mental health professionals qualified to provide school-based mental health services, with the goal of expanding the pipeline of these workers into low-income public elementary schools and secondary schools in order to address the shortages of mental health service professionals in such schools.

Don't End Up In a Rut by Veering for Deer

Peak Deer Mating Season Increases Risks For Motorists On Area Roadways

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—If you care about your vehicle, and above all else, value your personal safety and the security of your passengers during the fall, be aware that the white-tail breeding season is upon us. It's time for the "birds and bees talk." Deer are seasonal breeders. Deer have a one-track mind in the fall, which is when deer-ve-

hicle crashes increase twofold. The need to breed, or the "reproduction physiology of deer," can increase your odds of becoming involved in a dreaded deer-vehicle crash, and it can have a direct impact on your safety. It can occur "in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye."

In fact, "the odds of deer-vehicle collisions more than double during October, November and December." During this time of year, a

deer can bolt out of nowhere at 30 miles per hour, and it can leap 30 feet "at a single bound." On top of that, "deer-vehicle collisions can happen in any part of the Washington metro area—urban or rural," warn local law enforcement officers and conservation officials. Of the animal strikes reported by AAA insurance policy holders in 2018, the average cost per claim was more than \$4,700.

"It sounds a tad counter-intuitive, but it can be a matter of life or death. If you are unfortunate enough to have a deer enter the highway in front of your vehicle, it is best to hit the animal and not swerve to avoid it," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "This defensive driving maneuver is not for the faint of heart. More serious crashes occur when drivers veer to

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Four Maryland Teachers Selected for Free Educational Opportunity

"As part of the commemoration of the centennial of The Great War, National History Day is proud to partner with the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission to help teachers delve into the history of this global event," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn.

Community, Page A3

The Urban League Movement Has Had Few Greater Champions in Congress Than Elijah Cummings

Cummings saw his responsibility to conduct oversight of the President as a Constitutional imperative, but his responsibility to serve his constituents as a moral imperative. The nation needs leaders like Cummings who are guided by honor and comported by dignity.

Commentary, Page A4

Halloween Happenings

Your guide to spooky fun happening throughout the County this week ... no tricks, just treats for the whole family!



ILLUSTRATION: GLEN SHEPHERD

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TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

The Faithful Departed Remembered on All Souls Day, Nov. 2

All Souls Day is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, that is, of the souls of all who have died. It is usually celebrated November 2.

The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington commemorate the day with Mass, usually under a huge tent. So, it will be held rain or shine.

These are the area cemeteries where All Souls Day Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 2:

Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Road in Clinton, will have Mass at 9 a.m. The celebrant and homilist will be Msgr. Mariano Balbago, Jr. Information: 301-868-5141. I will be at this Mass because my husband Jack is buried at Resurrection.

Mount Olivet Cemetery Mass will be at 9:30 a.m. with Father Everett Pearson, pastor of Mount Calvary Church. Mount Olivet is at 1300 Bladensburg Road, N.E., Washington. Info: 202-399-3000.

Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, will have Msgr. Donald Essex as celebrant/homilist, at 9 a.m. Info: 301-871-6500.

Halloween in Morningside

Trick or Treaters in Morningside will be knocking on doors the night of October 31 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. If a house has an outside light on, it usually means a treat will be given.

The Costume Contest follows but, to participate, you must register between 8 and 8:15. Judging begins at 8:30. Prizes will be by age group.

For information, call 301-736-2301. By the way, I do plan to have my light on. I usually get a few ghosts and goblins.

Neighbors and Other Good People

Helen Greenleaf Thompson died Oct. 8 at age 100. She is survived by two children, three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren. Services were at The Greater Morning Star Apostolic Ministries on Ritchie Marlboro Road.

Judy Waby (now using her surname Hansel) sent a postcard to the Skyline Citizens Association, from her room at the Quality Inn in Bellingham, WA.

"Thanks for the newsletter—a blast from the past." She goes on to say what fun it is to live where the Canadian and US flags fly together and where she can watch Canadian TV. Judy was known as our rebel, our agitator, back in the years when she lived on Ladd Road.

The Knights of Columbus in Forestville named Robert Jacobs their Knight of the Month for July and Lester Dockery, for August. Richard & Michael Peluzzo were named Family of the Month for July, and Eugene & Beatrice Vines, for August.

Steak Dinner at the American Legion

Post 227 in Brandywine invites you to dinner on Friday, Nov. 1—grilled-to-perfection premium steak dinner with baked potato, salad and roll! "Donation of just \$15 for this great meal." Dine in or carry out. The Post is at 13505 Cherry Tree Crossing Road in Brandywine.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The National DEA Prescription Drug Take Back is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 26, between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. If you have prescription drugs you need to dispose of, bring them to the District IV Police Station in the Eastover Shopping Center, 5135 Indian Head Highway, Oxon Hill. No questions asked. You can drop the drugs in the box provided and they will properly dispose of them for you. No needles please!

Changing landscape

- The City of District Heights plans to contract for eight speed bumps. Four placements are already accounted for and four more are open for discussion.

- Bowie State University hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 10 for its new center, the Entrepreneurial Living and Learning Community. Construction is scheduled to begin in February; the Center is due to open in July 2021.

- Holy Family Catholic School in Hillcrest Heights was in danger of closing only a couple of years ago. But they hung in there. And now they have launched a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Spacemaker lab and program. Archbishop Wilton Gregory was there to cut the ribbon.

- As a longtime lover of newspapers, I am grieved when a paper folds. This is happening all over the country—maybe all over the world. The excellent *Washington Post Express* ran its last free issue on "Thursday 09.12.19." It's a sad day for all the commuters who've relied on it for the past 18 years.

Morningside Memories: 1959

Gertrude Langford submitted this item for the Morning-Side-Lines, Sept. 1959: "The Women's Civic Group held its first meeting of the season on September 8. Officers elected were Arletta Jennings, president; Betty King, vice president; Dolores Short, treasurer; Gertrude Langford, recording secretary; and Doris Gardner, correspondence secretary."

She went on to say that David Stine gave a most informative talk about Boys' State. And the group announced that they'd be publishing a new Town Directory as their moneymaking project for the year. (I use those Morningside Directories all the time. They not only have all the residents, but timelines and lists of Town officers. Thank you, Women's Civic Group!)

Skyline's 50th: 1983

Here are a few of the important Skyline people and events of 1983:

Dr. Alvin Thornton, of Elmendorf Drive, was elected president of the Skyline Citizens Association. He is now chairman of the County Public Schools Board of Education. Johnnie Mae Banks, of Maria Ave., was crowned Homecoming Queen of Towson State University. Dorothy Carroll and Henrietta Tretler, both of Skyline Drive, were elected officers of the Prince George's Democrat Club. Jimmy Reilly, of Ladd Road, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for 2-year colleges.

Mike Longo, of Lori Street, died April 29, 1983, after being struck by a car on Suitland Parkway.

And it was announced that Benjamin Foulois would no longer be a junior high. In September it would become a middle school (7th & 8th only).

To be continued.

See MORNINGSIDE Page A6

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

THANK YOU

"We couldn't do it without you. On behalf of the outstanding student athletes, coaches, and staff members of the Bowie State University Athletic Department, we thank all the sponsors, golfers and supporters of the 8th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic. Without your contribution and participation, this year's tournament would not have been a success.

"Proceeds from the Bulldog Golf Classic will provide scholarship funding for student athletes and help meet the growing needs of the department. We appreciate your continuous support of Bowie State Athletics and look forward to seeing you next year at the 9th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic on October 13, 2020. 'We are Bowie State University, and this is our moment, racing to excellence.' With you, we win. Go Bulldogs."—Clyde M. Doughty Jr., Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UMC

Happy Birthday to Melvin Thomas, Anthony Lewis, James Williams, Cynthia Wilkerson, Elijah Dorsey, Jameka Williams, Geneva Butler, Crystal Savoy and Gerald Adams who are celebrating birthdays in October. Happy Wedding Anniversary to Tyrone and Lisa McKelvy who celebrated a wedding anniversary October 13, 2019.

CASTAWAY ISLAND PLAYGROUND

Come and explore a shipwreck stranded on an island at the Castaway Island Playground. While you are at the playground make sure you check out the amenities including sandcastle with sounds, the cargo climber, and a talking seahorse. This playground is designed to take you to Gilligan's Island based on the popular television series. Suggested visit time is 1-2 hours. Amenities: Restrooms with changing tables, walking loop trail, drinking fountains, parking, fitness stations, and much more. The playground is located at Tucker Road Athletic Complex, 1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744.

CANCER WELLNESS FAIR

Join us Pink Saturday: Cancer Wellness Fair November 2, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at PGCEA Center. The address is 8008 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, Maryland 20747. Phone: 301-736-2700; Website: www.pgcea.org.

MID-ATLANTIC EQUITATION FESTIVAL

The Mid-Atlantic Equitation Festival Horse Show will be held Friday, November 15, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Show Place Arena. It is a festival of friendship, scholarships, a college fair and fun. Come out and support this amazing group—the festival is free for spectators. The address is 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Visit the Mid-Atlantic Equitation website for more information—<http://www.mncppcapps.org/pgparks/dischttps://www.midatlanticeq.com/>.

CELEBRATION OF FIFTY YEARS

My husband, Owen Johnson, Jr., and his classmates, celebrated their Class of 1969 Reunion at Maryland State College in the Richard A. Henson Center, 30690 University Boulevard, South Princess Anne, Maryland 21853. Fellow classmates, family members, friends, honorees, administrators, department heads, instructors, faculty, staff, guests and visitors celebrated with this 50th year class reunion for the 1969 Class of Maryland State College, now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on Saturday October 12, 2019.

The Board of County Commissioners for Somerset County, Maryland, congratulated the 1969 graduating class from the Maryland State College on their 50th Anniversary with a proclamation. Princess Anne Town Commissioners also congratulated the 1969 graduating class with a proclamation.

Most of all, they held dear their graduation day. Their majors ranged from agriculture to sociology. They selected the right things, rebuked mediocrity for superiority, developed game plans, worked their jobs, displayed various involvements, proved to be more than conquerors, and passed many torches to their successors.

They ascended from the background to the foreground. They have risen from BA/BS to MS/MBA to Doctorate, teachers to superintendents, employees to directors, etc. Some of them have become multi-professionals in more than one field. Like the hawk, their mascot, they have represented the messengers of the spirit and a high intelligence quotient.

This was an evening of celebration, thought, friendship, fellowship and glee on a beautiful campus. This special occasion was designed to bring back memories and to cause celebration of accomplishments and achievements. Congratulations Class of 1969 for celebration of 50 years.

Around the County

County Executive Receives "Visionary Award" from Washington Area Women's Foundation

On Tuesday, October 15, County Executive Alsobrooks received the Visionary Award in Public Service from the Washington Area Women's Foundation. The other award winners were Dr. Tammy Mann, President and CEO of The Campaigna Center, and Patricia McGuire, President of Trinity Washington University.

The Washington Area Women's Foundation focuses on building pathways out of poverty for women and girls across our region. Since 1998, they have awarded nearly \$11 million in grants to more than 170 community-based organizations in our region. The County Executive was proud to join the Women's Foundation and support the positive work they do for our communities.

—County Executive Community Connections Newsletter



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Alsobrooks pictured with other Visionary Award winners, Dr. Tammy Mann and Patricia McGuire.

Raising Awareness for Breast Cancer at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Proceeds go to Breast Cancer Awareness and Research

The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts announced that the final matinee benefit performance on October 29 at 1pm will help raise funds as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"We at the Bowie Center remain true to our community focus—and strive to improve our neighbors' lives through the arts and public service however we can," says Executive Director Jason Cook. "It is a privilege to be able to bring this afternoon of fun, music, and food to the Center while supporting this extremely worth cause, which benefits breast cancer treatment and research."

The musical performance, helmed by the Ron Hicks Project, is FREE to the public and will take place in the Bowie Center's lobby, with a break for lunch. Food will be on sale by the Annapolis Road restaurant Samosa Suprema, whose owners will donate 10% of proceeds to breast cancer charities. Beef, chicken, and vegetable samosas prepared under the direction of owner Rose Musonye-Smith and her sister Jayne (both of whom learned to prepare this delicacy in their native land of Kenya) will be served, according to store manager Dale Smith.

Ron Hicks Project, a six-person combo "spiced in the South and cooked in Chicago," provides a rollicking, toe-tapping bend of jazz, blues, and R&B that has gained the band a strong following in Bowie and far beyond. An afternoon of fine food, bodacious beats, and neighborliness await, all for a very good cause.

—David Andrusia, Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

Another Record: Golf Tournament Raises More Than \$165K

PASADENA, Md. (October 17, 2019)—Each year, Hospice of the Chesapeake wonders if the committee guiding its annual Golf Tournament can outdo itself. Each year, the committee responds by smashing fundraising records and adding features to make the tournament a must-play event.

This year was no exception. A long list of sponsors and more than 240 golfers helped raise more than \$165,000 for the nonprofit that serves Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties, \$22,000 more than last year.

No doubt the venue and a day filled with food, drinks and giveaways helped to make the day another record breaker. Held Oct. 10 at Queenstown Harbor Golf Course, the tournament offered foursomes goodie bags brimming with gifts and hospitality that began with an omelet bar in the morning, oysters and shrimp with grilled lunch at the turn and an awards banquet to cap off the day. An added feature this year was a pop-up pro-shop where golfers can choose gifts to add to their goodie bags.

The winning teams for the group playing the Lakes course were Rodney Thompson, Ryan Thompson, Rob Pohland and Kurt Brandquist in first place; Jessie Syms, Terri McNicholas, Debbie Giese and Rob Giese in second place; and Gus Kurtz, Tony Tawney, Tim Klug and Carl Kalapaska in third place. The winners on the River course were John Chiodo, Alex Hoiser, Don Cahill and Matthew Bassler in first place; Brian Gibbons, Roger London, Austin Groves, Jim Euler in second place; and Nick Neary, Rob Burns, Mike Uleckas and Joe McNees in third place.

The presenting sponsors were First National Bank and All Green Management, Inc., with co-sponsors Carpet and Wood Floor Liquidators and Ken Stanley.

—Elyzabeth Marcussen, Hospice of the Chesapeake

In the News: Second American Job Center to Open in Prince George's County

A second American Job Center for Prince George's County will open at the Tanger Outlets in Oxon Hill, providing a more convenient and accessible location for residents of South County. The center is scheduled to open in January 2020 and will help connect residents with jobs while providing career readiness training and other support programs.

—County Executive Community Connections Newsletter

Announcement: Parents, Apply Now for Free and Reduced-Price Meals!

If your child usually participates in FARMS or you may qualify to participate, please complete the form online or at your child's school. Filling out the form will prevent a disruption of meal services. These forms are also used to determine additional funding for staff and school resources. You can find the form online at www.pgcpss.org/foodandnutrition.

—Prince George's County Public Schools



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Hospice of the Chesapeake's Golf Committee stands on a knoll near the clubhouse before the start of the tournament.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Understanding Why People Lie

We live in a world where lying has become a fairly common occurrence. Indeed, there are now organizations specializing in fact checking political statements and business releases to uncover the fabrications often presented.

Of course, it's not just political figures or business leaders with a monopoly on fibbing to us. Lies happen in most homes, whether it's the little boy standing over the smashed vase he says he didn't break, or the teenager offering a story for why she was two hours past curfew last night.

For many lies, the reasons are complicated. Sometimes it's to protect the liar from being punished, or to protect someone else from punishment. The lie might be to avoid being embarrassed, to hide an awkward situation, or to simply have others think better of the person telling the fib. Such lying isn't admirable, but not hard to understand why it occurs.

It's harder to fathom why some people often tell lies with no clear purpose and when the lies are usually easy to disprove. Researchers say there are various reasons why some people lie compulsively.

One is that the lie being told may not seem a lie to the person telling it. Repetitive liars can sometimes feel so much pressure that their memory is unreliable. They try to relieve that pressure by saying something that will make the situation work. For that person, what was just said is what they want to believe. The person lying may so badly want the lie to be the truth that the lie becomes his or her actual truth.

People who lie repeatedly often have a desire to be in control. When the truth of a situation doesn't agree with such control, they produce a lie that does conform to the narrative they desire.

Such people may also worry they won't be respected if the truth can leave them looking poorly. Instead, they offer a lie that casts them in a good light, but they aren't able to see that in most cases that what they offered has no basis in reality.

It would be nice if we could believe everything we are told, whether from that child with the broken vase or from that politician at a political rally. But that's not going to happen and therefore it's important for all of us to sometimes dig just a little deeper and try to find the actual truth.

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

Four Maryland Teachers Selected for Free Educational Opportunity

Teachers in Allegany County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County Selected for Legacies of World War I

By PRESS OFFICER
Maryland Humanities

BALTIMORE, Md. (October 7, 2019)—Four Maryland teachers out of only 114 nationwide have been selected for the National History Day® program titled Legacies of World War I. Meghan Jacquot teaches at Yeshiva of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, Mark Malone teaches at Fort Hill High School in Cumberland, Kathy Simmons teaches at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, and Patrick Wilburn teaches at DuVal High School in Lanham. The teachers will participate in webinars and discussions with educators from around the world to learn about World War I and its lasting impact.

Malone, Simmons, and Wilburn participate in Maryland Humanities' Maryland History Day program, an affiliate of National History Day. For Maryland History Day, students create original documentary films, exhibits, performances, research papers, or websites exploring a historical topic of their choice on an annual theme. Affiliates of National History Day include all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa,

Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and international school programs in China, South Asia, and South Korea.

Jacquot, Malone, Simmons, Wilburn, and all of the selected teachers will receive free tuition, graduate credits, and materials for the online program. Each of National History Day's 58 affiliates could choose teachers for this honor. Maryland History Day staff at Maryland humanities selected Malone, Simmons, and Wilburn: National History Day selected Jacquot.

"As part of the commemoration of the centennial of The Great War, National History Day is proud to partner with the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission to help teachers delve into the history of this global event," said National History Day Executive Director Dr. Cathy Gorn. "Mrs. Jacquot, Mr. Malone, Ms. Simmons, and Mr. Wilburn will learn about specific aspects of the war they can take back to the classroom to ensure this piece of global history is not forgotten."

This program is part of an educational partnership with the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, National History

Day, and the National World War I Museum and Memorial. This partnership will educate both teachers and school students about World War I through a series of more than 100 teaching events nationwide.

Maryland Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities that inspire all Marylanders to embrace lifelong learning, exchange ideas openly, and enrich their communities. For more information, visit www.mdhumanities.org. Connect with Maryland Humanities on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. Connect with Maryland History Day on Facebook and Twitter:

National History Day® (NHD) is a non-profit organization based in College Park, Maryland, that seeks to improve the teaching and learning of history. The National History Day Contest was established in 1974 and currently engages more than half a million students every year in conducting original research on historical topics of interest. For more information, visit nhd.org.

The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission was created by Congress in 2013 to provide education programs, public outreach, and guidance for commemorative events regarding America's involvement in WWI, which many see as *The War That Changed the World*. The World War One Centennial Commission is creating the National WWI Memorial in Washington, DC through private donation. To learn more about the World War One Centennial Commission and its work, visit ww1cc.org

Gladden from A1

relationship between her parents looks like, [main character] Dejah is concerned when the relationship with her boyfriend becomes abusive. After one of her closest friends betrays her, Dejah learns that she doesn't deserve this fate and realizes that it's not her fault ... and that there is something better waiting for her.

But Dejah's tribulations form just one aspect of this multi-layered and multi-dimensional play. "I want everyone to find some one to relate to here," says Ms. Gladden. "It's all about the ebb

and flow of family dynamics and friendship—and ultimately, about the choices we make ... and knowing that no decision is final except, through God, lives can change."

Love is Blind features local actors whom Ms. Gladden cast herself. "I am proud that this play, while universal in theme, is derived from and is debuting in our community," she says.

The world premiere of *Love is Blind* by Rhonda R. Gladden debuts at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts on November 9, 2019 at 5 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.bowiecenter.org.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SONYA COLCLOUGH, COURTESY OF BOWIE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The cast of *Love is Blind*, which debuts onstage this November at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Maryland Commerce Secretary Applauds State's Gain of 10,100 Jobs in September

Maryland is continuing to attract new companies, help existing companies expand

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Department of Commerce

BALTIMORE, Md. (October 18, 2019)—Maryland Commerce Secretary Kelly M. Schulz today applauded the state's September preliminary jobs report, which showed Maryland adding more than 10,000 jobs last month—the largest monthly gain in more than four years—and the state's unemployment level falling to 3.7 percent, which matches the lowest level in a decade. In addition, the state's August jobs report was revised to show a gain of 9,000 jobs, a significant increase from the preliminary estimate of 500 new jobs.

"Under Governor Larry Hogan's leadership, we are continuing to work hard to attract new companies to the state and help our existing Maryland businesses expand and create new jobs," said Secretary Schulz. "Today's jobs report is further validation that the programs and policies we have put in place to grow our economy are working, and we

look forward to continuing this positive momentum."

Since January, the state has attracted a number of new companies, including Helm Services, an IT firm bringing 200 jobs to Baltimore City; Kite, a biopharmaceutical company which is planning to add hundreds of jobs in Frederick County; Smithfield Foods, the world's largest pork processor and hog producer which is adding 240 jobs at their new Cecil County distribution center; and Floor and Decor, a major flooring retailer that plans to add 150 jobs at their new Tradepoint Atlantic facility and will be one of the Port of Baltimore's largest customers.

In addition, a number of existing Maryland companies announced significant growth plans this year, including Northrop Grumman, a global security company which is expanding its manufacturing operations in Cecil County and plans to add 175 new jobs over the next five years, and Volvo Group North America, which is investing \$43 million and adding 85 new jobs at its powertrain production plant in Hagerstown.

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Income Tax on Social Security vs. the Earnings Test

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

Dear Rusty:

I retired from work this year (age 62) and I will receive my first social security benefits in September. Is there a special rule for the first year you retire that allows you to not pay taxes on your social security since you have earned no other income since you retired? Before I retired, I earned about \$50,000, which I know is more than the usual allowed income. Signed: Retired Senior

Dear Retired Senior:

I'm afraid there is no such "first year" rule which exempts you from paying income tax on your Social Security benefits. When you file your Federal income taxes with the IRS you will need to claim your Social Security (SS) benefits as part of your income, and whether it is taxable will depend upon whether your "modified adjusted gross income" (MAGI) for the year exceeds \$25,000 (if you file single) or \$32,000 (if you file married-filing jointly). "MAGI" includes your taxable income from all sources (your "adjusted gross income" from your Federal income tax return), plus any tax-exempt interest you may have received, plus half of your annual Social Security benefits. If your MAGI exceeds the above levels, then up to 50% of your Social Security benefits will become a part of your taxable income; or if you exceed \$34,000 (filing single) or \$44,000 (filing married-jointly) then up to 85% of your annual SS benefits will become taxable. If you don't exceed those levels your SS benefits aren't taxable as income.

However, I suspect you may be confusing income tax

on your Social Security benefits with another rule—Social Security's "earnings test" which, if you have not yet reached your full retirement age, sets a limit on what you can earn without your benefit payments being affected. If you are collecting benefits before you have reached your full retirement age and you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$17,640 for 2019) Social Security will withhold some of your benefits—\$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If that is what you're referring to then, yes, there is a special rule for the first year you are collecting Social Security. That special first year rule says that if you claim benefits mid-year and you have not yet reached your full retirement age, you'll be subject to a monthly earnings test for the remainder of that year, rather than the annual test. So, if your benefits start in September, provided you don't earn more than \$1470 in September or any month thereafter in 2019 you won't lose any benefits. But if you do exceed that monthly limit, even by \$1, you won't be entitled to any SS benefits for that month. The monthly test is only in the calendar year you claim benefits—it goes away for you in 2020 and you'll be subject to the annual earnings test only for next year.

Please note that the earnings limits are considerably more if you are claiming in the year you will reach your full retirement age. If this were the year you will reach your full retirement age, the annual limit would be \$46,920 and the monthly limit would be \$3910 (these limits change annually). However, if you stay fully retired and don't return to work you will not need to worry about the Social Security earnings test but, depending on your "MAGI," you may need to pay income taxes on your Social Security benefits.

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

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

The Urban League Movement Has Had Few Greater Champions in Congress Than Elijah Cummings

"Steady yet compassionate, principled yet open to new perspectives, Chairman Cummings remained steadfast in his pursuit of truth, justice, and reconciliation. It's a tribute to his native Baltimore that one of its own brought such character, tact, and resolve into the halls of power every day. And true to the giants of progress he followed into public service, Chairman Cummings stood tallest and most resolute when our country needed him the most."

—President Barack Obama

It's hard to express how just how great a loss the death of Elijah Cummings represents to the civil rights community.

He was in the public eye most recently for his role as Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, one of three House committees conducting an impeachment inquiry of President Trump. And he will be remembered for his passionate commitment to integrity in our public institutions.

His life, and his legacy, however, encompass so much more.

The many tributes to Cummings upon his death on Thursday, [October 17, 2019], noted that his life represented the American Dream. Specifically, it represented the African Amer-

ican dream. He was a child of southern sharecroppers who headed north as part of the Great Migrations.

He was inspired to become a lawyer by NAACP National Youth Director Juanita Jackson Mitchell, the first African American woman to practice law in Maryland. Under her guidance, 11-year-old Cummings and other Black boys leaped into a formerly all-white swimming pool in Baltimore, triggering mob violence that left him with a lifelong scar.

It was the proprietor of the drugstore where Cummings worked as a teenager who paid his application fee to Howard University. He thrived at Howard, earning his degree in political science in 1973 and his law degree at University of Maryland three years later.

He entered public service in 1983 as a member of Maryland's House of Delegates. He was the first African American to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore. After winning his seat in Congress with more than 80 percent of the vote, he was reelected 11 times with overwhelming majorities.

The Urban League Movement had few greater champions in Congress than Cummings, who led major initiatives to promote economic justice, civil rights, voter protection and edu-

cational opportunity.

This year alone, legislation he introduced that mirrors Urban League policy includes a proposal to facilitate partnerships between the Small Business Administration and HBCUs to establish Small Business Development Centers. His Promoting Reentry through Education in Prisons Act would ease barriers to reentry by providing incarcerated individuals with the educational opportunities they need to successfully reenter their communities upon release. The SAFE Lending Act would crack down on some of the worst abuses of the payday lending industry and protect consumers from deceptive and predatory practices that strip wealth from working families.

He was a champion for voting rights, making an impassioned plea on the House floor against voter suppression:

"On my mother's dying bed, 92 years old, former sharecropper, her last words were, 'Do not let them take our votes away from us,'" he said. "She had fought and seen people harmed, beaten, trying to vote. Talk about inalienable rights. Voting is crucial. And I don't give a damn how you look at it: There are efforts to stop people from voting. That's not right. This is not Russia. This is the United States of America."

Cummings saw his responsibility to conduct oversight of the President as a Constitutional imperative, but his responsibility to serve his constituents as a moral imperative. The nation needs leaders like Cummings who are guided by honor and comported by dignity. We grieve his loss and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,
Children's Defense Fund



ChildWatch:

Celebrating the Servant Leadership of Steven Minter

My friend Steven Minter, who passed away in September, was one of the groundbreaking Black public servants who broke many barriers and opened doors for others and one of the too unheralded but extraordinarily effective leaders people need to know about. Steve was a founding undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education and longtime leader of the Cleveland Foundation, where he made an enormous difference for Ohio's children and families. The Children's Defense Fund was especially grateful for his strong support of CDF-Ohio's work creating a level playing field for all of Ohio's children and supporting local high school students beating the odds. Many people do not realize what a strong role foundations play in supporting and strengthening their communities. As a foundation head, university instructor and administrator, and member of dozens of panels, commissions, and corporate and nonprofit boards over his long professional life, Steve was a quiet, effective force for good.

Steve grew up in Ohio, the oldest of eight children in a family that emphasized service and education. He worked three jobs to put himself through Baldwin Wallace College. One of them was washing dishes in the dining hall, where he met his beloved wife Dolly, who was working as a waitress. As his family remembers: "Theirs was a true love story. Although interracial marriage was still illegal in 22 states, they were married in 1961, the spring of Dolly's senior year. Over the 56 years of their marriage, Steve and Dolly formed what they described as a 'partner mentality,' sharing values of family, community, and the belief that 'unto whom much is given, much is required.'"

Steve's first job after college was as a case worker for the Cuyahoga County Welfare Department. His family said he took that position after he had a hard time finding a teaching job, but what may have initially felt like a detour "proved to be a fateful and fortuitous decision:" it was the foundation of all he went on to do and "his empathy for those living in poverty, confidence in their ability to improve their condition, commitment to structural change, and capacity to mentor and convene others were all called upon in his work."

He earned a master's degree in social work from Case Western University and within a few years became the department's first Black and youngest-ever director. That new position began giving him national opportunities, including serving on the

commission that created Head Start. He was then recruited to become the Commissioner of Public Welfare of Massachusetts, where he served for four years before returning home and taking a position at the Cleveland Foundation.

Just two years later he took a leave of absence from the Foundation when President Jimmy Carter asked him to serve as undersecretary in the newly created U.S. Department of Education. A beautiful photo shows him after his swearing-in ceremony at the White House with President Carter and Steve's handsome large family, including his parents and several of his brothers who served in Vietnam in uniform. As Steve helped organize the newly founded department he put key frameworks into place for our nation's children, including Title I, intended to provide special funding to low income schools.

At the end of the Carter administration Steve returned to the Cleveland Foundation. He served first as a program officer, then as associate director, and in 1984 became the Foundation's executive director and president. As the first Black leader of a community foundation his family says Steve "quietly but firmly insisted on minority access to and participation in the city's institutional life" as the Foundation focused on key needs in public education, housing, health care, and jobs. Under his leadership the Foundation supported neighborhood revitalization, public school improvement, and the redevelopment of Cleveland's famous Playhouse Square and were early funders of AIDS public health initiatives. After retiring from the Foundation Steve spent 15 years as executive-in-residence and fellow at the Center for Nonprofit Policy and Practice at the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University and continued serving on many commissions and boards, receiving honors, awards, and recognitions all along the way.

I am especially grateful for my family's longtime friendship with Steve, Dolly, and their daughters Michele Minter, Caroline Minter Hoxby, and Robyn Minter Smyers. Steve stayed at our home in Washington when he worked for the Department of Education. My husband Peter and I shared an especially memorable vacation hiking in the Swiss Alps with Steve and Dolly and I am so glad our children are now carrying on the connections to the next generation. Today Michele serves as Vice Provost of Institutional Equity and Diversity at Princeton University, Caroline is a professor of economics at Stanford University, and Robyn is a Partner and Executive Committee member at Thompson Hine LLP as all three carry on their wonderful parents' rich legacy of excellence and service. They are a final reflection of Steven Minter's well-lived life.

Sustainable from A1

- The Town partnered with Boy Scouts, local green schools, Salah Al Din temple, and the Masonic Lodge on community cleanups and Adopt a Stream initiatives.

- Solar panels have been installed at Town Hall and the Police Department buildings.

The City of Hyattsville was honored as this year's 2019 Sustainability Champion, amassing an impressive 535 points on their application, more than any other community in 2019. Other Prince George's County communities honored with recertification in 2019 include the Town of Bladensburg, the City of Bowie, the City of College Park, the Town of Colmar Manor, and the Town of Edmonston.

According to Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland, "This year's seventeen Sustainable Maryland Certified communities, a record number since the program's inception in 2011, represent a broad and deep commitment to addressing the environmental challenges of our time. We are pleased to recognize the Green Teams, elected officials, and municipal staff that are working hard every day ensure a sustainable future for their communities, our state, and our planet."

Sustainable Maryland Certification: To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth a total of at least 150 points (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions), and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/actions/>.

The complete list of 2019 newly certified (denoted by *) and re-certified communities includes: City of Annapolis (Anne Arundel County, certified in 2013 and 2016); Town of Bladensburg (Prince George's County, first cer-

tified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); City of Bowie (Prince George's County, certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); Town of Brentwood*, Town of Capitol Heights*, City of College Park (Prince George's County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); Town of Colmar Manor (Prince George's County, first certified in 2016); Town of Edmonston (Prince George's County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); City of Frederick (Frederick County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); City of Gaithersburg (Montgomery County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); City of Havre de Grace (Harford County, first certified in); City of Hyattsville (Prince George's County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); Town of Middletown (Frederick County, first certified in 2016); City of New Carrollton*; Town of Ocean City (Worcester County, first certified in 2016); City of Salisbury (Wicomico County, first certified in 2013 and re-certified in 2016); Town of Thurmont (Frederick County, first certified in 2016).

Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. Sustainable Maryland offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the Maryland Municipal League and the US Environmental Protection Agency helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments. For more information about Sustainable Maryland: www.sustainablemaryland.com

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

Email the editor at pgpost@gmail.com

The Prince George's Post

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OUT on the TOWN

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS!

Your guide to spooky fun happening throughout the County this week—no tricks, just treats for the whole family!

ILLUSTRATION AT RIGHT
© JEN SHECKELS



HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN!

For easy and effective Halloween safety tips that you can share with your kids for a safe and injury-free outing, visit www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safety-tips.

Trunk & Treat! at Baden Community Center

Date and Time: Friday, October 25, 2019, 7–8:30 p.m.
This event sells out quickly—register early!
Description: An evening of fun for little Goblins! Enjoy costume and trunk decorating contests, hay rides, s'mores, spooky spaces to walk thru and carnival rides! Enter the contests for Best Costume and Best Family Trunk!
Cost: Resident: \$7; Non-resident: \$9 (at the door)
Ages: 10 and under with families
Location: Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, MD 20613
Contact: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: All Things Glow Teen Halloween Party

Date and Time: Friday, October 25, 2019, 7–10 p.m.
All participants must have a signed specialized activity permission slip to attend.
Description: Calling all ghouls and goblins! Join us for the spookiest bash of the season! Enjoy dancing, a costume contest, and ghoulish food and drinks! Come dressed in your favorite costume for a chance to win a prize!
Cost: FREE with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–16
Location: Mount Rainier Nature/Recreation Center, 4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier, MD 20712
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

Halloween Spooktacular

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 2 p.m.
Description: Join us for an afternoon filled with activities, snacks, and our famous costume contest cosponsored by the Laurel Lions. Come dressed to be judged, winners will receive a prize.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Robert J. DiPietro Community Center, 7901 Cypress Street, Laurel, MD 20707
Contact: 301-725-7800

Trick-or-Treat at Laurel Shopping Center

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.
Description: Laurel Shopping Center will host a Halloween-themed event for children in the community on Saturday, October 26th from 1-3pm with trick-or-treat stops at participating stores! In addition to trick-or-treat, this event will include balloon twisting, strolling magic and the opportunity to check out a kid-friendly walk through The Haunt. Be sure to enjoy lunch with your hungry ghouls and goblins before or after your stroll through the center!
Cost: Free—**registration is required for kids only**
Ages: Ages 12 and under
Location: Laurel Shopping Center, 910 Fairlawn Avenue, Laurel, MD 20707
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/trick-or-treating-at-laurel-shopping-center-tickets-76115665003>

Calabash Carnage: Family Pumpkin Carving

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 2–4 p.m.
Description: You and your family are invited to join us to celebrate Halloween and have lots of fun at our pumpkin-carving workshop! Use your imagination and create your own designs. Don't worry about the mess—leave that to us!
Cost: FREE admission. \$5 per pumpkin
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Hyattsville Halloween Block Party

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 5–10 p.m.
Description: Come out Saturday to have some fun on Gallatin Street! Pyramid Atlantic Art Center will kick off the festivities at 5 p.m. with a return of the popular "Monster Mashup" print-making activity. Stop by the City Police Dept. for "Trunk or Treat" in the Station parking lot. Then head to Vigilante Coffee Company's Halloween bash at 6 p.m., featuring the Roaming Rooster food truck, DJ Trev, Count Trickula magic show, and more—15% of sales at Vigilante will be donated to cleaning up our local waterways at the Anacostia Watershed.
Cost: FREE admission
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Various locations, 4300 Block of Gallatin St, Hyattsville, MD 20781

2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat on Main Street!

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 6–8:30 p.m.
Description: Come out for the 2nd Annual Town of Upper Marlboro Trunk-or-Treat Event along Main Street in Downtown Upper Marlboro! The night will be filled with music, decorated cars and Main Street shops giving out candy, games, a costume parade, and more! This event is being organized by the Town of Upper Marlboro volunteer Events Committee. Event Parking is available at the Water Street parking lot, across from the 7-Eleven. *Note Main Street will be closed from Water Street to Pratt Street in Downtown Upper Marlboro for this event*
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome!
Location: Main Street, Downtown Upper Marlboro

A Harbor Halloween

Date and Time: Sunday, October 27, 2019, 1–4 p.m.
Description: Join us on the Plaza for our annual Harbor Halloween. Bring kids 12 and under to this free event with Trick-or-Treating (1–3p.m.), National Harbor chefs pumpkin carving contest (3 p.m.), movie *Hocus Pocus* (1:30 p.m.), and more!
Cost: Free
Ages: 12 and under
Location: National Harbor Plaza, National Harbor Blvd, Oxon Hill, MD 20745

Greenbelt Halloween Costume Contest and Parade

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 30, 4:30 p.m. sharp–9 p.m.
Description: Come dressed in your finest Halloween costume! Prizes will be rewarded to contestants with the most innovative costume in their category: Funny, Spooky, Original, Superhero/Comic, Princess/Fairy, and Group/Family. This year could be yours to win, so come out in style! Greenbelt Recreation will partner with Greenbelt Police for the 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat. Refreshments and a spooky film at Old Greenbelt Theatre will wrap up the evening after contest winner announcements. 4 p.m.: Parade lineup, begins at south end of Roosevelt Center at tunnel under Crescent Road; 5:30 p.m.: Costume awards given in Old Greenbelt Theatre; 6 p.m.: Movie begins in Old Greenbelt Theatre.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages are welcome!
Location: Roosevelt Center, Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Halloween Family Fun Night

Date and Time: Thursday, October 31, 2019, 6:30–9 p.m.
Pre-registration is required by Friday, October 25, 2019
Description: Experience Halloween in a friendly and safe environment with games, arts & crafts, candy, costumes & more! WIN a prize for the most creative costume! All activities, candy & treat bags included in the ticket cost. Parents/Guardians must stay with their children during the event.
Cost: Resident: \$8; Non-resident: \$11. After registration deadline: Resident: \$12; Non-resident: \$16. Purchase through PARKS Direct
Ages: All ages are welcome. Children age 2 & younger are FREE with paying adult
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Rd, Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-699-2544

Haunted House Safety Guidelines to Look Out for This Halloween

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the State Fire Marshal

Many Marylanders will enjoy a variety special amusement buildings to celebrate Halloween this October. It is important to keep in mind that these structures have unique fire safety requirements in order to create an enjoyable and safe environment for everyone.

"Smoke machines, dim lighting, cramped corridors, and loud noises can create true terror for patrons if a fire occurs within a haunted house attraction," said State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci. "It is important for both owners and attendees to be vigilant when it comes to fire safety requirements at these venues."

As you and your family and friends attend the haunted houses located across Maryland this fall, look out for the following fire and life safety provisions.

- Approved automated sprinkler and smoke detection systems throughout the structure.
- At least two means of egress on every occupied floor, located as remote as possible from each other. These exits should be clearly marked by directional signage that is illuminated for enhanced visibility.
- Unoccupied floors and areas should be secured against unauthorized entry.
- Doors and passageways that are not an exit should be identified as "NO EXIT" to eliminate confusion. Every effort should be made to prevent occupants from accidentally traveling into a dead-end space in a fire emergency.
- Interior stairs and other vertical openings between floors should be properly enclosed, sealed, or otherwise protected against possible fire spread.
- Decorations, furnishings, and equipment

should not obstruct, impair, or detract attention from the visibility or use of an exit. An exit cannot be a part of a mirrored wall.

- When the sprinkler or smoke detection systems activate, all conflicting sounds and visuals from the attraction should stop. Emergency lighting should also activate during this time.
- The structure must use non-combustible or limited-combustible materials such as gypsum wallboard, metal studs, brick, concrete block, etc. Extensive use of exposed plywood, wood paneling, or wood frame partitions can contribute to the ignition, spread and intensity of a fire.
- Smoking and the use of fireworks or open flame devices like cigarette lighters, candles, and kerosene heaters and lamps are prohibited inside or around the outside of the building. Signs indicating these restrictions should be clearly posted.
- One portable fire extinguisher should be located every 75 feet within the structure and located near exit signs.
- A crowd manager should be present at all hours of operation and occupancy guidelines must be met to avoid dangerous overcrowding.
- All exits must be unlocked and accessible at all times. They should be operational without the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge.

For more information about the Life Safety Code, visit NFPA.org or visit www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=101.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at <https://mdsp.maryland.gov/firemarshal/>, and/or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarylandStateFireMarshal/

MORE! Calendar of Events

October 24–November 2, 2019

DEA Drug Take Back Day

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Description: Safely and responsibly dispose of unused or expired medications. Pet meds are also accepted, **however needles/sharps and aerosol medications will not be accepted.**
Location: Bowie Police Department lobby, lower level of Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Rd, Bowie, MD 20716
Contact: 240-544-5792, COPS@cityofbowie.org

First Annual Hard Bargain (Fall) Farm Day

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Description: Come explore our beautiful 330-acre riverfront working farm and participate in our educational activities, including wetland exploration, hayrides, meeting our farm animals, butter-making and more! Pack your own trash-free lunch and enjoy a picnic on the farm. Additional food and refreshment options will be available for purchase.
Cost: Adults (12 and over): \$5, AFF Adult Members: \$3; Children (under 12): FREE **Register at eventbrite.**
Ages: All ages are welcome.
Location: Hard Bargain Farm Environmental Campus, 2201 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607
Contact: specialevents@fergusonfoundation.org

Lean On Me: José James Celebrates Bill Withers

Date and Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 8–10 p.m.
Description: Celebrating the 80th birth year of the legendary R&B singer songwriter, Blue Note

recording artist José James presents "Lean On Me: José James celebrates Bill Withers." Vetted personally by Mr. Withers himself, the show is an exploration of the deep musical catalogue that touched millions of hearts and united communities worldwide. Featuring Withers' top ten hits as well as his soul ballads and rare grooves, James brings both a deep musical appreciation and a contemporary approach to songs such as "Ain't No Sunshine," "Hope She'll Be Happier," and "Just the Two of Us."

Tickets: \$30/person, \$25/person for seniors, students, and groups of 20 or more. Get tickets through ParksDirect.org or call 301-277-1710.
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse, 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2554

Jug Bay 10K/5K Run for Wildlife and 3K Fun Walk

Date and Time: Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9–10:30 a.m.
Description: Together, the M-NCPPC's Patuxent River Park and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary comprise over 3,500 acres along the banks of the Patuxent River. The river and its shores are home to an incredible variety of wildlife. Proceeds from the run and walk directly support projects, research, and education in the Patuxent River watershed.
Cost: Advance: 10K: \$30, 5K: \$25, 3K: \$20. Prices increase by \$5 on race day.
Location: Patuxent River Park, 16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
Contact: 301-627-7755