

# The Prince George's Post



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## City of Bowie Announces Special Election to Fill Vacancy

District 2 Special Election Set for March 12 to Fill Vacancy Created by Recall

By PRESS OFFICER  
City of Bowie Maryland

The City of Bowie will hold a Special Election on Monday, March 12, 2018 to fill a vacancy in the District 2 Councilmember seat. The vacancy was created when a majority of District 2 voters supported the recall of Councilmember Diane Polangin in December.

The Recall Election took place on December 19, 2017. In that election, 70% of the voters voted "yes" on the question of recalling incumbent Councilmember, Diane Polangin. According to provisions in the City Charter, following a successful recall initiative, the City

must hold another Special Election to fill the vacancy within 60–90 days.

Only voters of District 2 will be eligible to vote in this election. Residents who are interested in filing to run should contact City Clerk Awilda Hernandez at 301-809-3029 or [ahernandez@cityofbowie.org](mailto:ahernandez@cityofbowie.org). Candidate information can be found at the website: [www.cityofbowie.org/election](http://www.cityofbowie.org/election). A candidate for the seat must live in District 2, be a registered voter, and have lived in the City for at least one year. The filing deadline is February 9, 2018.

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## Comcast Foundation Awards \$265,000 to 16 Washington, D.C. Area Nonprofits

By PRESS OFFICER  
Comcast

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On January 2, 2018, The Comcast Foundation announced that it had awarded \$265,000 in grants to 16 nonprofit organizations across the Washington, D.C. metro area in 2017. The grants help grow the impact of programs aimed at expanding digital literacy, promoting service and mentoring tomorrow's leaders.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Easter Seals DC, MD, VA and The Arc of Prince George's County are among the many local organizations that are making a significant difference in the community and were supported by the Comcast Foundation this year. Comcast is dedicated to working with these organizations to shape the future of the areas it

See NONPROFITS Page A5



A pedestrian stands on the median on Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, Maryland, as cars whiz past.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LINDSAY HUTH

## Pedestrian Accidents Pile Up on State Roads Across Maryland

By LINDSAY HUTH,  
ANGELA ROBERTS  
and JAKE GLUCK  
Capital News Service

WHEATON, MD—Consuelo Anglarill, 82, took a bus to the Safeway on Georgia Ave. on Jan. 15. Her daughter, Elizabeth, suspects the retired nanny was simply bored that Sunday morning.

"She doesn't like being home alone."

As the elderly woman crossed the busy state highway

in front of the grocery store, a car struck and killed her.

Just three days earlier, a woman was hit and seriously injured at the same intersection.

It's among the most dangerous spots for pedestrians on Maryland state roads, a Capital News Service analysis of accident data found.

Since 2015, 22 people have been hit on Georgia and 20 more on one of three other state-maintained roads that crisscross the Washington suburb of about 50,000 where the

Wheaton Metro station, Westfield shopping mall and a large walking community of Hispanic immigrants are located.

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has known about the problem for years. The area around Georgia and Reedy Drive where Anglarill was hit had been flagged by Montgomery County in 2011 as hazardous for pedestrians.

The SHA eventually extended the walk signal at the intersection by two to three seconds, in either 2015 or 2016,

SHA assistant media relations manager Shanteé Felix said.

More is needed, residents and pedestrian safety advocates say. The SHA could reduce the distance between crosswalks, install median fences on Georgia to discourage jaywalking and lower speed limits.

"People are flying up and down here like it's major highway," said Courtney Jones, 40, who lives nearby and frequently

See PEDESTRIANS Page A3

## How the State of Maryland Decides to Make Roads Safer For Pedestrians

By LINDSAY HUTH,  
ANGELA ROBERTS  
and JAKE GLUCK  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—A drunk driver struck and killed Matthew Cheswick, 22, on Memorial Day weekend in 2012 as he walked on Coastal Highway in Ocean City, a popular tourist destination on the Atlantic coast.

The Towson University student was one of 40 people hit by vehicles on the state highway that year, and one of two fatalities.

In response, the Maryland State Highway Administration ran a pedestrian education campaign with the city that featured a cartoon crab name "Cheswick" in his honor. They also installed a mid-block pedestrian walk signal in 2014 near the spot Cheswick was killed.

A project to improve lighting and install a two-mile-long median fence along Coastal

Highway is scheduled to be completed before the 2018 tourism season.

"I have to give it to [the transportation agencies]," Cheswick's mother, Cecilia Roe, said. "They have been wonderful."

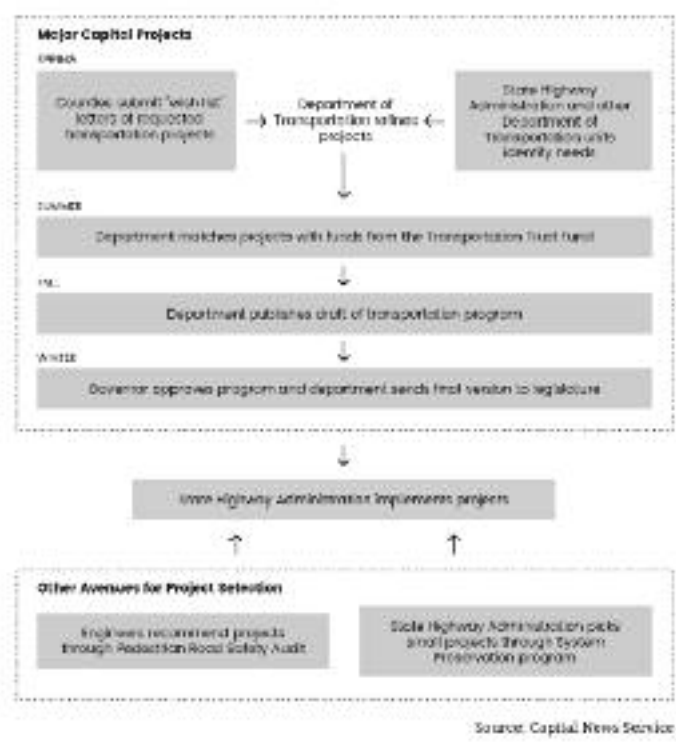
But improvements have progressed more slowly elsewhere across the state. Sections of Branch Avenue and Curtis Lane, in the low-income area surrounding the Naylor Road Metro Station in Hillcrest Heights, have been slated for pedestrian and biking improvements in each year's capital projects plan since 2012.

While awaiting completion of the project, at least 24 pedestrians have been hit on Branch and other state roads within two miles of the station since 2015.

The Maryland Department of Transportation funds major state road construction projects through the Consolidated Transportation Program, the depart-

### How the State Highway Administration chooses pedestrian-related projects to implement

By LINDSAY HUTH & CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LINDSAY HUTH

### How the State Highway Administration chooses pedestrian-related projects to implement.

ment's six-year capital projects plan. It picks which projects to include based in part on annual priority letters submitted by counties with the governor and legislature's approval.

The county priority lists are dominated by car-focused projects—such as reducing

See ROADS Page A7

## Council Chair Responds to Federal Decision to End Immigration Protections

Free Legal Services May be Available for County Residents Detained and Facing Deportation

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council and the residents we serve celebrate the strength of diversity in our communities. Immigrants are an integral part of the vibrant fabric of America and in Prince George's County, and they continue to make immeasurable contributions to our collective community story.

The January 8th policy announcement by the Trump Administration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, cancels Temporary Protected Status (TPS), provisional residency permits for hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans, who could now be forced to leave the United States.

The TPS program has protected immigrants from deportation when there is conflict or natural disaster in their home countries. Under the new federal policy however,

such protection is ended, and Salvadorans now have until September 2019 to leave the U.S. or find a way to reside legally. Federal immigration decisions ending the offer for temporary legal status are also similarly affecting Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Hondurans.

The state of Maryland is home to one of the largest community of Salvadorans across the nation under the TPS program, and many of them reside here in Prince George's County. As contributing members of our communities, these residents are parents, family members, homeowners, business owners, workers and neighbors. We agree with our colleague, Council Member Deni Taveras, who represents many of the County's immigrant residents. Their sudden deportation under this new policy will have a significant impact.

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### INSIDE

#### Parkmobile, LLC Introduces Mobile Payments for Parking to Prince George's County

With the most widely used mobile parking solution in the country and 7 million people using Parkmobile's services over 50 million times per year, Parkmobile is excited to make a difference leveraging our large network of users.

Community, Page A3

#### 2018 Marks the 50th Anniversary of a Momentous Year in Civil Rights

November 22 saw the first interracial kiss ever to air on television in the United States, between the characters Captain James Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, on the program Star Trek.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Regulatory Reform Commission Publishes 2017 Report

The commission is chaired by Abba David Poliakoff and includes the Lt. Governor as an ex-officio member, plus eight additional members appointed by the governor with a range of experience in various sectors representing regions across the state.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Wonderstruck

Haynes cuts back and forth between time periods regularly, underlining the parallels in the stories—both kids trek to New York and face dangers in the big city; both end up at the American Museum of Natural History—without indicating how they are related.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How do environmentalists feel about the amount of packaging waste consumers have to deal with now that holiday shopping has largely switched over from retail shops to online stores?

—Jessica B., Raleigh, NC

Features, Page A7



# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Virginia Stine dies, taught kindergarten at Bells Church

The Stine family was the first to move to Skyline Drive. That was back in 1945. Paul was an engineer at Naval Research, and they were active members of Bells United Methodist Church where Paul played the organ and Virginia taught kindergarten. Thirteen years later, when the McHales settled two houses away, the Stines welcomed us. I recall that they, and a few other neighbors, made our first Christmas here special by caroling at our front door.

After Paul retired in 1974, the Stines moved to Wingate on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Paul died May 31, 1986 at the young age of 66. Virginia lived on there alone, making beautiful quilts, painting, crafting, and volunteering at Dorchester General and Dorchester Hospice. She was chairman of the Dorchester Center of the Arts, active with the Historical Society, Folk Museum, American Legion Post #91 and St. Paul's U.M. Church where she helped serve meals and work the flower fair. On this New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, she died. She was 96.

Virginia was born in Butler Grove Township in Illinois, daughter of Herman and Bertha Young. She attended Eastern Illinois Teacher's College where she met her husband Paul.

Her husband and seven siblings predeceased her. Survivors include daughter Sandra Nailos, sons Stephen P. and David A. Stine, two grandsons and two great-grandchildren. Services were at Thomas Funeral Home in Cambridge with burial later in St. Elmo, Illinois.

A few years ago my daughter Therese and I visited her and had a tour of her lovely home, filled with her beautiful quilts. She made crab imperial for our lunch.

### Catholic Schools Week

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United

States. Each year it starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week. Each school celebrates it differently. If you have an interest in Catholic schools, contact the nearest one for details.

St. Philip's in Camp Springs has an Open House on Sunday, January 28, beginning at 10 a.m. You are invited to "come by and check out our school and see all the great things we are doing here at St. Philip's." The school is at 5416 Henderson Way. Phone: 301-423-4716.

For what it's worth, I'm a product of Catholic schools. All seven of my children graduated from St. Philip's and now I have two great-grandchildren there, Mary McHale in 6th grade and her brother Wesley in 4th.

### People

Members of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department are celebrating the fact that they have been completely volunteer for four years now.

Jonathan Hutto emailed that adopting a dog in the summer of 2014 was a great idea for him in his new Skyline community. "By walking the dog," he says, "I learned street names, met some neighbors, and learned what's happening."

Jody Bowman Nyers sends word that the Suitland High Class of '73 plans a 45th reunion in July at Sandy Point State Park. I'll send more information as it becomes available.

### Changing landscape

The Morningside Fire Department has been resurfacing its front parking lot, a section at a time. It is being replaced through the Capital Improvement Plan and backed by the County Fire Commission.

County Exec Baker delivered remarks Nov. 29 at the Ground-breaking for the Glenarden I Redevelopment Project.

### Morningside Memories

Jan Stocklinski, who grew up in Morningside, now lives in

Calabash, N.C. She has enjoyed a recent visit from her childhood friend, Patty Miller. They reminisced about those days back in the 1950s and sent me this item about Suitland Parkway:

"For nearly a decade the primary method was by limousine between Andrews AFB and DC. The Suitland Parkway was built before helicopters existed to connect Andrews Army Airfield with Washington. The road was intended to make a favorable first impression on visiting foreign dignitaries.

"In 1995 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and sections of it are to this day quite bucolic."

Jan, whose mother June Stocklinski was elected Morningside's first mayor back in 1949, has been emailing pages of the 1957 Morningside Directory and other Morningside history. I'll be passing those bits and pieces on to you.

### May they rest in peace

Donna Lee Crowley, of Bluemont, Va., who died Dec. 7, grew up in Suitland and graduated from Suitland High School. She went on to Shepherd College, later received a master's degree, and taught in Maryland, Germany, and mostly Virginia. Her last positions were assistant principal at a middle school and constituent service for Congressman Frank Wolf. She was married for 44 years to Mark Crowley.

Melissa Silver-Ward, 55, who died Dec. 26, was remembered in a service at VFW Post 9619, Morningside, on Jan. 4. Survivors include sons Hiram and Zachary Ward, her mother, Catherine Silver, and two sisters.

Lewis Edgar Holland, 91, of Hillside, died January 3. A native Washingtonian, Lewis served in the Navy in WWII. He worked for Jumbo Food and Shoppers Food Warehouse. He was preceded in death by his wife

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## Neighborhoods

### Governor Larry Hogan Announces Legislation to Protect Maryland Taxpayers Under Federal Tax Reform

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan announced that the administration will be submitting legislation to mitigate potential negative impacts of federal tax reform on Maryland taxpayers. The legislation will return any additional state revenue received due to the loss of federal deductions and exemptions.

The governor made the following statement at a meeting of the Board of Public Works at the Maryland State House:

"As you all know, it looks like the federal tax reform effort may soon be officially signed into law. Its exact impact on the State of Maryland has not yet been determined. It's clear that some people's taxes will go down, and some will go up. I know that Comptroller Franchot and his team will be doing an analysis to determine how Maryland taxpayers will be affected. However, it is very clear that due to the loss of several longstanding federal tax deductions and exemptions, Maryland state revenue will likely increase by hundreds of millions of dollars.

"I am announcing today that our administration will submit legislation that will protect our taxpayers, and which will mitigate negative impacts of these changes to state taxes. Our goal will be to leave that money in the pockets of hardworking Marylanders. I am confident that our partners in the General Assembly who have expressed concern over the impact of this tax reform bill will support us unanimously in protecting Marylanders who could be negatively affected. Protecting taxpayers should be a bipartisan issue."

### Maryland Receives Federal Approval for New Developmental Disabilities Support Waiver

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan announced that Maryland has received federal approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand services for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Family Supports Waiver. Services offered through the waiver will be available by February 2018, and this federal approval is expected to reduce the current waiting list by 400 individuals.

"Our administration is proud to be able to proactively provide this additional support for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers," said Governor Hogan. "We have worked closely with families, advocates, and professionals to get the right combination of services to reduce the current waiting list, and ultimately improve the quality of life for Marylanders with disabilities."

The waiver program will operate through the DDA under the Maryland Department of Health. Through the waiver, services will be available to individuals and families for children, from birth to age 21, with developmental disabilities who are currently on the DDA waiting list.

The program's specific goals include providing: innovative service options that build on the Support Families Community of Practice; individual and family self-direction opportunities; increased flexibility for individuals and families to allocate financial resources within their approved person-centered plan; and short-term exceptions to the overall budget caps based on exceptional needs.

The Family Supports Waiver program offers innovative community-based features such as coordinated staff support, which will be available for individuals who qualify after school, nights, weekends, and during the summer months when school is not in session.

In addition to staff support, the waiver takes a proactive and family-oriented approach to ensuring best practices for inclusive disability support services. These practices include assistive technology, behavioral support, environmental assessments, environmental modifications, family caregiver training, family and peer mentoring supports, participant education, training and advocacy, respite care, transportation, and vehicle modifications.

"We have been listening to what people with developmental disabilities want their lives to look like and have created support services that we believe will assist them in achieving their personal vision of a good life," said Bernard Simons, Developmental Disabilities Administration Deputy Secretary for Maryland Department of Health. "The approval of this waiver brings us one step closer to our transformation to a more flexible, person-centered, family-oriented system of supports."

Additional information on the Family Supports Waiver can be found at the website: [https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/DDA\\_FAMILY\\_SUPPORTS\\_Waiver.aspx](https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/DDA_FAMILY_SUPPORTS_Waiver.aspx).

### Record 1,225 Use Local SoberRide Program on New Year's

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A record 1,225 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe ride service, SoberRide®, this New Year's (8:00 am on Sunday, December 31, 2017 through 4:00 am on Monday, January 1, 2018) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"During WRAP's first year of partnership with Lyft, SoberRide has removed well more than two times as many would-be drunk drivers from Greater Washington's roadways as compared with the previous year," said John Undeland, former Chairman of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program, the organization conducting the region's SoberRide® effort. "There is no better way to ring in the new year than by saving more lives with SoberRide and we look forward to even greater success in 2018."

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide® offering — which concluded on Monday morning (January 1, 2018) after kicking off and running

nightly since December 15, 2017—provided a total of 1,838 free Lyft rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

WRAP's 2017 Holiday SoberRide® campaign ran nightly from 8:00 pm to 4:00 am, Friday, December 15, 2017 to Monday, January 1, 2018, as a way to keep local roads safe from potentially impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday period. During the evening hours, area residents celebrating with alcohol could download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home while supplies lasted. WRAP's Holiday SoberRide® promo codes were posted at 2:00 pm on December 15, December 23 and December 31 on SoberRide.com.

The major jump in SoberRide® usage is attributable to WRAP's partnership with Lyft, announced in March 2017, to provide SoberRide® service in the Washington-metropolitan area. Lyft and other ride-hailing services have become a transportation mainstay of Millennials and iGen-ers, who statistically are more likely to drink and drive than older drivers. The SoberRide® numbers demonstrate that would-be drunk drivers are much more apt to use a ride-hailing service than a conventional taxi. Transforming SoberRide® into a more accessible service for potential drunk drivers was the rationale for WRAP's teaming with Lyft according to the nonprofit. The full roster of SoberRide® sponsors is provided below.

The most recent New Year's ridership of 1,225 users surpassed WRAP's previous record ridership for the holiday, which had been 967 SoberRide® users in 2010. Last year, 336 individuals used SoberRide® during the overnight of New Year's Eve.

Since partnering with Lyft, ridership for WRAP's SoberRide® program has well more than doubled: 4,248 riders in 2017 versus 1,655 riders in 2016. These full-year numbers include WRAP's provision of SoberRide® on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the recent winter holidays.

"We're thrilled to see how many people took advantage of this initiative and used Lyft to get a reliable and convenient ride home after celebrating. Looking back on 2017, our partnership with WRAP made it possible for many people to take a Lyft ride on some of the busiest holidays of the year. We're looking forward to continuing this valuable partnership into 2018 and ensuring more passengers can safely get where they are going," said Steve Taylor, General Manager, Lyft Mid-Atlantic.

Lyft provided SoberRide® trips throughout the Washington-metropolitan area to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted

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## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to Stephen Carter, Veronica Quarm, Davion Dorsett, Dr. Sandra Jones, Khadija Hakim-Hinton, Nurbert Hughes, Jr., Walter Joiner, Janice Patterson, Jermya Stevenson, Ian Williams, Bernestine Bryan, Mavis Turnbull, Nicole Falby, Beatrice Chapman, Abu Davies, Brandon Holmes, Lawrence Omoregbe, Jordan Joseph, Rose-line Omoregbe, Yannick Bourne, William Terry, Donovan Cain and Florella Wallace who are all Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays during the month of January, 2018.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Nurbert and Carol Hughes, Buddy and Betty King, Walter Joiner and Theresa Lindsey who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating Wedding Anniversaries during the month of January, 2018.

### ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SPAGHETTI DINNER

St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish will be having their Annual 'Super Bowl Spaghetti Dinner' on Sunday, February 4, 2018 immediately following their morning worship service. Dinner will be \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children (5-10

years). 'Free for children (4 years and under). Dinners will include Good 'Ole' Homemade Spaghetti or Chili, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Water, Fruit Cup and a Desert. Pre-orders and payments are always appreciated. Points of contacts regarding this Dinner are Shirley Ann or Doretha Ann. Church telephone is 301-888-1536. Benefit St. Philip's Church.

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Clinton United Methodist Church is soliciting applications for a Part Time Church Custodian, 20 hours per week. Hours are flexible and will be negotiated with the successful applicant. The minimum applications require experience with custodial work, preferably in a church setting.

Responsibilities include general cleaning and maintaining the church property. Preparing the church for Sunday Worship and other special activities. Work includes cleaning, vacuuming, mopping, taking out trash, maintaining inventory of supplies, reviewing and reporting any operating deficiencies or security concerns and ensuring the building is concerned.

Clinton United Methodist Church is soliciting a Men's Choir Director. The Men's Choir sings on the fourth Sunday of each month at the 8:00 AM and

10:30 AM services. The successful candidate will be required to schedule rehearsals at least twice per month, and direct the Men's Choir in Sunday Services and any special event.

The Men's Choir Director should be able to play the piano and read music. The ability to play the piano by ear will be considered a bonus. Prior experience with conducting a Church Choir is preferred.

Clinton United Methodist Church is soliciting applications for the position of Gospel Choir Director. The Gospel Choir sings on the third Sunday of each month at the 10:30 AM service. The successful candidate will be required to schedule rehearsals at least twice per month, and direct the Gospel Choir in Sunday Services and any special event.

The Gospel Choir Director should be able to play the piano and read music. The ability to play the piano by ear will be considered a bonus. Prior experience with conducting a Gospel Choir is preferred.

Please submit resumes to email: [cumcmd@verizon.net](mailto:cumcmd@verizon.net), web: [www.cumcmd.org](http://www.cumcmd.org), or mail: 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. For more information, call the Church Office: 301-868-1281. Reverend Dorothea J. Belt-Stroman, Senior Pastor Clinton United Methodist Church.



# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Improving Relationships By Improving Communication Skills

When we stop to think about it, we all realize that good communications are vitally important in building strong, positive relationships with others. The problem is that most of us are leading such busy, often stressful lives, that we forget to really think about communicating effectively.

Good communication does require extra focus and effort. It requires understanding how we communicate and having a desire to improve.

One starting point in overcoming communication difficulties is understanding that, in most cases, men and women actually do communicate differently, according to researchers in the field. Compared to women, most men tend to talk less, are reluctant to discuss feelings, are quicker to seek solutions, interrupt more often, and are quicker to withdraw when confronted by the other person.

To improve how you communicate with others, especially with your spouse or other family members in regard to major issues, you need to get past those communication differences. There are various techniques that can help.

Simple things like making eye contact can make a real difference. You also want to use "I" statements, rather than "you" accusations which automatically will put the listener on the defensive.

It's important to avoid words like "always" and "never" since such absolutes are virtually never true. Similarly, name calling, or being critical or sarcastic are all ways that hinder, rather than improve communication.

An essential element in communicating better is to listen better. It's easy to assume you know what the other person is saying and to start formulating your reply before they're done. Instead, what you really want to do is take the time to listen carefully to what's being expressed. It often helps to repeat what you just heard to make sure you really understand what was meant.

Most of us tend to be unaware of our body language or voice tone, but these can communicate a number of messages. When you use a mocking tone, roll your eyes, put your hands on your hips or cross your arms, you're actually sending a negative message. But when you maintain eye contact, keep a positive or at least neutral expression, and really listen, you're giving positive communication a real chance.

Poor communication is one of the major reasons couples facing problems consult with professional counselors. Communicating well

*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*

### Election from A1

Polling places for the Special Election will be the same as those for the Recall Election. District 2A voters will vote at Christian Community Presbyterian Church and District 2B voters will vote at the Kenhill Center. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Voters also have the option of voting by absentee ballot.

District 2A consists of the following neighborhoods: Belair Town, Bowie Forest, Fairview, Glenridge, Grady's Walk, Highbridge Park, Meadowbrook (only the streets south and west of Millstream Drive), Somerset, Stewart's Landing, and Tulip Grove. District 2B neighborhoods include Buckingham, Derbyshire, Forest Hills, Foxhill, Longridge, and Kenilworth.

### Morningside from A2

Nancy whom he married in 1950, and daughter Mary Russell. Survivors include children Robert Holland, Patricia De-fayette and Teresa Dodson, 12 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and his brother Walter. Services were at Lee's with burial at Cedar Hill.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Dennis Seaman, on his 70th, and Linda Cullinan, Jan. 19; June Nicholson and Gina (Glagola) Hull, Jan. 20; my great-grandson Jason Shearer, Jan. 22; Mark Foland, Jan. 23; Claire Kennedy, Jan. 24; Kenneth Brown and Michelle Willis, Jan. 25.

### Neighbor from A2

to drive home after drinking. SoberRide® was offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. The service was provided solely through the Lyft's mobile app.

Sponsors of this year's Holiday SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Con-

stellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Heineken, Lyft, MillerCoors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided over 70,544 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.sober-ride.com.

## Parkmobile, LLC Introduces Mobile Payments for Parking to Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Pitch Public Relations

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Parkmobile, LLC and Prince George's County announced today the launch of the Parkmobile app, which allows customers to use their mobile devices to pay for parking in the County at approximately 800 parking spaces, on- and off-street.

"Prince George's County has quickly become a 'place to be' for visitors, shoppers, and sightseers from throughout the region, state, and from around the nation," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "With new restaurants, stores, and attractions, means more of a need for effective and efficient parking systems. I am proud that the Prince George's County's Revenue Authority has partnered with industry-leader Parkmobile to provide ease to our residents and visitors to pay for parking through the Parkmobile App. Parkmobile has well known reputation throughout the National Capital Region and we welcome their app service to Prince George's County."

To use Parkmobile, customers can register for free through the app for iPhone, Android, and Windows phones, or online at parkmobile.com. After setting up their account, customers can immediately begin using the system with their registered mobile device. App



PHOTO COURTESY PITCH PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Screen shots of the newly available Park Mobile parking app.

users may also choose to receive a reminder prior to the expiration of their parking session, and if the maximum parking time has not been reached, parkers can even extend their time from the app. Enforcement officers will be able to see that a motorist has paid with Parkmobile using a wireless handheld device and the user's license plate number. Additionally, multiple payment methods are offered through the app, including Masterpass, PayPal, Visa Checkout, Chase Pay, Parkmobile Wallet, and Apple Pay.

"Parkmobile is proud to expand our services to Prince George's County and further grow our footprint in the DC Metro Area" said Jon Ziglar, CEO of Parkmobile. "We are thrilled to offer this service,

which uses cutting-edge technology to transform the parking experience."

Parkmobile is currently available in surrounding regions including Washington, D.C., Arlington, Montgomery County, Leesburg, and many more. Additionally, Parkmobile maintains a contract with the New York City DOT to offer mobile payment at all metered spaces across all five boroughs.

With the most widely used mobile parking solution in the country and 7 million people using Parkmobile's services over 50 million times per year, Parkmobile is excited to make a difference leveraging our large network of users.

### About Parkmobile

Parkmobile, LLC is the leading provider for on-demand and

prepaid mobile payments for on- and off-street parking. Its mission is to leverage technology and innovation to maximize convenience and efficiency for the owner, operator, and consumer. Parkmobile's services have been adopted by over 7 million consumers and are available in more than 1MM parking spaces, 3,000+ locations, including 39 of the top 100 cities in the U.S. Parkmobile's services include on- and off-street parking, airport and event reservations, and municipal parking permit solutions. Parkmobile serves over 250 cities, 150 events and venues and 20 airports with on-demand, permit and reservations parking solutions. For more information, visit us at [www.parkmobile.com](http://www.parkmobile.com), on Twitter @Parkmobile, or facebook.com/Parkmobile.

### Pedestrians from A1

walks to stores and public transportation. "Here, I'm telling you, it's really dangerous."

In June, CNS reported that at least 138 pedestrians had been hit—including eight killed—along a dangerous two-mile stretch of University Boulevard in Langley Park between 2009 and 2016, yet the SHA has done little to address the danger on all but a single intersection of the busy highway in the low-income, immigrant community. After the story ran, the agency re-painted pavement markings at some of the highlighted intersections but said other improvements would be made when the new Purple Line is built. The 16-mile light rail line, which will traverse University, is scheduled to open in 2022.

CNS then analyzed statewide accident data and identified 100 areas on state and U.S. roads maintained by SHA where there were clusters of five or more pedestrians involved in accidents in the past two and a half years. The analysis did not include interstates or Baltimore city, which maintains roads within its limits.

Sean Emerson, an activist with the Action Committee for Transit in Montgomery County, said the SHA is slow to address problem areas.

"In the SHA's mind, even something that might delay the average driver 10-15 seconds, it's like 'Oh, we can't do that,'" said Emerson, who is also a legislative aide to Bethesda state delegate Marc Korman. "It's so inconsequential, yet it would have a huge benefit to the person walking alongside the road."

SHA media relations manager Charlie Gischlar said the idea that SHA cares more about cars than pedestrians is "false." The problem, he said, is that many accidents occur because drivers are careless or pedestrians are texting or using their mobile devices, not paying attention



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LINDSAY HUTH

### A pedestrian crosses Reedie Drive at its intersection with Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, Maryland.

and walking into roads. That is based on his own observations, not SHA statistics, he added.

"Engineering will have little effect on people that are in a trance texting while walking, which is why we say that the majority of pedestrian crashes are, sadly, on the part of highway user [driver or pedestrian] behavior," Gischlar wrote in an email. "We can only educate by asking pedestrians to look up and look out."

Wade Holland, a data analyst with the Montgomery County government, said that while he encourages people to avoid distractions, he has seen no evidence of an "epidemic of pedestrians being struck due to cell phone use." It is possible the problem is underestimated because pedestrians and drivers report their own device use to police after crashes, he said.

However, engineering, coupled with enforcement and education, have reduced serious pedestrian injuries and fatalities on county-maintained roads by a third since 2007, when Montgomery County launched a pedestrian safety initiative, a county report says. As part of the initiative, the county lengthened pedestrian traffic signals, installed new sidewalks and imple-

mented traffic calming projects.

Roads in many postwar suburbs were built for drivers, not pedestrians, said Michael Farrell, program manager for Street Smart, the pedestrian safety campaign of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Now that demographics have changed in communities like Wheaton and Langley Park—with more low-income residents who walk and take public transportation—pedestrians must contend with high traffic speeds, large crossing distances and few intersections for safe passage.

"The reason why we have so many fatalities is not just behavior—it's that so many of the facilities for walking are inherently unsafe," Farrell said.

SHA officials told CNS they investigate the site of every fatal crash. They said they also conduct safety audits along one-mile stretches of state road where 10 pedestrian crashes have occurred over a five-year period to determine if improvements are needed. SHA officials said the audit recommendations are advisory and not all are adopted.

The agency provided a list of 22 locations where audits have occurred but denied a CNS Public Information Act request for

copies of them. The letter denying the request said disclosure would be "contrary to the public interest" because "it could be used to attempt to discover MDOT SHA's thought process regarding decisions affecting highway safety."

All but two of the 22 were among the 100 problem spots identified in the CNS analysis.

CNS analyzed Maryland State Police accident data on vehicle collisions with pedestrians on state and U.S. roads outside Baltimore and excluding interstates. SHA maintains most state and federal roads in the rest of the state. On those roads, there were 2,281 accidents involving 2,402 pedestrians, including 509 bicyclists, from 2015 to the first half of 2017. Of those, 1,366 were seriously injured and 147 died.

CNS used a mapping program to identify areas with a high density of accidents on state and US roads. The mapping program used a clustering algorithm that identified 100 areas where a pedestrian was hit within 1,800 feet (about one-third of a mile) of where at least four others were struck.

Georgia was one of the worst state roads, with four clusters



# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### After Interior Exempts Florida from Controversial Offshore Drilling Plan, Cardin and Van Hollen Call on Trump Administration to Ban Drilling Off Maryland's Coast Too

Twenty-two senators from Rhode Island, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Virginia, Washington and Maryland say their states don't want oil & gas drilling off their coasts and demand equal treatment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A group of U.S. Senators representing coastal states is telling the Trump Administration that they don't want oil and gas drilling off their coasts, and are demanding the same respect for their states that was recently given to Florida, which was granted a special exemption by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

In a letter sent to Secretary Zinke today, 22 U.S. Senators, including Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.), requested that their states be given the same treatment that the Trump Administration gave Florida and be immediately exempted from any new offshore oil or gas leases. This follows their letter last week to Secretary Zinke protesting the move.

Last week, the Trump Administration announced a controversial plan to dramatically expand drilling leases across 90 percent of the U.S. outer continental shelf, including the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and parts of the Arctic Ocean. Soon thereafter, the Interior Secretary had a discussion with Florida's Governor and took the offshore drilling expansion off the table for federal waters off the coast of Florida without any public hearings or input, stating: "I support the governor's position that Florida is unique and its coasts are heavily reliant on tourism as an economic driver." The Trump Administration denies that Florida received a special exemption

because President Trump owns property along the state's coastline.

The Senators want an immediate exemption for their states too, writing: "Just like Florida, our states are unique with vibrant coastal economies. Providing all of our states with the same exemption from dangerous offshore oil and gas drilling would ensure that vital industries from tourism to recreation to fishing are not needlessly placed in harm's way.

"We urge you to honor the commitment of this Administration by listening to the local and state voices that we represent and to respect their overwhelming opposition to oil and gas drilling off our coasts. Instead of focusing on short term benefits for oil and gas companies, our country should be looking toward a clean energy future. We hope we can work with you to protect our natural resources, our environment, and the livelihoods of coastal residents so that they remain for future generations."

In addition to Cardin and Van Hollen, the letter was signed by U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I.), Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Richard

See OFFSHORE DRILLING Page A6

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### 2018 Marks the 50th Anniversary of a Momentous Year in Civil Rights

"It is not an overstatement to say that the destiny of the entire human race depends on what is going on in America today. This is a staggering reality to the rest of the world; they must feel like passengers in a supersonic jetliner who are forced to watch helplessly while a passel of drunks, hypes, freaks, and madmen fight for the controls and the pilot's seat."

—Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice, 1968"

As we embark upon the new year of 2018, we step into the 50th anniversary of a year that shook the world, in particular the world of civil rights in the United States.

Perhaps the most momentous of these events are the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. Both of these tragic deaths hold personal significance for my family. My parents, civil rights activists, were personally acquainted with the Rev. King. My mother, Sybil Morial, and King were students together at Boston University while she pursued her Masters Degree in education and he his PhD in theology. In her memoir, Witness to Change, she writes of the moment on April 4 when she learned of his death:

I could hardly grasp the words: Martin Luther King has been shot to death in Memphis. Dutch was in the study. I called to him, and he came and stood by me. "Martin has been killed." I could hardly say the words; I could hardly believe it. Not Martin. Dutch and I watched the gruesome footage in silence.

She recalled the words of his final speech, "I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

He knew it, but we didn't. And we didn't understand his death. I was inconsolable ... I said to Dutch, "Now that Martin is gone, what will be-

come of the movement?" "It will go on. It must."

My late father-in-law, Ross Miller, was a trauma surgeon and Kennedy campaigner who was present at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5. When the shots rang out, he bravely stepped forward and tried to save the lives of Kennedy and others who were wounded.

These deaths are but two of the civil rights milestones of that historic year half a century ago.

On February 8, the Orangeburg Massacre took place in South Carolina. Highway Patrol officers opened fire on a crowd of 200 student gathered on the campus of South Carolina State University to demonstrate against the continued segregation at the bowling alley. Three young men were killed and 27 other protesters were injured.

On April 11, amid continuing unrest triggered by King's murder, President Lyndon Johnson signed one of the most significant laws of the era—the Civil Rights Act Of 1968, more commonly known as the Fair Housing Act. The Act prohibited not only racial and religious discrimination in the sale or rental of a home, but also racially-motivated threats, intimidation or retaliation in relation to housing.

In a move often cited as inspiration by current-day activists, on October 2 Black Olympians Tommie Smith and John Carlos African-American athletes raised their arms in a black power salute after winning the gold and bronze medals in the men's 200 meters.

November 22 saw the first interracial kiss ever to air on television in the United States, between the characters Captain James Kirk and Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, on the program Star Trek.

In the coming year, we will observe many of these anniversaries in-depth. We begin the year reflection on a half-century of civil eight progress, and the progress that lies ahead.

## Hancock's Resolution



Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: PUBDOG

### HANCOCK'S RESOLUTION

In 1785 Stephen Hancock, Jr. built the original stone section as the main house for what was then a 410-acre (170 ha) farm. Additions to the house were built in 1855 and in about 1900. Stone and frame outbuildings remain, including a one-story gable-roofed stone dairy. Hancock's Resolution remained in Hancock family ownership until the deaths in the 1960s of Mary Hancock and her brother, Henry Hancock, who left the property to Anne Arundel County to be preserved. Hancock's Resolution underwent a thorough restoration in 2000 and is now open to the public as a house museum. Open Sundays April through October, 1-4.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Missed Opportunities to Help Homeless Youths

*Home for the holidays.* For many people that's a happy phrase, just as for many Americans the last few weeks included welcomed vacations and celebrations—a time of plenty, gratitude, and family that marked the joyous holiday season. But "home for the holidays" is an empty promise for thousands of young people who didn't have a place at anyone's holiday tables and have little hope for a better 2018. Instead they move into the new year trying to survive the bitter temperatures and with still nowhere to call home.

Too often they are forgotten in the cold and the shadows. The new report Missed Opportunities from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, is the first in a series aimed at shining a spotlight on the quiet but enormous crisis of unaccompanied youth homelessness in America. It notes one in 10 young adults 18-25 years old—3.5 million—and at least one in 30 teenagers 13-17 years old—700,000—experienced some form of homelessness in a recent year. It opens with Natalie's story:

"At age 14 in a small town in Washington State, Natalie's experience with homelessness began. Natalie's dad left her family, and her mom fell into depression and started using methamphetamines. '[I]f she wasn't drunk or high, she was gone' ... For the next six months, Natalie cared for her four younger siblings. She started to miss school and ultimately dropped out. The stress of her circumstance mounted. Through friends, she encountered meth, a drug that had become tragically common in her community. She started using. This only added to conflict with her mom, and, after a fight with her mom's new boyfriend, Natalie was kicked out.

"Natalie then cycled between couch surfing and trap houses, where illegal drugs are sold. She exchanged sex with an older man so that she could 'have a roof over [her] head.' Natalie traveled to other cities for housing and informal support. By 17, when chemical dependency had taken a strong hold, she stayed for extended periods in the shed of someone she knew. Natalie found herself regularly returning to ju-

venile detention—where she says she was grateful for a bed to sleep in and respites of safety ... "

Natalie is not alone. Missed Opportunities highlights results from a national survey that captured youth homelessness broadly, including couch surfing, sleeping on the streets, in cars, and in shelters. There is constant movement. The survey found that one half of the older group and one quarter of the younger group involved couch surfing only and half of those who experienced homelessness faced it for the first time.

In addition to documenting how shockingly widespread youth homelessness is, the report highlights some specifics: Rates are similar in rural and urban areas. Black youths had an 83 percent higher risk and Latino youths a 33 percent higher risk of being homeless than youths of other races. Poor youths, LGBT youths, unmarried young parents, and youths with less than a high school diploma or GED are all at especially high risk. It notes: "Adolescence and young adulthood represent a key developmental window. Every day of housing instability and associated stress represents a missed opportunity to support healthy development and transi-

tions to productive adulthood." Missed Opportunities adds, "While the deprivation of housing stability was the common thread in Voices of Youth Count research, the stories of youth homelessness—and the opportunities for intervention—rarely centered on housing alone."

Chapin Hall's findings reinforce a similar message that came out of Sao Paulo, Brazil in November at the American Bar Association's International Summit on the Legal Rights of Street-Connected Children and Youth, a conference focused on the global need to ensure legal rights and human rights for children and youth who spend time living on the streets, including those in the U.S. Around the world homeless youths are at high risk of hunger, poor health outcomes, physical violence, rape, and sexual exploitation. The dangers are real, but so is the opportunity for positive intervention if we are willing to act.

This crisis requires action by the United Nations but also by our United States Congress, state legislatures, and county social services. Missed Opportunities'

See WATCH, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty — When Should I Apply for Social Security?

by Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I will be turning 62 in 2018; birth date 9/24/1955. My husband is 77 and receiving Social Security. Longevity runs in my family. I have been self-employed all my life. I am still working and my husband collects a pension, Social Security and RMD from a traditional IRA, so there is no need for additional monies under my current circumstances. When should I start taking Social Security?

#### Signed: Thinking about Retirement

**Dear Thinking:** The question of when to take Social Security normally gets an answer of “It depends on your health, your family history of longevity, and your need for the money”. You’ve already addressed those items so I’ll focus on your main question—when should you start taking Social Security?

Even though you’ll be eligible to collect Social Security when you turn 62, if you do so you will only get 74.17% of the retirement benefit you would be entitled to at your full retirement age (FRA). Whenever you apply, you will be deemed to be filing not only for your own retirement benefit but also any spousal benefit you may be entitled to from your husband’s work record. Similar to your SS retirement benefit, your spousal benefit would also be reduced because you took it early; instead of being 50% of your husband’s benefit at your FRA, you would only get 35% at age 62 (if that is larger than your own retirement benefit). The point I’m making is that by claiming SS early, any benefit you’re entitled to will be reduced from what you would get at your full retirement age.

Just as you are penalized for claiming before your full retirement age, you are rewarded for waiting beyond it to claim Social Security retirement benefits. In fact, for each year you wait beyond your full retirement age, your retirement benefit will be 8% higher than it would be at your FRA. That will continue up until you are 70 years old when your retirement benefit will be 30.67% higher than it would have been at your FRA. You stop earning additional credit at age 70, so there’s no reason to wait beyond that to apply. Let’s use an easy example to illustrate: If your FRA retirement benefit is \$1000, by applying at age 62 you would only get \$741 per month instead of \$1000. But if you wait until you are 70 to claim benefits, you would get \$1306 per month, nearly twice what you would get by applying at age 62.

There are two other factors you should incorporate into your thinking:

1) At your FRA, you will be entitled to ½ of your husband’s benefit at his FRA. If your spousal benefit at your FRA is substantially more than your own retirement benefit, then applying at your FRA may be a good strategy, as opposed to waiting and earning delayed retirement credits.

2) Once you have reached your FRA you will be entitled to 100% of your husband’s benefit amount if he should predecease you. If your eventual survivor’s benefit would be more than your own FRA benefit amount, you might be better served by claiming your retirement benefit earlier than age 70.

As you can see, most of the answer to your question depends upon whether your benefits as a spouse or a survivor will be more than your benefit based upon your own work record. If not, then waiting beyond your FRA up to age 70 will yield you the maximum retirement benefit. But if your spouse and/or survivor’s benefit will be more than your own retirement benefits, then applying at your full retirement age may be the best strategy. If you haven’t already done so, I suggest you go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) and set up your personal “My Social Security” account which will give you access to your currently estimated retirement benefit. Comparing that to your potential spousal and survivor benefits should give you the answer you’re seeking.

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

## News and Announcements

### Town of Cheverly Traffic Study

As noted in previous Cheverly Newsletters the Town Council authorized a Traffic Study for the areas near Gladys Noon Spellman and St Ambrose Schools in the FY2017 Budget. The specific area being studied is north of Forest Ave and East of Cheverly Ave.

The study is ready to begin. The consultants conducting the study will be at Town Hall on January 25th from 7:00PM to 8:00PM to receive community input on project.

Please take a moment to stop in and provide us with your input.

## Regulatory Reform Commission Publishes 2017 Report

*Hogan Administration Moves to Implement All 657 Recommendations, Signs Executive Order to Minimize Regulatory Impact on Small Businesses*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Regulatory Reform Commission, established by Governor Larry Hogan and tasked with conducting a comprehensive review of Maryland’s regulatory climate, has issued its final report, which identifies over 600 individual regulations to be streamlined or eliminated. In response, Governor Hogan announced that the administration will implement all 657 recommendations.

To fulfill one of the report’s recommendations, the governor issued Executive Order 01.01.2017.33, requiring state agencies to use guidelines adopted by the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Businesses for estimating the cost of compliance and the economic impact of regulations on small businesses. Creating a common sense regulatory environment for Maryland’s hundreds of thousands of small businesses, many of which are minority, or women-owned enterprises, is critical to growing the state’s economy.

“The primary focus of our administration has been on grow-

ing our economy, putting people back to work, and creating an environment of economic opportunity for every single Marylander,” said Governor Hogan. “These common sense reforms to cut red tape and bring state government into the 21st century will help Maryland job creators—especially our small businesses—grow, thrive, and put even more people back to work.”

Restructuring and reforming state government is a top priority of the Hogan-Rutherford administration. In July 2015, the governor signed an executive order creating the Regulatory Reform Commission to conduct a top-to-bottom review of every single regulation on the books, with the goal of finding ways to cut through government red tape and streamline Maryland’s cumbersome bureaucracy and slow approval processes. The Hogan administration eliminated or streamlined another 187 regulations identified in the commission’s 2016 report, bringing the total number of reformed regulations since taking office to 844.

“This is the first comprehensive, exhaustive review of Maryland’s regulations in a genera-

tion, and delivers on Governor Hogan’s promise to reform state government to be more responsive to the citizens of our great state,” said Lt. Governor Rutherford. “We thank the Commission, numerous state agencies, and the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Businesses for the countless hours of work that went into this report, enabling our administration to eliminate or streamline hundreds of regulations.”

Regulations identified for reform in the report include:

- Repealing 224 obsolete or redundant Department of Health regulations.

- Removing a Department of the Environment requirement that small businesses with privately owned water and sewerage systems place capital into an escrow account for 20 years equal to the cost of the capital expenditure to construct or expand the system, despite the lack of any similar requirement for publicly owned systems.

- Enabling the Department of the Environment to issue a single permit covering both toxic substances and pesticide application, where operators previously had to apply for two permits.

- Repealing a \$500 fee previously charged by the Maryland Transportation Authority to tow companies applying for a permit.

The report highlights additional Hogan-Rutherford administration initiatives to make government more accessible and responsive to Marylanders, including the Governor’s Customer Service Initiative, the Governor’s Office of Performance Improvement, and Maryland Business Express, an online portal to optimize services for the hundreds of thousands of businesses that interact with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

Governor Hogan signed an executive order establishing the Regulatory Reform Commission in July 2015. The commission is chaired by Abba David Poliakoff and includes the Lt. Governor as an ex-officio member, plus eight additional members appointed by the governor with a range of experience in various sectors representing regions across the state. For more information, please visit <http://governor.maryland.gov/ltgovernor/home/regulatory-reform>.

### Nonprofits from A1

employees, customers and friends and families live in.

“Comcast is proud to award these grants to our partner organizations that share our commitment to improving communities and enriching lives,” said Donna Rattley Washington, Vice President of Government & Regulatory Affairs for Comcast’s Beltway Region. “Thanks to the tireless and extremely important work of these nonprofit organizations, the Washington, D.C. area is a better place to call home.”

The organizations receiving Comcast Foundation grants in the Washington, D.C. metro area include:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (DC)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland (North Beach, MD)
- Byte Back (DC)

- College Bound (DC)
- Crittenton Services of Greater Washington (Silver Spring, MD)
- Easter Seals DC MD VA (Silver Spring, MD)
- Edu-Futuro (Arlington, VA)
- Greater Washington Urban League (DC)
- Identity, Inc. (Gaithersburg, MD)
- Junior Achievement of Greater Washington (DC)
- Latin American Youth Center (DC)
- Northern Virginia Urban League (Alexandria, VA)
- Rappahannock Big Brothers Big Sisters (Fredericksburg, VA)
- The Arc of Prince George’s County (Upper Marlboro, MD)
- United Planning Organization (DC)
- YWCA National Capital Area (DC)

Including the support in the Washington, D.C. metro area, the Comcast Foundation in 2017 has donated about \$20 million to nonprofit organizations in the communities it serves nationwide. In addition to the grants from the Comcast Foundation, Comcast also responds to community needs through local sponsorships and in-kind support, such as airing public service announcements, employee volunteerism, and providing technology equipment and services to organizations across the country. Looking ahead to 2018, the Comcast Foundation will build on its efforts through an added focus on expanding access to technology to promote digital inclusion, helping individuals build skills for the digital economy, and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurialism.

### About the Comcast Foundation

The Comcast Foundation was founded by Comcast Corporation in June 1999 to provide charitable support to qualified non-profit organizations. The Foundation primarily invests in programs intended to have a positive, sustainable impact on their communities. The Foundation has three community investment priorities—expanding digital literacy, promoting community service, and building tomorrow’s leaders. Since its inception, the Comcast Foundation has donated more than \$200 million to organizations in the communities nationwide that Comcast serves. More information about the Foundation and its programs is available at the following Comcast web address [www.comcast.com/community](http://www.comcast.com/community).

### Pedestrians from A3

of pedestrian accidents on an eight-mile stretch in Montgomery County:

- In Wheaton, 20 of the 42 pedestrians struck by vehicles were seriously injured. One person, Anglarill, was killed.

- To the north in Aspen Hill, 23 people were hit, including 13 who were seriously injured, near the intersection of Georgia and Connecticut Avenue, another state road.

- South of Wheaton, seven people were hit around the intersection of August Drive, including three who were seriously injured. No one was killed.

- Further south, in downtown Silver Spring, 45 were hit, including 25 who were seriously injured and one who was killed.

Asked about pedestrian safety improvements, SHA officials cited four-year-old sidewalk, curb, and gutter repairs and crosswalk restriping in Aspen Hill. They said the agency reconstructed ramps in 2015 for disabled pedestrians in Silver Spring and upgraded traffic signals and bus stops.

In Wheaton, cars often whiz through the tight intersections in an area packed with a Metro station, office buildings, retail shops and a major shopping mall. Sidewalks are narrow in some areas and provide no buffer between pedestrians and the road.

“It’s very dangerous,” said Michael Sauh, 21, who lives on Georgia near Reedy. “There are lots of people of all types, elderly people, young people ... crossing through here.”

Construction projects frequently obstruct sections of the sidewalk, he said, and cars often speed and turn corners while pedestrians have the walk sign.

“It’s just so stupid right here,” he said. “I don’t know what can be done to change it.”

In College Park, SHA added a traffic light, lowered the speed limit and installed a fence in the median strip after public outcry following the deaths of three pedestrians in a series of accidents on Baltimore Avenue adjacent to the University of Maryland.

In Ocean City, a popular tourist destination, the agency added pedestrian walk signals and walkways and reduced speed limits along the eight-lane

Coastal Highway after a rash of accidents, including two fatalities, in 2012.

The highway remains among the most dangerous in the state. The CNS analysis identified four clusters of accidents in Ocean City involving a total of 83 pedestrians since 2015. That included 59 serious injuries and two deaths. SHA is installing a 40-block median fence, set to be complete by the summer tourism season, to try to reduce the toll.

In contrast, Montgomery County entered into negotiations with the SHA in 2010 about the construction of a median fence on Georgia to deter jaywalking, but the two agencies failed to reach an agreement, said Jeff Dunckel, former pedestrian safety coordinator for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. He now heads the pedestrian and bike safety program at the state’s highway safety office.

Felix said the SHA is still open to negotiations.

Last January, Consuelo Anglarill began crossing Georgia at Reedy Drive about two car lengths outside a crosswalk, according to a police report and

witness interviews. She waited on the median strip until a car in the closest lane stopped to let her cross to the other side. But another car sped through the intersection, traveling over 50 mph in the 35 mph-zone, according to the police report. The driver slammed the brakes when he saw Consuelo, but the car skidded into her, flinging her into the air, witnesses said.

“There was no way he could’ve seen her,” said Bernadette Hall, who witnessed the accident. “He hit the brakes, but by that time, it was too late.”

Consuelo was taken to Suburban Hospital and died 14 days later.

Her family felt her absence this Thanksgiving, their first holiday spent without her, said her daughter Elizabeth Anglarill, 48, of Silver Spring. The Bolivian immigrant had two children and two grandchildren. Marinating and seasoning the turkey had always been Consuelo’s duty, and Elizabeth had worried about preparing it this year, nearly outsourcing the job to catering before her husband stepped in to help.

Her mother was the “heart of the family,” Elizabeth said.



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Wonderstruck

Wonderstruck  
Grade: A-  
Rated? PG,  
mild thematic elements  
1 hr., 57 min

A theme running through most of Todd Haynes' films (*Velvet Goldmine*, *Far from Heaven*, *Carol*) is one of breaking loose from convention to be true to oneself. Often this breaking-loose has to do with sexuality, but the wonderful "Wonderstruck," based on the illustrated novel by Brian Selznick (*Hugo*), applies it to marginalized children trying to find their place in the world. It's a charming, magical story, full of simple surprises and innocent beauty.

It starts out as two stories, actually. In Minnesota in 1977, 12-year-old Ben (Oakes Fegley, from last year's *Pete's Dragon*) never knew his father and recently lost his mother (Michelle Williams) in a car accident. He finds an old book among her belongings—*Wonderstruck*, about New York's American Museum of Natural History—and a bookmark with an inscription to Ben's mother from someone named "Danny." Could that be Ben's father? While dialing the telephone number of the bookstore indicated on the bookmark, Ben is struck by lightning and loses his hearing, as if the universe didn't want him to make the connection. Doesn't matter. He sets out for New York to find the bookstore and, he hopes, his father.

Meanwhile, in Hoboken, N.J., in 1927, a deaf, lonely rich girl named Rose (Millicent Simmonds) idolizes movie star Lillian Mayhew (Julianne Moore) and dreads the coming day when talkies will take over, spoiling her refuge. Fed up with her disinterested father (James Urbaniak), who seems annoyed with her for



ROTTENTOMATOES

**Based on Brian Selznick's critically acclaimed novel Ben and Rose are children from two different eras who secretly wish their lives were different. Ben longs for the father he has never known, while Rose dreams of a mysterious actress whose life she chronicles in a scrapbook. When Ben discovers a puzzling clue in his home and Rose reads an enticing headline in the newspaper, both children set out on quests to find what they are missing that unfold with mesmerizing symmetry.**

being deaf, Rose heads into Manhattan in search of Ms. Mayhew, who's rehearsing for her Broadway debut. It isn't as long a journey for Rose as it is for Ben—New York is just a ferry ride away—but it's a grand adventure for a 12-year-old deaf girl in 1927.

Haynes cuts back and forth between time periods regularly, underlining the parallels in the stories—both kids trek to New York and face dangers in the big city; both end up at the American Museum of Natural History—without indicating how they are related. The 1977 scenes have the rich, saturated colors and funky soundtrack of movies from that time, and while Ben can't hear the hustle and bustle around him, we can. We can practically smell it. To remind us that Ben is deaf, Haynes occasionally lets the dialogue drop from the sound mix.

The 1927 scenes, on the other hand, evoke the silent film era without duplicating it. The widescreen images are sepia-toned. We don't hear any dialogue (you may be surprised at how good you are at lip-reading), and there's a near-constant musical score—but the music, by the great Carter Burwell, is modern, not era-appropriate. (I like to imagine that it's the music Rose hears in her head, accompanying her own life.) Burwell's score is gorgeous and yearning, and Haynes uses it across both time periods, tying them together even while we're still in the dark about their connection.

The parallel tracks do eventually merge (this is not a puzzle movie), focusing on Ben's search for his father. He's helped by a new friend, Jamie (Jaden Michael), an eager lad without many friends

whose own father works at the museum. Jamie is an endearing type, the good-hearted character whose only function in the story to help the protagonist and be his pal. His and Ben's sweet friendship anchors the movie.

Selznick, adapting his own book, has a storyteller's gift for parceling out information. He reveals biographical details one piece at a time, letting us enjoy the process of discovery in a manner similar to how Ben and Rose are learning more about their world. They're not after the same facts we are, but the path is the same: curiosity, wonderment, the joy of finding out something new. The movie is a celebration of all that, framed within a story about kids doing neat things like hide out in a museum after hours. This is a lovely, euphoric movie, made with skill and compassion.

### Offshore Drilling from A4

Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Tom Carper (D-Del.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).

These Senators strongly oppose the Trump Administration's offshore drilling plan, which is bad for the environment and public health and could devastate coastal economies.

A copy of the letter text follows:

January 11, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke,  
Secretary

United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We write to you today regarding your recent decision to remove Florida from inclusion in the Trump Administration's new proposal to open up the vast majority of the outer continental shelf to oil and gas drilling. We request that our states also be immediately exempted from any new oil or gas leases as a part of this plan.

In the statement on your decision to remove Florida, you indicated that President Trump had directed you to reestablish our country's offshore oil and gas leasing program in a way that "takes into consideration the local and state voice." In addition to Florida, the states of Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Connecticut, California, Oregon, and Washington have all opposed this plan for new leases off their coasts. Coastal cities and towns across the country have also passed resolutions in opposition while local residents, businesses, scientists, the military, and others have publicly raised serious concerns.

Just like Florida, our states are unique with vibrant coastal economies. Providing all of our states with the same exemption from dangerous offshore oil and gas drilling would ensure that vital industries from tourism to recreation to fishing are not needlessly placed in harm's way.

We urge you to honor the commitment of this Administration by listening to the local and state voices that we represent and to respect their overwhelming opposition to oil and gas drilling off our coasts. Instead of focusing on short term benefits for oil and gas companies, our country should be looking toward a clean energy future. We hope we can work with you to protect our natural resources, our environment, and the livelihoods of coastal residents so that they remain for future generations.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

 **Don't Miss the 2018 Annual Polar Bear Plunge to Benefit Special Olympics Maryland**

Plunge events to include Cool Schools January 25, Corporate, Police, Military, EMT and Firefighter January 26, followed by Pee Wee, Polar Bear Plunge & Plungefest January 27 in Annapolis

This chilly weather only means one thing, its Plunge time! 30 days until the 2018 MSP Polar Bear Plunge. In just a couple months Maryland State Police (MSP) will host this world's largest event! Where 10,000+ raise money for Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) and take a plunge into the Chesapeake Bay. People can sign up themselves and their team now to start their fundraising! Be bold get cold!

More than 10,000 people from across the state will plunge into the chilly Chesapeake Bay raising money for Special Olympics Maryland ... so please join us!

**January 27, 2018  
at Sandy Point State Park,  
1100 E College Parkway, Annapolis, MD**

### Screen Time Is Here To Stay!

## When Managing Your Childrens TV Viewing—How Much Is too Much?

(NAPSI)—Halle Stanford, President of Television at The Jim Henson Company and mother to two boys, ages 19 and 6, shares her views on navigating the kids' TV landscape.

As a producer at The Jim Henson Company and a mom to two boys, I have a unique perspective on screen time. I've also explored this issue in one of my shows, *Dot*. This animated preschool series created by the fabulous Randi Zuckerberg addresses how technology can enhance a kid's everyday adventures. We were lucky to be advised by Yalda Uhls (author of *Media Moms* and *Digital Dads*) on creating a show curriculum that encourages kids and their families to be excellent digital citizens, to come up with a family media agreement, and to talk openly about screen time.

My personal philosophy on this issue is simple: Viva la screen time! I encourage my kids to enjoy movies, television, videos, apps, and more. Like my hero Jim Henson, I believe in the positive transformative power of media. As a producer, my goal has always been to create television and films that enrich, educate, and entertain. So I have always encouraged my boys to love the shows and games that they are drawn to, but also to discover programming that informs them on issues and ideas they are curious about. Favorites in our house range from *Phineas and Ferb*, *Sarah and Duck*, *Reading Rainbow Skybrary*, *Despicable Me*, *Star Wars to Westworld*, *Nathan For You*, *Game Of Thrones*, and *The Walking Dead*. (Remember, my boys are 13 years apart!)

As a momma, how much screen time do I let my youngest have? It has changed with his age and often depends on what's happening that day. In the summer, he's allowed screen time in the morning AND in the afternoon, but it's more limited during the school year. True confession: I don't have a set amount of time he always gets, but it's usually no longer than an hour. And we do talk about how long he'll be watching the shows before he settles in to viewing. And when that last show starts, he gets a reminder that his screen time is almost up. Yes, there have been times when he grabs the phone or remote when screen time is over and runs around the house laughing, but I'm as quick as a cheetah.

My 19-year-old is an adult and at this point in his life, I trust him to regulate his own screen time. And still, the best I can do for both my boys is to model good screen time habits myself. When we are together, I do my best to use my phone only to snap those memorable photos or answer an urgent message. And I tell them why I am taking the time to focus on my screen and not on them. I also never answer the phone during meals or playtime. But, once they're asleep or out and about, I love having my own time to turn on my latest favorite show (hello, *Outlander!*).

We are in a new golden age of television and I would embolden parents to find shows that will delight and inspire their kids. It will take time (because there is so much content out there), but get involved with customizing your family's viewing experiences together—it's FUN! (And, if it happens to be *Dot*., *Splash and Bubbles*, *Dinosaur Train*, *Doozers*, *Word Party*, or *Julie's Greenroom* ... even better!).

Discover your child's next favorite show. Visit [www.JimHensonsFamilyHub.com](http://www.JimHensonsFamilyHub.com) to explore The Jim Henson Company's award-winning programs for all ages.

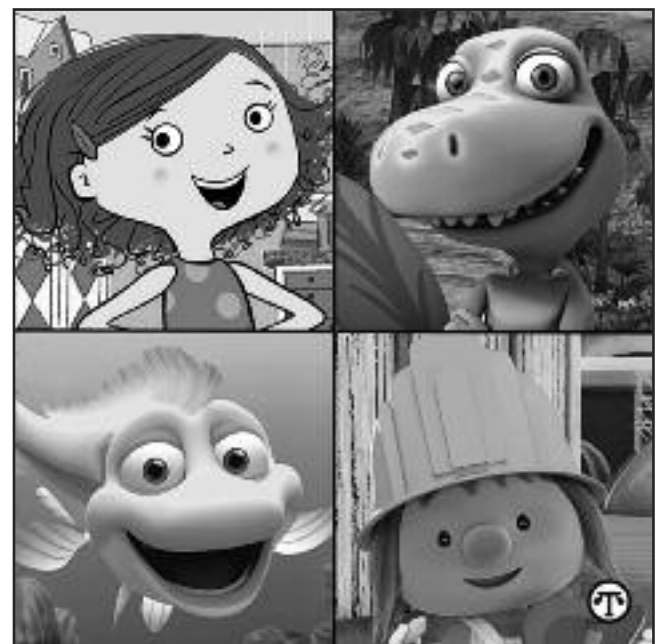


PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

Jim Henson's Family Hub is the home to some of television's favorite preschool stars. © Henson.

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## Calendar of Events

January 18 — January 24, 2018

### Pickleball!

Date and time: Thursday, January 18, 2018, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM  
Description: Great exercise, camaraderie, and fun!! Join us for an easy to learn game of Pickleball, the latest in racquet sports. Pickleball combines the elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. It is played on a badminton-sized court, a tennis-sized net with whiffle balls, and large Ping Pong paddles. Come ready to have fun, dress comfortably, and don't forget your hand towels and water! No registration is required.  
Cost: FREE! with valid M-NCPPC ID  
Ages: 60 and better  
Location: Glenarden Community Center  
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD  
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

### Packed in a Trunk: *The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson* (2015)

Date and time: Thursday, January 18, 2018, 12:00 PM–3:00 PM  
Description: Like a fast-paced detective story? "*Packed in a Trunk*" celebrates the life of Edith Lake Wilkinson, a gifted and prolific lesbian artist who, in 1924, was committed to an asylum. All of Edith's worldly possessions were packed into trunks and she was never heard from again. Edith's great-niece, Jane Anderson (Emmy Award-winning writer & director) grew up surrounded by Edith's paintings after her mother discovered the trunks in their relative's attic and rescued the work. This delightful film follows Jane and her spouse, Tess, in their efforts to find answers to the mystery of Edith's buried life, return her art to Provincetown where she once lived and thrived, and have Edith's contributions recognized by the art world.  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Family Boot Camp: New Year, New You!

Date and time: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 9:00 AM–10:00 PM  
Description: Kick off the New Year with a healthy and fun family boot camp program! We invite you and your family to take part in a healthy start to 2018 with a series of FREE fitness sessions that will leave you feeling motivated and confident! Call us at 301-446-6842 for more information.

\*Scheduled to take place outdoors; weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather, classes will be held in the gymnasium

Cost: FREE  
Ages: 13 and older  
Location: Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex  
7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD  
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-699-2544

### Paws in the Park

Date and time: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM  
Description: Meet up with other local furry friends and walk our trail! Doggie goodie bags will be provided for the first 20 pals with paws. All dogs must be on a leash.  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Tucker Road Athletic Complex  
1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD  
Contact: 301-446-6842; TTY 301-699-2544

### The Junior Academy for the Performing Arts (JAPA) Open House

Date and time: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM  
Description: Discover the Magic of Musical Theater! Join us for the Winter/Spring JAPA Open House. Come meet our instructors and find out how YOU can act, sing, and dance your way to the stage. A FREE! introduction meeting for all interested in participating in our upcoming JAPA production starting in February.  
The Winter/Spring session starts Saturday, February 3, 2018 and subsequent rehearsals are also on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: 8–15  
Location: The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
(The Prince George's County Room)  
8270 Alumni Drive, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

### Zumabathon

Date and time: Saturday, January 20, 2018, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM  
An additional Zumbathon is scheduled for February 8, 2018, from 6 to 9 pm!  
Description: The hustle and bustle of life often leaves limited time to take care of yourself. If you were able to find an activity that can not only quickly address your physical health but your mental health as well, would you do it? Well, come join us for this Zumbathon and exercise your entire being!  
Zumba helps improve participants self-confidence and motivation to exercise. When we love and value ourselves, it translates into relationships and how we allow others to treat us.  
Cost: \$5  
Ages: 11 and older  
Location: Largo/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center  
431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-249-7200; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Drowning in Boxes: Is More Cardboard Recycling Really the Answer?

Dear EarthTalk:

*How do environmentalists feel about the amount of packaging waste consumers have to deal with now that holiday shopping has largely switched over from retail shops to online stores?*

—Jessica B. Raleigh, NC

This past holiday season marked the first year that holiday shoppers spent more of their gift budgets online than in stores, according to a recent report by the consulting firm Deloitte. Environmentalists are indeed concerned that this trend doesn't augur well for the environment, given the extra packaging waste and energy costs that accompany getting merchandise to customers. Going to the store or mall to do our shopping burns fossil fuels, for sure, but at least the items we purchase don't then have to be reswaddled in extra filler and cardboard and shipped to us on a plane, truck, train or ship.

For its part, Amazon—the company many blame for ushering in the transition to e-commerce in the first place and which today dominates online retail—used some 6,000 trucks and 32 planes to get some five billion items to its Prime members in 2017. During that process, untold hundreds of millions of cardboard boxes

were used to get customers' choices to their doorsteps. Those boxes are in turn typically recycled by the recipients, and collected by municipal curbside pick-up service.

But that's not the end of the story: Next, this once-used cardboard is typically shipped to China where it is soaked in water, stripped of staples and reborn as new cardboard. In many cases the box you recycle has made a 12,000-mile, fossil-fuel-spewing loop at sea in its journey of rebirth. So... while recycling is a great thing, it may not be worth it if we factor in the fossil fuels emitted in the process. We'd be better off avoiding the extra layer of packaging altogether. Maybe that trip to the mall isn't such a bad idea after all.

That said, Amazon recently boasted of transitioning to more sustainable packaging during the 2017 holiday season, switching 100 million shipments from cardboard boxes to less resource-intensive padded mailers, reportedly eliminating 181,000 tons of waste. So that's something, but Amazon and other online retailers have a long way to go in reducing not only the amount of packaging but perhaps even the packaging altogether when possible.

This is not to say you should bad about recycling your boxes



CREDIT: JACOB GUBE, FLICKRCC

**The cardboard you recycle likely makes a 12,000-mile, fossil-fuel-spewing loop at sea (to China and back) in its journey of rebirth.**

in the wake of the holidays, as it's a perfectly decent environmental thing to do. But if you want to go the extra mile, maybe think of some way to reuse them at least one more time before the next recipient ships it off for recycling—or reuses it as well. Also, don't forget that most gift wrap—as long as it doesn't have foil or glitter or a plasticizing non-rip coating—as well as holiday cards, can be recycled as well. And yet another option for responsibly discarding that cardboard, wrapping paper and holiday cards is in your yard waste or compost bin, in which case it will live another day not as a cardboard box but instead as

part of your next batch of mulch or soil amendment.

CONTACTS: Deloitte's 2017 Holiday Retail Survey, <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/consumer-retail-sales-consumer-survey.html>; Amazon Energy & Environment, <https://www.amazon.com/p/feature/gkwdp34z5ou7ug>.

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Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### Roads from A1

traffic congestion on I-270 in Montgomery County and improving car access to the Greenbelt Metro in Prince George's County. Both counties placed pedestrian safety improvements near the bottom of their letters.

"Although not specifically included in the attached list, Prince George's county believes it is imperative that the State address the lack of safety features included on and along State-maintained roadways," the Prince George's County 2013 letter says.

Montgomery County specified Georgia Avenue as one of its "highest need" locations for pedestrian improvements. But that too was mentioned near the bottom of its priority list, below major car-related projects.

The SHA rarely undertakes capital projects dedicated solely to major pedestrian improvements along roadways. But Charlie Gischlar, the agency's media relations manager, said the state looks for ways to include pedestrian safety improvements in most major road projects.

"When we make a road improvement, let's say to break congestion, we also will put in, usually most of the time, sidewalk or a bike lane or something of that nature," Gischlar said.

Making the list doesn't assure swift action.

Like Georgia Avenue in Wheaton, Branch experiences the heavy pedestrian traffic that comes with a Metro station. The fading crosswalk in front of the Naylor Metro had no functioning pedestrian signals when Capital News Service visited in October.

Sidewalks were crumbling or missing entirely. Pedestrians

have worn dirt paths in the grass along the southern side of the Naylor Road Metro station because sidewalks are only accessible from the north. Some restaurants and businesses pedestrians pass along Branch Avenue to get to the station have no sidewalks, forcing pedestrians to cut through parking lots along the edge of the six-lane highway.

Gischlar said the agency is adding sidewalks along those parking lots, replacing and widening others and repainting crosswalks, but completion has been delayed while the agency redesigns the project to address drainage and other problems. He said work will restart next year. But while the drainage pipes are replaced, no sidewalks are available across the street from the Metro station.

SHA-Funded Pedestrian Safety Improvements

The SHA also can select and fund pedestrian safety improvements through the System Preservation program.

The agency established the Pedestrian Road Safety Audit in 2012 to identify areas with high numbers of pedestrian crashes, said Lora Rakowski, SHA education and marketing manager.

Anyesha Mookherjee, deputy director of SHA's Office of Traffic and Safety, said the audit is "one of the biggest tools we have" to address pedestrian crash areas.

Engineers compile a list of one-mile sections of state roads where 10 or more pedestrian crashes occurred in a five-year period, ranked by the number of accidents.

"There is no real statistical reasoning behind why we chose 10 and not eight or for that matter one," Gischlar said.

The 10-accident threshold was based on "engineering

judgment," said Mookherjee. "Whichever has the highest [number] of crashes, we get to it first."

To conduct the audit, the agency forms a multidisciplinary group of engineers, fire and EMS officials and community members to look into the areas, Mookherjee said.

Small-scale improvements can be implemented in 30 to 90 days, while larger projects may take one or two years, or longer, Mookherjee said. Many of SHA's seven district offices can pay for the smaller improvements within their jurisdiction themselves. Larger ones are often funded in stages, from design through construction, and officials ask for components of the project, like a new traffic signal, from the statewide budget.

At many locations, the agency has completed its short-term projects but long-term ones are still in progress. These audits led to the extended walk light in Wheaton and the pedestrian walk signals, lower speed limit, pedestrian walkways and median fence in Ocean City, Gischlar said.

But the agency denied a records request to obtain the audit results, saying releasing the records would be against the public interest because it "could be used to attempt to discover MDOT SHA's thought process regarding decisions affecting highway safety." Rakowski provided a list of 22 roads identified through the audit but provided no accident statistics or what improvements, if any, were made.

SHA also investigates the site of every fatal crash, Gischlar said.

"So we'll go out and take a look if there's anything we can do right off the bat, trim

branches to improve sight distance, maybe freshen up on some pedestrian pavement markings," he said.

SHA investigates "pretty much everything" citizens or counties bring to its attention, Mookherjee said.

"Any concern they [citizens] have, we will have an engineering study," Mookherjee said.

SHA uses a 1,000-page book called the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to assess whether additions like crosswalks or pedestrian signals are warranted at a particular location.

"That pretty much is the Bible of traffic engineers," Mookherjee said.

Sean Emerson, an activist with the Action Committee for Transit in Montgomery County, said SHA responds to most requests for pedestrian improvements by citing the MUTCD passage that says it's not necessary.

For the SHA to okay the painting of a new crosswalk, the section of road in question must meet all of the criteria outlined in MUTCD, said Emerson, a legislative aide to Bethesda state delegate Marc Korman.

"The SHA will come back and say, 'Sorry, it's not warranted,'" Emerson said.

Rather than making engineering changes, the state often handles high-crash areas through driver and pedestrian education initiatives, such as its "Look Up, Look Out" campaign and the Maryland Department of Transportation's "Toward Zero Deaths" pedestrian safety page, which features tips like, "Watch for turning vehicles," and "Use pedestrian pushbuttons."

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### Immigration from A1

"Maryland, and Prince George's County, would lose millions of dollars annually in economic costs and much greater social costs if residents with TPS status are forced into the shadows. These residents have made Prince George's County their home after fleeing violence, war, or natural disasters. They are local entrepreneurs, homeowners, and our neighbors. We all will be af-

ected if thousands of Prince George's County residents are uprooted after, in many cases, being part of our community for decades."

The Prince George's County Council is working to support our County's immigrant population, and stands in solidarity with those who oppose ending the TPS program and forcing the deportation of immigrants who have lived and worked in our country and communities for many

years. We urge Members of Congress to act quickly to create legislation that provides a viable path to citizenship or legal permanent residency.

County residents who are detained and are facing deportation may be eligible for free legal services through the Immigrant Services and Language Access Initiative or ISLA, a partnership of the Prince George's County Council, Prince George's County Government, the Capital Area Immi-

grants' Rights Coalition (CAIR), the Vera Institute of Justice, and CASA de Maryland.

If a family member has been detained, contact 202.331.3320, extension 7027 to leave a voicemail. Your call will be returned. If you are detained, follow posted instructions at the correctional facility to call the CAIR Coalition, then dial \*1686. Calls are answered Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Visit [www.caircoalition.org/need-help](http://www.caircoalition.org/need-help).