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PGFD Receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Silver Plus Recognition Award

By PRESS OFFICER
PGFD

The Prince Georges Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel.

"The Prince Georges Fire/EMS Department is dedicated to providing optimal care for heart attack and all patients that request our assistance," said Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care efforts through Mission: Lifeline."

"EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks," said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. We applaud our providers for achieving this award in following evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks."

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is the busiest and largest combination, career and volunteer, Fire/EMS Departments in the Country. 950 career Firefighter/Medics and civilians in addition to 1,200 volunteers protect 500 square miles and nearly 1 million residents through a system of 45 stations that provide a variety of fire, EMS, hazmat and technical services. The Department responds to about 145,000 incidents per year.

The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for acute coronary syndrome patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit heart.org.



PHOTOGRAPH BY EARL53, MORGUEFILE.COM

Celebrate Our Nation's Birthday With a Free Concert and Fireworks

Bowie's Independence Day Celebration Returns to Prince George's Stadium on July 2nd

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Bowie

BOWIE, MD—The City of Bowie is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a concert and fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day this year. The free event takes place on Monday, July 2 at Prince George's Stadium. The concert by legendary band the Fabulous Hubcaps begins at 7:30 PM and the fireworks are expected to shoot off at around 9:15 PM. The fire-

works show will include an exciting array of pyrotechnics that will be visible beyond the stadium.

The Fabulous Hubcaps have been together for over 40 years. They play cover music from many famous singers and bands of yesteryear, while dressing in outfits that the original performers would have worn. Attendees can expect songs by Tom Jones, Billy Joel, The Drifters, Benny Goodman, Cher, The Platters, Elvis, Buddy Holly, Tina Turner, Frank Sinatra, Little

Richard, the Beach Boys and more during the performance.

Bowie's Special Events Manager Matt Corley says of the Fabulous Hubcaps, "They mesmerize audiences with their high energy tributes to amazing artists. We're thrilled to have them with us again this year." The band was inducted into the Southern Legends Entertainment and

See JULY 4TH Page A7

Healthiest Maryland Businesses Honored for Worksite Wellness Achievements

Wellness at Work Awards Presented At the Annual Workplace Health And Wellness Symposium

By PRESS OFFICER
MD Department of Health

BALTIMORE, MD (June 6, 2018)—On Friday, June 1, 58 Maryland employers were recognized as Healthiest Maryland Businesses Wellness at Work Awardees for their exemplary accomplishments in worksite health promotion. Howard Haft, MD, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health, congratulated awards recipients at the 9th Annual Maryland Workplace Health & Wellness Symposium, noting, "In public health, we strive to improve health through community-based efforts. Worksites are one place that many Marylanders spend a majority of their day and are a crucial setting in which to make the healthy choice the easy choice. Con-

gratulations to all of the 2018 Wellness at Work Awards recipients."

The Wellness at Work Awards are sponsored by Healthiest Maryland Businesses, the state's initiative to support healthy workplaces. Any Maryland employer who is a member of Healthiest Maryland Businesses is eligible to apply, and there is no cost to be a member. Recognition criteria are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Workplace Health Model and applicants are asked to describe activities and share examples of policies and tools developed and utilized in the four areas of assessment, planning and management, implementation, and evaluation.

Employers may earn a Gold, Silver, Bronze, or On the Path award based on



PHOTOGRAPH BY PAPERCAMERA

(Left to right): Julia D. Sanders, Benefits Manager, and Aisha Cornett, Human Resources Analyst II, proudly hold the Healthiest Maryland Businesses Wellness at Work Silver Award earned by the Prince George's County Government at the 9th Annual Maryland Workplace Health & Wellness Symposium on June 1, 2018.

their activities to establish leadership support for wellness, create wellness committees, survey the needs and interests of their employees, set health improvement goals, and develop monitoring tools to

See WELLNESS AT WORK Page A3

Free July 4th Lyft Rides Offered In Prince George's County to Prevent Drunk Driving

Over 40% of U.S. Highway Deaths on Independence Day Involve Drunk Drivers

By PRESS OFFICER
Washington Regional Alcohol Program

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), over forty-percent (41%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers,* free Independence Day Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout Prince George's County, Maryland beginning Wednesday, July 4, 2018.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2018 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 4th (Independence Day) and continue until 4:00 am on Thursday, July 5th, 2018 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this nine-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a SoberRide® code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's July 4th SoberRide® promo code will be posted at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 4th on www.SoberRide.com.

Last year, 513 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide® program rather than possibly driving home impaired. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays.

(Last year, WRAP announced a partnership with the ridesharing service Lyft to provide WRAP's SoberRide® service in the Washington-metropolitan area. SoberRide®, the popular free safe ride

See SOBERRIDE® Page A3

INSIDE

Melwood Hosts Community in Action Day For National Safety Month

This annual free event will be an interactive day of fun and learning to highlight the critical importance of improving the health and safety of the community, especially for people of differing abilities.

Community, Page A3

Separated by Borders: Immigration Policy Rips Families Apart

But the last time I checked, our nation was in the business of welcoming those seeking to better their lives, not weaponizing their children as deterrents to economic opportunity (that benefits all) and an escape from violence, chaos or natural disaster.

Commentary, Page A4

Innovation Station Lights Up the World as Two Companies Celebrate Starting Their Businesses In Prince George's County

Both companies show promise to create jobs and increase the economic footprint of the County. EDC's President Jim Coleman was especially happy to bring new business into Innovation Station..

Business and Finance, Page A5

Movie Review: Hereditary

... don't let "slow-burn" make you think *Hereditary* is dull or languid. While the cavernous house (complete with disused attic) and the book on spiritualism give you some indication of where the story is going, what makes the film so alarming is that it's not just one kind of hell that's threatening to break loose.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What can I do to help bees back from massive die-offs in recent years?

—Bill Gorman, Albuquerque, NM

Features, Page A7

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Celebrate the 4th in Morningside With Parade, Family Fun, and Fireworks

Morningside's annual Independence Day Parade kicks off at 11:30 AM from the Fire Department and marches down Suitland Road to the VFW. You'll find me under the big tree at the Suitland Road Baptist Church, waving a flag. Introduce yourself and you'll be in my column next week.

By the way, watch for the Skyline Citizens' "float," which we'll decorate the night before in Kenia Spivey's driveway.

After the parade, Family Fun Day will get underway outside Benjamin D. Foullois Academy beginning about 2:30 PM featuring such fun stuff as a Hula Hoop contest, pie-in-your-face, and other field games. The highlight might be the Whack-a-Wreck, for which you pay \$1.00 to give the wreck three whacks.

The day ends with great fireworks at dusk. Bring the family, a blanket, and maybe some folding chairs. *Morningside knows how to celebrate the 4th!*

Where Can You Buy Local Produce?

- MedStar Southern MD Hospital Center, Farmers Market, Wednesdays, noon to 4 PM, Jan. 6 till Sept. 26, across from the tennis courts on Hospital Drive.

- Oakcrest Farmers Market, Fridays, 3 to 7 PM, July 6 to Sept. 7, 1300 Capitol Heights Blvd.

- Our Local Bounty, St. Thomas Church Farmers Market, Saturdays, 8 AM to noon, June 2 until Sept. 29, 14300 St. Thomas Church Road, Upper Marlboro.

People

Karen Rooker enjoyed her year as President of the Department of Maryland Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. At the annual VFW convention this month, she handed the job over to Joyce Thomas of Baltimore. Karen was formerly Mayor of Morningside and is currently Clerk/Treasurer for the Town.

Deacon Keith Somerville is the new Associate Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, in Forestville.

A motorcyclist was killed in a collision with a car June 17 about noon at Allentown Road and Maxwell Drive. The adult male (whose name has not been released) was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The driver and passengers of the car were taken to a hospital with injuries which were not life-threatening. Allentown Road was closed for several hours.

Changing Landscape

County Executive Baker was busy June 22 celebrating several events including the opening of a bridge between the Riverdale Park Station and the town center, and the University of Maryland's Discovery District. And then he attended the groundbreaking for Topgolf, a golf venue and restaurant off of Oxon Hill Road.

The MD 381 Brandywine Road Bridge was closed to traffic on June 15 and will not reopen until September.

The Civil War Through An Artist's Eyes

While serving with the Army of the Potomac, artist Charles Wellington Reed recorded his observations and experiences of the Civil War through more than 700 illustrations.

On Saturday, July 21, the Surratt House Museum will feature Michelle Krowl, from the Library of Congress, who will discuss Reed and his life through a virtual display of his Civil War art. The program begins at 4 PM and is free. Seating is limited, so arrive early. The historic Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. For information, call 301-868-1121.

Morningside Memories: 1993

Twenty-five years ago, July 4th was a big day at the VFW as members of the Post and Auxiliary paraded down Suitland Road and then gathered for a "Meet Your New Officers" picnic. John Keough was installed as commander. Other officers were Roy Loverin, George Heisey Jr., Norman Lambert, John Hart, Morningside Mayor Gerald Glaubitz, Milo R. Hall, Albert Vidaurre,

Robert C. Martin, Andrew Sawyer, and Dennis Seaman.

Doris Pierson was installed as Auxiliary president. Other officers: Patricia Loverin, Sue Gilmore, Ruth Locke, Catherine Doane, Arlene Rasmussen, Karen Rooker, Glenda Morgan, Mary Lambert, Betty Goodale, Barbara Whitley, Norma Redden, Rose Hoffman, Sallee Bixler, Doris Bowers, Judith McCrone, and Dorothea Kingsbury.

Father DePorter, Pastor of Local Parishes, Dies at 80

Rev. Arnold W. DePorter, former pastor of St. Bernardine of Siena in Suitland, St. Philip the Apostle in Camp Springs, Holy Ghost in Issue and St. Peter in Waldorf, died June 10. A native of Moline, IL, his family moved to Washington where he attended Catholic Schools. He graduated from St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained a priest for the Washington Archdiocese in 1963.

He served in the U.S. Virgin Islands and as chaplain for the Army in Panama, at George Washington University Hospital, Columbia Hospital for Women, Doctor's Hospital, and Bolling AFB. He retired to Leisure World in 2008 and continued to assist at Our Lady of Grace Church.

Survivors include two brothers and two sisters. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Patrick's with burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Faith "Dycki" Brown, Alexis Schuler and my great-grandson Wesley McHale, June 29; Karen (Beardmore) Ellis, June 30; Ruth LaBelle and Jordan Foster, July 1; Sharon Simms, Matthew Clark and Megan Frostbutter, July 2; Gloria Grapevine, Pat Richardson Conlon, Sarah Booth and Jack Hay II, July 3; Grace Carruth, Matthew Ryan White and Nya Nichols, July 4; Jean Ihrig and Timothy Holowsky, July 5; Chrissy Bennett and Marie Golihew, July 6.

Happy anniversary to Carl and Sue (Stine) Mason who'll celebrate their 33rd on June 29.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-888-2153

TRANSITION READINESS TO KINDERGARTEN

The Early Childhood Office will offer a summer program for students who were enrolled in Pre-kindergarten during the 2017-2018 school year and will be transitioning to Kindergarten. The summer program aims to provide high-quality academic learning opportunities to children working to master essential skills in language, literacy, math and social emotional development in order to demonstrate school readiness upon entry to kindergarten.

Students who were enrolled in Pre-kindergarten during the 2017-2018 school year that will be transitioning to Kindergarten and are working to master essential skills should apply. Students will receive invitations from the Early Childhood Office via their classroom teachers. Contact Andrea Searcy at andrea.searcy@pgcps.org for more information.

BE A GUEST ANNOUNCER

Win a chance to be a guest announcer and receive the *Explore the Arts* brochure filled with auditions, exhibitions, and concerts. Send an e-mail to public.afairs@pgparks.com and put "Guest Announcer" in the subject line. Include your mailing address and you will be entered into a contest to be a guest announcer at one of our arts venues. Contest runs through June 2018. Enter today by visiting www.arts.pgparks.com for more information and contest rules.

MR. WILLIAM J. THOMAS

Family, and friends from the community gathered at the American Legion in Accokeek, Maryland on Sunday June 10, 2018 to honor Mr. William J. Thomas "Bud" at a dinner and program. Mr. Thomas is married to Mrs. Mary Thomas and they have been living in the Forest Heights subdivision for over sixty years. He always has a beautifully manicured yard in the spring and summer with beautiful flowers.

"Mr. Thomas had a second home, the Randolph Furey Post #170 of the American Legion. He has

been a member for over fifty years. During his tenure, in addition to serving as commander, he also served as the Legion's Bar Manager. He is an avid Washington Redskins fan who has attended all home games sitting in Row 12, Seat 9, on the far upper section of the stadium with his son, Barry. This all started at Griffith stadium when the tickets were \$19.00 each, moved to RFK stadium, then to FedEx Field in Landover, Maryland." Congratulations Mr. Thomas.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Come and enjoy Mzz B & Company (R&B, Disco, Funk, Neo Soul, Blues, Top 40) on Thursday, July 5, 7-8:30 PM on the Green at Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Rain location is Largo, Kettering, Perrywood Community Center, 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774. Telephone number for more information is 301-218-6700. Food trucks may be available.

KEYS PROGRAM

The KEYS (Knowledge Equals Youth Success) Program is an in-school and out-of-school program for youth ages 14-24. The Keys Program is under Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Workforce Services Division, Youth Services. For more information, call 301-618-8425, email keys.info@co.pg.md.us, or visit www.prince-georgesworkforce.org.

CLUB 300

M-NCPPC's Senior Walking Program is available year-round. Join Club 300, a free senior walking program that will virtually take you from the east to west coast of America. Earn rewards along the way. Prince George's County residents ages 50 and better of all fitness levels are welcome to join Club 300. Call the Club 300 voicemail at 301-446-3444 or visit pgparks.com and search "Club 300" in the search box.

Around the County

City of District Heights Keep 'Men in Mind' At Inaugural Health Fair On June 30

Health Screenings, Healthy Cooking Demonstrations, Children's Activities and Entertainment at the Family Health Fair

By PRESS OFFICER
City of District Heights



DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD—The City of District Heights will host a free community Family Health Fair with "Men in Mind" on Saturday, June 30, 2018, from 9 AM to 3 PM at the District Height Municipal Center, located at 2000 Marbury Drive, District Heights, MD 20747.

The Health Fair, sponsored by the American Red Cross, Doctors Community Hospital, Greater Baden Medical Services and Prince George's County Health Connect, will bring more than 25 health vendors to provide services and educational materials on important health issues that affect the community, with a focus on men. Healthcare providers will also be on-hand to answer questions and encourage men to get regular checkups and wellness exams.

Services include: a blood drive hosted by the American Red Cross; blood pressure and diabetes screenings for the entire family; in-

formation on breast, cervical and prostate cancer; Medicare/Medicaid and health insurance enrollment; healthy cooking demonstrations; medical massages; Zumba, yoga, line dancing; free giveaways and more! In addition, we will be offering job and career wellness checkups with the Career Community Center.

Throughout the day, community members and attendees are invited to watch a live cooking show by Prince George's County Health Department and local celebrity Chef Rom as he demonstrates "How to Prepare Mouth-Watering Healthy Meals in Less Than 15 Minutes." All day long, instructors will provide physical fitness games for youth of all ages and activities for spiritual and mental health.

Local businesses and organizations interested in volunteering, speaking or hosting a vendor table, call Youth Services at 301-336-7600.

Historic Forum Convened Health Industry and Government Leaders To Achieve Health Equity in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, MD—Defining health equity is simple: Everyone has the opportunity to live a healthier life, regardless of who they are or where they live. Achieving health equity is difficult. The Prince George's County Healthcare Action Coalition, chaired by Prince George's County Health Officer Pamela B. Creekmur, is up for the challenge to help create conditions and policies where residents in every county neighborhood have the chance to make healthier life choices and not become marginalized due to a variety of societal obstacles.

On June 7th at the College Park Airport Operations Building, that conversation began with the inaugural health equity forum titled, "Transformative Change—Our Role in Achieving Health Equity in Prince George's County". The forum is the result of months of hard work by the coalition's Health Equity Workgroup. The workgroup is a mix of Health Department employ-

ees, community members, county government officials, and public and private sector public health advocates and experts committed to forming and supporting the infrastructure to achieve health equity in Prince George's County. More than 80 state and local elected officials and agency representatives, leaders in the medical and business communities, as well as the CEO's of each federally qualified health center in the county gathered for this day-long, wide-ranging discussion.

"Getting this group of public and private sector decision-makers and public health experts in one room is meant to encourage the need to look deep within their agency's or organization's goals and objectives, and establish health-in-all policies through an equity lens," said Creekmur. "Trying to improve population health by focusing only on healthcare, is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic while steaming towards the iceberg. While access to medical care is essential, it can't fix health inequities in communities."

The forum featured fasci-

inating and thought-provoking presentations, panel discussions and group activities that explored ways to establish a shared language about health equity and a framework to formulate health equity policies in our communities. Nationally known speaker and public health leader, Natalie S. Burke, President and CEO of CommonHealth Action, challenged participants to take stock of the perceptions and assumptions they may have about populations of people, the neighborhoods they live in and how they ended up there. Burke also examined society's economic and demographic divisions and perceptions to help participants forge a better understanding of health inequities caused by policies impacting people's housing, transportation, education, and employment.

The Health Department was joined by Kaiser Permanente, Greater Washington Community Foundation, Consumer Health Foundation, and the Prince George's County Department of Parks & Recreation as sponsors of the forum. This is the first of several health equity forums the workgroup is organizing. Feedback from the forums and other related events will inform the next set of health equity conversations and actions over the next two or three years.

County Council Highlights

Week of June 18, 2018

Council Congratulates PGCC on the Re-opening of Lanham Hall

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, Council Vice Chair Todd Turner joined the celebration re-opening Lanham Hall on the Largo campus of the Prince George's Community College. Lanham Hall is the among the college's oldest buildings. Vice Chair Turner offered remarks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly-renovated building, which supports the growth of the Community College; houses one-stop student support services; serves as the hub of Workforce Development and Continuing Education offices; and is the new home for Maryland's first middle college, the Academy of Health Sciences.

Council Members Attend Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New Riverdale Park Bridge

On Friday, June 22, 2018, County Executive Baker joined Prince George's County Council Chair Dannielle Glaros (D-District 3), local officials and business leaders at Riverdale Park Station to open a critical bridge between



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE PG COUNTY COUNCIL
Despite the rain Friday, there was a good turn out for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the long-awaited bridge opening at Riverdale Park Station.

the town center and the University of Maryland's Discovery District—Prince George's County's fastest growing job center.

"This is an incredibly exciting time for growth in Riverdale Park," said Council Chair Glaros. "The long-awaited bridge at Riverdale Park Station will serve as a vital link between Riverdale Park and the Discovery District," she continued, citing connections for residents, and visitors to a range of retail and amenities, easier access to the University of Maryland, as well as the planned Purple Line Station.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Let Alcohol Get The Best of You

Yes, you enjoy that glass of wine with dinner, or a cold beer on a hot summer afternoon. Is this a problem? In most cases the answer is no, but for a growing number of people consumption of alcohol doesn't stop with just a couple of beers. And that can be a problem.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, more than 15 million Americans over the age of 18 are affected by alcohol use disorder, meaning they abuse or have a problem with alcohol. It's estimated that more than 88,000 men and women in this country die from alcohol-related issues, including liver disease and drunk-driving related accidents.

It can be difficult for someone to recognize he or she has an alcohol problem. The short term effect of drinking is a positive one, making us feel good. It can be hard to link these good feelings to the negative consequences which tend to occur later, are often subtle and may appear unrelated to our drinking.

Moderate social drinking is certainly a part of our culture, but when you take the time to check, you may find that your alcohol consumption is at the stage where it is causing problems.

- Have people close to you complained about your drinking?
- Have there be problems at work or at school related to your drinking?
- Have you lost friends because of your drinking,?
- Have you had drinking-related arguments with family or other loved ones?

Other warning signs of alcohol abuse can be more obvious. Have you had an auto accident after drinking, or a DUI arrest? Are there mornings when you can't remember the previous evening? Has drinking led to neglect of family, school or other obligations?

If any of the above has happened to you, it doesn't necessarily mean you're an alcoholic or a problem drinker, but does indicate the need for a professional evaluation. Many professional counselors specialize in assessing and treating possible drinking problems.

The most important thing is to take action. Studies report problem drinkers often wait as long as ten years before seeking help, and even then less than a quarter of them actively seek help.

Looking into your drinking behavior doesn't indicate you're weak or sick, but rather that you want to take control of a situation before it gets out of hand. A professional counselor can be a great resource.

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

SoberRide® from A1

service to prevent drunk driving, is now solely available via the Lyft mobile app ride-sharing platform.)

"Over forty-percent (41%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during the Independence Day holiday in 2016 involved drunk drivers according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "Worse, two-thirds of those killed in drunk driving crashes during the 2016 Independence Day period had BACs of .15 or higher."

The 2018 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, July 4th (Independence Day) and continue until 4:00 am on Thursday, July 5th, 2018

SoberRide® is 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.

"Lyft is proud of the role ridesharing has played in reducing impaired driving across the nation. Here in the D.C. area, partnering with the Washington Regional Alcohol Program allows us to take our commitment to providing reliable, convenient, and affordable transportation a step further, particularly during times of the year when people are out

celebrating and in need of a responsible ride home," said Steve Taylor, GM, Lyft Washington, D.C.

Sponsors of this year's July 4th SoberRide® campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, 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 72,377 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

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

* Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, see: <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/4th-july-buzzed-driving>

Melwood Hosts Community in Action Day For National Safety Month

Area's Largest Provider of Job, Development and Recreation Programs for Veterans and People of Differing Abilities Welcomes the Community for Summer Event

By PRESS OFFICER
Melwood

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On June 30, 2018, Melwood will host its inaugural Community in Action Day in support of National Safety Month. This annual free event will be an interactive day of fun and learning to highlight the critical importance of improving the health and safety of the community, especially for people of differing abilities.

Community in Action Day will bring health and safety demonstrations, games, and awareness tips with Melwood's partners, including the Forestville Fire Department, District 5 Police Station (Clinton), Abraham Security and more. Other activities will include food trucks, a live DJ, free ice cream, and raffles with prizes.

Melwood is the largest nonprofit in Prince George's County that provides employment and development programs for people of differing abilities and injured veterans in the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia area. Since 1963, Melwood has enhanced the lives of thousands of people and created a high-performing job market for people of differing abilities in the metropolitan area.

"As a leading employer of people of differing abilities in the metropolitan area, it's important that we provide a platform that aims to improve safety for the people we serve and surrounding communities," said Jermaine Hunter, Vice President of Safety & Risk Management at Melwood. "Our inaugural Community in Action Day will bring together first responders and other safety and security professionals to use hands-on demonstrations and games to improve safety at work and home."

Community in Action Day is free.

WHEN:
Saturday, June 30, 2018, 10 AM–2 PM

WHERE:
Melwood Main Campus, Upper Employee Parking Lot, 5606 Dower House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

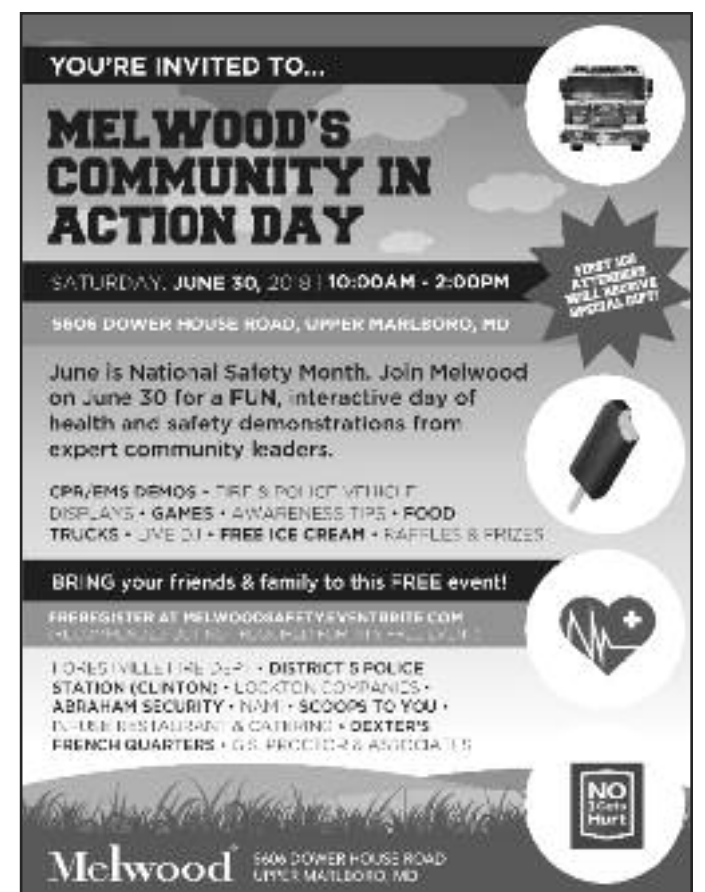


IMAGE COURTESY OF MELWOOD

June is National Safety Month and BGE Provides Tips for Staying Safe Around Electric and Gas Equipment

By PRESS OFFICER
BGE

BALTIMORE, MD—As part of National Safety Month and the company's ongoing efforts to promote safety around electric and natural gas equipment, BGE reminds local contractors and customers to be aware of their surroundings when planning projects near electric or natural gas equipment.

Contacting an overhead or underground electric line or underground natural gas line can cause serious injury, damage and service interruptions. It is essential for anyone who is working near this equipment to take the necessary preparations before beginning their work.

Follow these tips:
• Before digging for any project, call Miss Utility at 811 to arrange for any utility lines to be marked.

• Contact BGE at 1-800-685-0123 if you are planning any work or activity that may bring yourself, your equipment, and anything you carry within 10 feet of a power line. When unsure, call BGE.

• Keep ladders and other tools at least 10 feet from overhead power lines.

• Do not climb or trim trees near power lines.

• Keep electric tools and appliances away from wet surfaces, including pools and patios.

• Never approach a downed power line. Always assume a power line is energized and extremely dangerous.

• If you encounter a downed power line, immediately report it to BGE at 1-877-778-2222.

BGE crews also work year-round to ensure safe and reliable service for customers. Much of this work is completed in area roadways, where lane restrictions provide temporary work zones for employees. To ensure the safety of motorists and BGE employees and contractors, it's important to reduce speeds and keep safety top-of-mind when driving through active work zones.

As part of BGE's safety commitment, the company has a public safety advertising campaign to educate those who work around overhead and underground power lines, hosts numerous safety education events, and provides information to customers and contractors each year in bill inserts and informational mailings. For more safety information, visit bge.com/safety.

BGE, founded in 1816 as the nation's first gas utility and headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest natural gas and electric utility. The company's approximately 3,200 employees are committed to safe and reliable power delivery to more than 1.25 million electric customers and more than 650,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. J.D. Power's 2017 Electric Utility Business Customer Satisfaction StudySM ranked BGE highest in customer satisfaction with business electric service in the east among large utilities. The company also has an estimated annual economic impact of \$5 billion of output in its service area, supporting more than 9,500 local jobs and producing \$923 million in labor income. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.



Wellness At Work from A1

track their outcomes over time. A complete list of recognized businesses can be found at www.healthiestMDbusinesses.org/award-program.

Launched in 2010 and based at the Maryland Department of Health, Healthiest Maryland Businesses helps businesses create customized wellness plans, set wellness goals, and monitor progress. Six regional coordinators around the state provide personalized guidance to businesses of all sizes. To date, more than 270 businesses have signed on to take advantage of this program. To learn more about Healthiest Maryland Businesses services or membership, visit www.healthiestMDbusinesses.org.



The Maryland Department of Health is a State agency protecting Maryland's public health. We work together to promote and improve the health and safety of all Marylanders through disease prevention, access to care, quality management, and community engagement. Stay connected: <http://www.twitter.com/MDHealthDept> and <http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH>.

Marylanders who need help finding substance related disorder treatment resources should visit MdDestination-Recovery.org, BeforeItsTooLateMD.org or call the Maryland Crisis Hotline, which provides 24/7 support, at 1-800-422-0009. If you know of someone who could use treatment for substance related disorders treatment facilities can be located by location and program characteristics on our page at <https://goo.gl/aRREXJ>.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAPERCAMERA

Top left (left to right): Avion Joseph-Sutherland, Benefits Specialist, Pam Nicholson-Flora, Benefits Manager, and Sherry Bumpers, Employee Health Manager, display the Gold award earned by Doctor's Community Hospital (DCH) Wellness Navigators.

Top middle : Teresa Way-Pezzuti, HR Generalist, accepted the Silver Award for the City of College Park.

Top right (left to right): Carole Silberhorn, Manager Benefits, Lee McDonough, Wellbeing Program Manager, and Regina Rodriguez, HR Benefits Specialist proudly accept WSSC's Bronze award.

COMMENTARY

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Evil Personified

(June 22, 2018)—The past week saw a new level of evil and political degradation at the American border with the unbearable images of crying children being taken away from their desperate parents and locked up in “tender age shelters” and warehouses, with some even kept in cages. For many people of faith the suggestion that the God of the Scriptures would somehow endorse the Trump administration’s callous cruelty towards children and immigrant families is literally beyond belief. The Hebrew Scriptures stress over and over the importance of welcoming the stranger since we were once strangers ourselves.

“You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan. If you do abuse them, when they cry out to me, I will surely heed their cry ...” (Exodus 22:21–25)

“You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice ... You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 23:2 and 23:9)

“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The

alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:33)

In the New Testament, when Jesus was asked about the law, he taught that the ultimate guiding principle and commandment is love.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:36–40)

In the book of Romans, the passage that immediately precedes one quoted recently by Attorney General Jeff Sessions describes the marks of a true person of faith—including “extend[ing] hospitality to strangers” (Romans 12:13b). And the following chapter emphasizes that the commandment to love one another supersedes any other:

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet’; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong

to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:8–10)

Every person who knows right from wrong has a responsibility to speak out right now and teach President Trump a lesson about human decency. Never forget the words of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel:

“I remember he asked his father: ‘Can this be true? This is the twentieth century, not the Middle Ages. Who would allow such crimes to be committed? How could the world remain silent?’”

“And now the boy is turning to me. ‘Tell me,’ he asks, ‘what have you done with my future, what have you done with your life?’ And I tell him that I have tried. That I have tried to keep memory alive, that I have tried to fight those who would forget. Because if we forget, we are guilty, we are accomplices.”

“And then I explain to him how naïve we were, that the world did know and remained silent. And that is why I swore never to be silent whenever wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe ...

“What all these victims need above all is to know that they are not alone; that we are not forgetting them, that when their voices are stifled we shall lend them ours, that while their freedom depends on ours, the quality of our freedom depends on theirs.”

Every child’s life is sacred and valuable and as worthy of protection as President Trump’s children and grandchildren. His cold human indifference to the suffering of innocent children shames our nation. No political goal or “war” is worth the life of even one innocent child. Love and human decency trump hate. Love and family trump politics. Love and compassion trump unjust treatment of the smallest and most vulnerable among us. The President of the United States has brought shame on America with his reckless disregard of our most vulnerable young children entrusted to our care.

While the President’s June 20th Executive Order states it is the policy of this Administration “to maintain family unity,” he fails to clarify how they will keep parents and children together in the future and describe actions they will take to reunite the more than 2,500 children who have been cruelly separated from their parents and in many cases sent to distant states. It should cause us all great concern when we hear they will seek permission from the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California to modify the Flores settlement, which defines existing standards for appropriate treatment of unaccompanied minors, to allow them to hold these children without their parents longer term and in unlicensed facilities.

This immoral tragedy must end with children returned to their parents immediately. And all of us must do everything we can to let these children know that they are not alone, that we are not forgetting them, and we will speak up and take whatever action is required to reunite them with their families and reunite our political leaders and nation with their sense of moral decency and caring for these beleaguered children and parents. A nation that does not stand for children does not stand for anything and will not stand guiltless before the God of history and all great faiths.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Separated by Borders: Immigration Policy Rips Families Apart

“The new policy is the latest example of harmful actions by the Department of Homeland Security against immigrant families, hindering their right to seek asylum in our country and denying parents the right to remain with their children. We can and must do better for these families. We can and must remember that immigrant children are still children; they need our protection, not prosecution.”

—American Academy of Pediatrics, Statement Opposing Separation of Children and Parents at the Border, May 8, 2018

(June 13, 2018)—I am the lucky father of three beautiful children. It has been my life’s work and great pleasure to play a part in their development into keen, compassionate and successful individuals. And but for the “right” documents and legal status, Marco Antonio Muñoz and his wife could have experienced that same, singular joy of parenthood. Instead, Mr. Muñoz, a Honduran father who came here seeking asylum as he crossed the Rio Grande with his wife and three-year-old son, was taken into custody and separated from his small family. According to news reports, “they had to use physical force to take the child out of his hands.” After a night in the Starr County Jail, guards found Mr. Muñoz lying on the floor of his jail cell, unresponsive. The deputy’s office reported his death as a “suicide in custody.”

The inhumane separation of

desperate families risking their lives to reach and cross our southwest border is neither arbitrary nor aligned with our nation’s core, espoused values on the sanctity of family. As of May of this year—this is America—and is formal American policy enforced by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security, also known as the Trump administration’s zero-tolerance policy.

Previously, adults apprehended at the border would be charged in civil court, detained in immigration facilities and potentially face deportation back to their country of origin, unless they qualified for asylum. The new policy prosecutes adults caught crossing the border as felons in criminal court, including those who qualify for asylum. Felony criminal charges sends these adults to prison, and for those who crossed with their children, it triggers the tragically common place forced family separations. This new, vicious twist in the Trump administration’s immigration policy is abysmal, ahistorical and abhorrent.

Staying true to his campaign promises, Trump has doubled down on immigration in all of its forms, particularly from origin countries of color. The zero-tolerance strategy follows a litany of actions and policies—such as the decision to end DACA and protect DREAMERS from deportation, reducing the numbers of refugees accepted into the country, and ending temporary protected status for Haitians and Hon-

durans—intended to punish those deemed unfit or undesirable, purge our communities and narrow legitimate avenues of settlement and entry into the United States. But the last time I checked, our nation was in the business of welcoming those seeking to better their lives, not weaponizing their children as deterrents to economic opportunity (that benefits all) and an escape from violence, chaos or natural disaster.

It is no small irony that the party that has traditionally monopolized the “family-values” moniker is the very same one orchestrating this now-daily trauma at our U.S./Mexico border. Heart-breaking stories, like the story of Mr. Muñoz, are not accidental, they are the byproduct of an inhumane, anti-family, value-deficient policy—and there are many more stories in the vein of Mr. Muñoz’s story to tell.

[Recently, many of us celebrated] Father’s Day. We should especially recognize the privilege of being able to do so when our government is engaging in the forced separation of families and the traumatizing of innocent children torn from their loved ones, penned into camps or sent to live with strangers. Children belong in the loving arms of their parents, not locked behind the cold bars of cells.

The National Urban League has joined forces with sister civil rights organizations to call for an end to family separation. If you agree that destroying families should not be a priority of the government that represents you, get angry, get engaged—tracking the votes of your representatives on the issue of family separation and comprehensive immigration reform, and be sure to hug your loved ones a little tighter.

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Finance Democrats Demand Plan to Reunite Children Separated From Their Parents at the Border

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 22, 2018)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) joined Finance Committee Democrats today in demanding to know how the Trump administration is ensuring the safety of children separated from their parents under Trump’s zero-tolerance policy and how the administration plans to reunify children and families.

In a letter to Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex Azar, the senators noted that many of the children separated from their families under Trump’s zero-tolerance policy are being detained in facilities operated through HHS.

“While we are encouraged the President has signed the Executive Order: Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation to stop the

unnecessary and cruel separation of children from their families, by no means is this crisis over,” they wrote. “Given the Finance Committee’s jurisdiction over the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the U.S. foster care system, we demand answers on how ACF will ensure the safety, well-being, and reunification of the reportedly more than 2,300 children who have been separated from their families in recent weeks.”

Earlier this month, Cardin joined 39 of his colleagues in calling for Trump to reverse his inhumane policy of separating children from families who cross the U.S. southern border seeking asylum in the United States. The senators cited the American Academy of Pediatrics in stressing the short- and long-term

damage to these children from being unnecessarily separated from their families and from unnecessary institutionalization.

The Senators asked for answers by June 27, 2018.

In addition to Cardin, the letter was signed by Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore., as well as Sens. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., Robert Menendez, D-N.J., Bill Nelson, D-Fla., Tom Carper, D-Del., Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., Robert P. Casey, Jr., D-Penn., Mark Warner, D-Va., Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

The full text of the letter can be found at https://www.cardin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Letter%20to%20Secretary%20Azar_separation%20children%20families.pdf.

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Collecting Social Security While Working

Dear Rusty:

I'm trying to assist my spouse with her rapidly approaching age 62 when she can get her Social Security benefits. Currently she is working almost a full 40-hour week and her 2017 gross earnings were \$29,000. If she continues to work, she will probably earn approximately \$29,500 in 2018. She is also contemplating beginning to work only part time, which will reduce her earnings to about 40% of what she currently earns. She is concerned that if she continues to work full time, she will have her monthly SS payment reduced significantly and will not recoup that difference. I understand that if you continue to work full time there will be some reduction in the monthly, but when you finally retire you will get the difference back at your full retirement age. Can you enlighten me/her?

Signed: *Helpful Husband*

Dear Helpful:

If your wife starts her Social Security benefits at age 62 and continues to work, she will be subject to Social Security's annual "earnings limit" (\$17,040 for 2018) which, if she exceeds, will result in Social Security withholding benefits of \$1 for every \$2 she earns over the limit. To use your example, if she earns \$29,500 in 2018 she will be \$12,460 over the limit and they will withhold all future benefits until they recover the \$6,230 that is owed from exceeding the limit (see my note below re: the first year of collecting). This will continue each year until the year she attains her full retirement age (her "FRA") when the earnings limit goes way up (about 2 1/2 times the earlier limit) and the withhold-

ing is less (\$1 for every \$3 over the limit); once your wife reaches her full retirement age there is no earnings limit and they will recompute her benefit amount giving her time credit for the number of months they withheld benefits due to exceeding the limit; they'll then raise her benefit amount as though she claimed benefits later than she actually did. So, over time, the higher benefit starting at her FRA should help her recoup some or all of the benefits withheld—but she doesn't get that withheld dollar amount back in a lump sum; they just increase her benefit amount at her full retirement age.

NOTE: There is a special rule which applies during the first year SS is claimed so, in your wife's case, if she claims benefits to start in June, instead of the annual earnings limit she'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit for the remainder of 2018. After her benefits start, her earnings limit will be \$1,420 per month for the rest of the year and if she exceeds that they will withhold benefits for a following month. The regular annual earnings limit will then go into effect the following year. Social Security requires that you inform them when you will exceed the earnings limit, but if you don't they will eventually catch up to you when your income tax return is filed. Also, please note that Social Security recommends that you apply for benefits 3 months before you wish them to begin, so if your wife wishes to start her Social Security earlier than her full retirement age, when she applies for her benefits she should select the option to "Start My Benefits Now" in order to have them start as soon as possible.

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

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The Prince George's Post

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Tips on Giving to Organizations Raising Funds—for Immigration or Other Issues

By PRESS OFFICER
Better Business Bureau

In response to public concerns about immigrant children and adults being detained in compounds near the Mexico/Texas border or transported to other locations, many people are seeking ways to help in any way possible. Sadly, scammers often take advantage of these moments of vulnerability to deceive donors. In addition, there are often campaigns set up by well-meaning individuals who may not be able to carry out their promised activities.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance urges donors to give thoughtfully and avoid those seeking to take advantage of the generosity of others. Here are BBB WGA's tips for trusted giving:

1. Thoughtful giving: Take the time to check out the charity to avoid wasting your generosity by donating to a questionable or poorly managed effort. The first request for a donation may not be the best choice. Be proactive and find trusted charities that are providing as-

sistance. Visit Give.org to verify if a charity meets the BBB Standards for Charitable Accountability.

2. Crowdfunding: While some crowdfunding sites have taken significant measures to help prevent fraudulent postings, other crowdfunding sites do very little vetting of individuals who decide to post for assistance after a tragedy. As a result, it is often difficult for donors to verify the trustworthiness of crowdfunding requests for support.

3. Getting permission to use charity names: Individuals that decide to raise funds on behalf of an organization addressing immigrant issues should get permission from the subject charity before doing so.

4. Be cautious about in-kind fundraising. Some individuals or organizations may raise funds to distribute in-kind assistance (such as clothing, televisions, toys, etc.) to immigrants in detention centers. Unless advance arrangements have been made to provide access for such distributions, so-

licitors may not be able to fulfill such well-intended promises.

5. Government registration: About 40 of the 50 states in the U.S. require charities to register with a state government agency (usually a division of the State Attorney General's office) before they solicit for charitable gifts. If the charity is not registered, that may be a significant red flag. In Canada, all charitable organizations must be registered with the Canada Revenue Agency. If an organization is claiming to be a charity and they aren't registered with the CRA, that's a red flag.

6. How will donations be used? Watch out for vague appeals that don't identify the intended use of funds. For example, how will the donations help immigrant children and their families? Also, unless told otherwise, donors will assume that funds collected quickly in the wake of a tragedy will be spent just as quickly. See if the appeal identifies when the collected funds will be used.

7. Advocacy organizations: The immigration issues can generate requests from a variety of advocacy organizations on both sides of the political aisle. Donors can support these efforts as well, but note that some of these advocacy groups are

not tax exempt as charities. Also, watch out for newly-created advocacy groups that will be difficult to check out.

8. Online caution: Never click on links to charities on unfamiliar websites or in text messages or email. These may take you to a look-alike website where you will be asked to provide personal financial information, or may download harmful malware onto your computer. Don't assume that charity recommendations on social media have already been vetted.

9. Financial transparency: After funds are quickly raised in reaction to public concern, it is even more important for organizations to provide an accounting of how funds were spent. Transparent organizations will post this information on their websites so that anyone can find out without having to wait until the audited financial statements are available sometime in the future.

10. Newly-created v. established organizations: This is a personal giving choice, but an established charity will more likely have the experience to quickly address the circumstances and have a track record that can be evaluated. A newly-formed organization may be well-meaning, but will be difficult to

check out and may not be well managed.

11. Tax deductibility: Not all organizations collecting funds in the U.S. to address immigration issues are tax exempt as charities under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donors can support these other entities, but keep this in mind if they want to take a deduction for federal income tax purposes. You can check a U.S. organization's tax status at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search>. In Canada, only specific types of registered charities are able to provide tax receipts. If you are not sure whether your donation would be eligible for a tax credit, contact the Charities Directorate at 1-800-267-2384.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance is a standards-based charity evaluator that seeks to verify the trustworthiness of nationally-soliciting charities by completing rigorous evaluations based on 20 holistic standards that address charity governance, effectiveness reporting, finances, fund raising, appeal accuracy, and other issues. Learn more about the 20 BBB Charity Standards and about local charity review at local Better Business Bureaus at Give.org.

Innovation Station Lights Up The World as Two Companies Celebrate Starting Their Businesses In Prince George's County

Innovation Station is a 'User-Friendly' Resource for Business Development

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—During the week of June 11, 2018, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) welcomed two new companies into its Innovation Station Accelerator with special ribbon cutting ceremonies. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and his business development team were excited to add National Chromatography, Inc. (NCI) and Pure Solar Systems to the EDC's premier resource that provides a soft-landing for international businesses and a launch-pad for new local businesses. Both companies show promise to create jobs and increase the economic footprint of the County. EDC's President Jim Coleman was especially happy to bring new business into Innovation Station.

"Innovation Station is a family," said Coleman. "We're family because we come together and help each other create jobs for our residents and do business in the county. We know that when we're able to make the businesses in Innovation Station successful, their achievements transfer to thousands of others in the County. [These] ribbon cutting ceremonies also show how diverse our family is. One company is manufacturing tools to light up the world while the other helps keep us safe by creating tools used to test medicines during the final phase of the clinical research process. We're blessed to partner with

these two powerful companies!"

Pure Solar Systems officially registered in the State of Maryland in December 2017. Co-Founders Greg Floyd and Andre Smalley have extensive experience in the solar industry. Their new company and brand were created to be a residential and commercial solar finance provider, designer and installer. Their goal is to bring a solar manufacturing facility to Prince George's County that will create solar installations that are both functional and artistic.

"We have strategic partnerships with two of the largest solar panel providers," said Floyd. "We do the marketing and sales for them. We also take care of the systems and the financing for the homeowners at a low cost. Finally, because we are vertically integrated with our providers, our customers experience a smooth process to power their homes at a low-cost that will save them money on their energy bills. We're excited to kick-start our company in Innovation Station so that we can provide our services to our customer base."

Innovation Station was founded with the mission to be a launch-pad for new local businesses as well as a soft-landing for international businesses to penetrate the County and U.S. marketplace. The accelerator also boasts collaborative work space and a high-tech conference room open to members of the Innovation Station family.

National Chromatography, Inc. was founded in Bengaluru, India and is run by Rajesh Ran-



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF PGCEDC

Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) welcomed new local businesses National Chromatography, Inc. (top) and Pure Solar Systems, Inc. (bottom) into its Innovation Station Accelerator program.

garaju and Dr. Ramireddy VV. The company manufactures machines and tools that are used to test and verify the chemical make-up of various drugs in the final phase of clinical trials before the products are brought to market. Founded in 2010, the company has over forty employees in Bengaluru and boasts high-end clientele such as Thermo USA. Dr. Ramireddy expressed his happiness with the process of coming to the United States.

"Innovation Station is user-friendly," said Dr. Ramireddy. "When we learned about Prince George's County, we knew that this was the place that we would launch our U.S. operations. Because of our connection with Innovation Station, we were registered and set to op-

erate in just one day after arriving. Today is an auspicious occasion because of what it means for our company and we are very grateful for the help that we have gotten from Raj Pant of Allied Deccan and Dr. Pradeep Ganguly of the EDC."

The arrival of both companies means that more jobs are coming to Prince George's County and its residents. The EDC is committed to helping each company locate and build facilities that will not only help their businesses grow but also impact the economic footprint of the County.

To learn more about how to be a part of Innovation Station, please contact Alicia Moran at 301-583-4650 or amoran@co.pg.md.us.

Maryland Board of Public Works Approves New Funding for Seafood Marketing Program

\$375,000 Allocated by Hogan Administration Will Help Offset Losses Caused by Labor Shortage

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD (June 20, 2018)—The Board of Public Works today unanimously approved a Hogan administration initiative to provide \$375,000 from the state's contingent fund to the Maryland Department of Agriculture's seafood marketing program. This funding will assist with marketing Maryland blue crabs to help businesses recover lost income caused by federal cuts to the H-2B visa program, which has historically provided temporary

workers for the industry.

"Our seafood industry is an integral part of the fabric of our great state. Many of the crab houses on the Eastern Shore rely on seasonal workers and have been forced to close their doors without them," said Governor Larry Hogan. "We remain hopeful that this issue will be resolved at the federal level, but in the meantime, we are doing all we can at the state level to support this iconic industry and the men and women who depend on it for their livelihood."

The Hogan administration, along with

Congressman Andy Harris, has been urging the federal government to restore the availability of H-2B visas for Maryland's seafood processors. On April 23, 2018, Governor Hogan sent a letter to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Department of Labor Secretary Alex Acosta urging this action, and the governor has continued to push for federal labor policies that support Maryland's signature seafood industry.

The Department of Agriculture will develop this marketing campaign, which will aim to encourage more sales and enhance market opportunities, in consultation with the Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Seafood Industry Association, and other stakeholders. The campaign will supplement the already well-established Maryland True Blue and Maryland's Best Seafood campaigns.

OUT on the TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

..... *Movie Review*

Hereditary

Hereditary
Grade: A

Rated R, grisly images, intense horror sequences, nonsexual nudity, and some very justified profanity
2 hrs., 17 min

Would you like to watch Toni Collette have a nervous breakdown for two hours? *Hereditary* is many things—a haunting story about a disintegrating family, a masterfully directed nightmare by first-timer Ari Aster, a pants-besoiling horror film—but it's also Collette's highlight reel, full of intense emotions and monologues that she performs with devastating perfection. This would be a very good movie with only a so-so actress in the lead, but Collette tips it into masterpiece territory. OK, Collette and whatever hell spawned Ari Aster's imagination.

She plays Annie Graham, an artist who lives in a sprawling, modern-rustic house with her husband, Steve (Gabriel Byrne), high-school son Peter (Alex Wolff), and 13-year-old daughter Charlie (Milly Shapiro). At the outset, Annie's secretive, controlling mother has just died, leaving behind no mourners ("Should I be sadder?" Annie wonders), except maybe for Charlie, who was Grandma's favorite. Charlie's an odd little girl, though whether this is the effect of her grandmother's doting or the cause of it is not immediately clear.

Annie finds a book on spiritualism among her mother's possessions, with a personal note (signed "Mommy") assuring her that "our sacrifice will pale next to the rewards," whatever that means. We are thus prepared for the story to take a supernatural turn, but on its way there, it takes a profoundly disturbing side trip through a more mundane kind of misery. A horrific event shatters the family (AND YOUR SOUL), and it's a breathless, gripping 25 minutes before the aftermath is resolved and the story can continue. (This, by the way, is why the movie is longer than the usual horror flick. The Horrific Event must be properly addressed.)

Anything can happen after that. Many things do. True, it's a slow-burn kind of film, with no jerky camera movements or unwarranted jump-scares. Aster often frames the rooms of the house so they look like Annie's dioramas—which, by the way, are miniature depictions of scenes from her life, including ones you'd think she wouldn't be eager to recreate, so there's a whole other layer of creepiness—subtly suggesting that the Grahams are playthings in a dollhouse being controlled by outside forces. (Which, as fictional characters in a movie, they are.)



ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

When Ellen, the matriarch of the Graham family, passes away, her daughter's family begins to unravel cryptic and increasingly terrifying secrets about their ancestry. The more they discover, the more they find themselves trying to outrun the sinister fate they seem to have inherited. Making his feature debut, writer-director Ari Aster unleashes a nightmare vision of a domestic breakdown that exhibits the craft and precision of a nascent auteur, transforming a familial tragedy into something ominous and deeply disquieting, and pushing the horror movie into chilling new terrain with its shattering portrait of heritage gone to hell.

But don't let "slow-burn" make you think *Hereditary* is dull or languid. While the cavernous house (complete with disused attic) and the book on spiritualism give you some indication of where the story is going, what makes the film so alarming is that it's not just one kind of hell that's threatening to break loose. As we learn more about Annie's family history, and as the consequences of the Horrific Event unfold, we're bombarded with numerous eerie possibilities. Sleepwalking! Parental regret! Seances! Family secrets! The emotional tension between certain characters is sometimes as nerve-racking as the more traditional scary-movie elements.

It's not one specific thing we're afraid of, either, nor does the film limit itself to one sense of the word "horror." It has many good old-fashioned scares, sure (assisted by a crisp sound design and Colin Stetson's disorienting score), but it also has events, images, and ideas that are horrifying without being meant to cause "fright," per se. One kind of horror rattles your nerves for two hours, the other kind rattles them for days afterward.

Collette's intensely committed performance is the anchor, but the others shine as well. Alex Wolff (*Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*), who's great at looking stricken, conveys complicated emotions wordlessly in several key moments. Milly Shapiro, a girl

with a distinct look who got her start playing Roald Dahl's *Matilda* on Broadway, is perfectly cast as a misfit with sinister potential. Gabriel Byrne isn't given as much to do—he only married into this family, after all—but he quietly provides stability. There's also a noteworthy turn from Ann Dowd as a member of a grief support group who provides Annie with some solace.

With just a few short films under his belt (some of them also highly alarming), 31-year-old writer-director Ari Aster delivers his first feature with astonishing confidence, as if he'd been making stylishly effective heart-pounders for decades. At Sundance, he introduced a screening of *Hereditary* by saying he'd had "a rough few years" with his family. Whatever has happened in this guy's life, he's working through it by traumatizing audiences. One moment elicited an audience-wide "Gahh!" that was followed by stunned, disbelieving silence. I wish there'd been a camera to capture us all with our eyes wide, our mouths agape, our arm-rests broken. (It wasn't just a shock-value moment, either, but a legitimate turn in the story.) There's another image later that makes me shudder—an involuntary physical reaction—every time I think of it. If there's a better horror movie this year, I'm going to need new pants.

UNPLUG ... with an Outdoor-Oriented Vacation

(Family Features)—A family vacation is the perfect time to unwind, but it can be even more relaxing with time spent outdoors enjoying nature in all its beauty. Whether you plan your entire trip around a specific activity or just build in a day or two along the way, you can create some unforgettable memories.

Choosing your destination is the first big decision in planning a vacation, and selecting a location that offers plenty of attractions for the whole family is a smart bet. A great place to start is by checking out state tourism websites to see what opportunities might interest your family as a whole.

Once you have your general destination

selected, it's time to consider exactly how you'll fill your days.

Outdoor sporting. Fishing is a fun and affordable activity the whole family can enjoy. After all, there's no age limit on the thrill of a catch. Lakes, streams, rivers and creeks are all potential fishing sites and each offers a unique experience, from the scenery to the types of fish you're likely to catch. Before you head out, be sure to research what permits and gear you'll need. Some destinations even allow you to rent necessities, so you may be able to save the hassle and expense of buying new.

Wildlife watching. You can see hundreds of species of animals in their natural habitats by visiting a state park or natural area, and bird-watching is chief among those activities for many visitors. State natural areas, prairies and lakes are all good places to catch sights of different bird species, and many of these locations offer hiking paths and trails that make it easy to enjoy some fresh air and exercise along with the scenery.

Search the skies. Get away from the city lights and take in some night sky

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEN SHECKELS

National Parks provide great opportunities to explore as a family.



views at a dark sky park like Staunton River State Park in Virginia. Some parks offer special stargazing programs, events and observatories. Or simply bring a blanket or a tent, some binoculars and your camera to discover the new world that awaits above. Find a dark sky park near your intended destination by using the International Dark-Sky Association's location search feature at <http://darksky.org/idsp/finder>.

Honor history. There are glimpses into the past virtually anywhere you go, that appeal to practically any interest. Compare foot sizes with a dinosaur. Wonder at rock formations that are thousands of years old. Trace the steps of Native Americans and early settlers. Churn butter on a farm. Participate in festivals and battle reenactments that pay homage to momentous events of yesteryear.

Digital discovery. If you're skeptical of getting the kids to put down their devices long enough to enjoy some outdoor exploration, geocaching may be just the answer. Geocaching is essentially a modern-day treasure hunt, and there are geocaches to be found in every state. Use a GPS unit or smartphone app to find the exact location of a geocache nearby. Be sure to make note of the terrain and difficulty levels to ensure the site is appropriate for your group then set out on your adventure, enjoying the sights along the way. You can learn more about geocaching at <https://www.geocaching.com>.

No matter what your intended destination, there's sure to be a wealth of outdoor- and nature-inspired activities the whole family can share. So get out there and enjoy them!

Local Events and Festivals

2018 Marks the "Year of Frederick Douglass!"

In honor of the 200th anniversary of his birth, 2018 has been designated as the "Year of Frederick Douglass." Famed abolitionist, orator and writer Frederick Douglass has deep roots throughout the state of Maryland and there is a wealth of historical sites, museums and special events to explore.

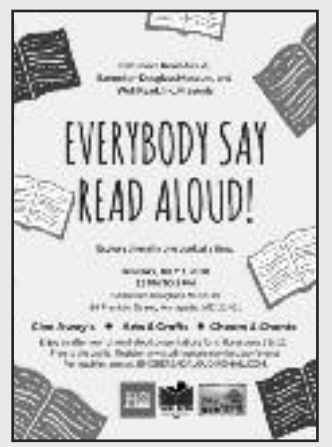
Following in His Footsteps—Maryland's Frederick Douglass Driving Tour: From his birthplace on the Eastern shore to the historic streets of Fells Point where he eventually escaped to freedom, follow Douglass' journey while making your own discoveries along the way. Visit <https://www.visitmaryland.org/driving-tours/following-his-footsteps-marylands-frederick-douglass-driving-tour> for a tour map and suggested itinerary.

Celebrate the Year of Douglass at the Banneker-Douglass Museum With Special Programming Throughout the Year

• **June 5, 2018—February 29, 2019:** "The Douglass Reading Room"—*Inspiring Community Through Art + History + Books:* This interactive exhibit brings to life the writings and living quarters of Frederick Douglass connecting historical themes with modern day discussions. The Douglass Reading Room will present a new exhibit featuring art works by noted and emerging Maryland and regional artists as well as host public programs throughout the year. Featured artists June 5th–August 11, 2018 include John T. Biggers, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Jamea Richmond Edwards, Joan Gaither, Ph.D, Jacob Lawrence, Amy Sherald, Derrick Adams, Emory Douglas, Arway Adams, and Makeba Raimey.

• **July 1, 2018 11 AM–5 PM:**

Banneker-Douglass Museum Celebrates Frederick Douglass Community Day: Bringing Literacy to Life! Join the museum on July 1st for a fun-filled day, from 11am–5pm, for Frederick Douglass Community Day as they come together (harambee!) in storytelling, reenactments, youth performances, quilt making, read alouds, motivational cheers and chants! For more information or to register for the event, visit <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/events/>.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



PHOTOGRAPH BY ORDERSONLINE, TRIPADVISOR.COM

Located in Annapolis, the **Banneker-Douglass Museum** is the state's official museum of African American heritage. The facility works to promote African American history and culture, with a particular look at Maryland connections, through lectures, workshops, performances, and various exhibits to engage the community at large. The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10am–4pm. Admission is free, with scheduled guided tours and site rentals available for a fee.

The Banneker-Douglass Museum:
84 Franklin St., Annapolis, MD 21401
410-216-6180 • <http://bdmuseum.maryland.gov/>

Red, White and Blue Celebration at Fort Meade

June 29, 2018 from 4–10 PM
McGlachlin Field, Fort Meade, MD

Join the service men and women of Fort George G. Meade for their annual Red, White and Blue Independence Day Celebration on Friday, June 29 from 4–10 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

Musical guests Jean Therapy and the local rock band Til September will provide entertainment. The opening act is School of Rock, which is made up of local teen bands. Enjoy many of our great attractions including more than 15 food trucks, beverage and novelty vendors. Attendees are encouraged to picnic on the parade field. There will also be FREE inflatable and small mechanical rides from 4 to 8 PM. **Don't miss the spectacular fireworks display at 9:30 PM!**

For more information, call 301-252-8688.

Anyone 16 years of age and old must have valid ID to enter the installation. Non-DoD cardholders must use the Reece Road Gate. No pets, personal fireworks, sparklers or glass containers are permitted.

Calendar of Events

June 28–July 4, 2018

Junior Ranger's Beginner's Tree Walk

Date and Time: June 30, 2018, 9:00 AM–9:45 AM
 Description: How can you tell the difference between all the trees in the forest? Come join us for a Junior Ranger's tree walk. Meet at the Ranger Station near the campground.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Greenbelt Park
 6565 Greenbelt Road
 Greenbelt, MD 20770
 Contact: 301-344-3944;

Creature Feature:

Your Backyard Neighbors—MD's Native Animals

Date and Time: June 30, 2018, 10:00 AM–11:00 AM
 Description: Come with us and grow your knowledge of animals! Participants will learn about various types of animals, their habits and maybe see them up close. Please contact the offering facility for more details.
 Learn all about the animals you may see in your backyard. All about Maryland's native animal populations—where they live, what they eat, and how they survive! Meet a few native animals up close and personal.
 Cost: Resident: \$3.00; Non-Resident \$4.00
 Ages: 3 and up
 Location: Watkins Nature Center
 301 Watkins Park Dr.
 Upper Marlboro, MD, 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6702

Happy 235th Birthday Party for Montpelier

Date and Time: June 30, 2018, 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
 Description: We're partying like it's 1783! Enjoy fun activities for all ages. Donations are welcome and will go toward slating Montpelier's roof.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Montpelier Mansion
 9650 Muirkirk Road
 Laurel, MD 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7817

Xtreme Teens: End of the Year Cook-Out

Date and Time: June 30, 2018, 3:00 PM–7:00 PM
 Description: Come one, come all to the end of the year cookout where there will be food, fun, and games for the whole family. We're celebrating a safe summer and the start of a new school year! Friends, family, and fun ... there's no better reason to get together!
 Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC ID
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Seat Pleasant Activity Center
 5720 Addison Road
 Capitol Heights, MD 20743
 Contact: 301-773-6685; TTY 301-699-2544

Yoga in the Parks at Watkins Regional Park

Date and Time: June 28, 2018, 8:30 AM–9:30 AM
 Description: Yoga combines body movements, breathing, and mental relaxation to build strength, relieve stress, and to maintain health and well-being. Learn basic moves to strengthen your body, increase flexibility, and free your mind. Classes are scheduled for one hour and are designed for all levels. Certified Yoga instructors teach our Yoga classes. Come and see what the calm is all about!
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: 13 and older
 Location: Watkins Regional Park
 301 Watkins Park Drive
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

Fitness in the Park: Urban Line Dancing

Date and Time: July 2, 2018, 8:30 AM–9:15 AM
 Description: Increase your heart rate and learn the latest line dances! Fitness in the Parks is a FREE! exercise program that brings a variety of fitness opportunities to parks and natural areas across Prince George's County! We invite you to find the class that best suits your fitness goals and come to discover the benefits of exercising in nature. No registration required.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages are welcome
 Location: Walker Mill Regional Park (Located near the pavilion)
 8840 Walker Mill Drive
 District Heights, MD 20747
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

PGCMLS: Sing-along Movie Afternoon: The Lion King

Date and Time: July 2, 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
 Description: Join us at the library as we sing along to favorite flicks!
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: Elementary (5–12 years old)
 Location: Largo-Kettering Branch Library
 9601 Capital Lane
 Largo, MD 20774
 Contact: 301-336-4044, TTY 301-808-2061

"Celebrating the Glorious Fourth"

Date and Time: July 4, 2018, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
 Description: Come out and experience a fun, old-fashioned fourth of July featuring the hoisting the Star-Spangled Banner flag o'er the ramparts, fife and drum music, musket and cannon demonstrations, and a public reading of the Declaration of Independence! Special activities throughout the day include ranger talks, toasts (with water) using original toasts from 1814, and historic games and other activities for young people.
 Cost: Ages 16 and up: \$15; Ages 15 and under: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Star Fort
 2400 East Fort Avenue
 Baltimore, MD 21230
 Contact: 410-962-4290 ext. 211; https://www.nps.gov/fomc/

Earth TALK™

Help Our Honeybees, Help Ourselves

Dear EarthTalk:

What can I do to help bees back from massive die-offs in recent years?

—Bill Gorman,
Albuquerque, NM

Major declines in populations of bees in North America and beyond is a big problem for farmers who depend on this free natural pollinator to help fertilize their crops that end up as food on our tables. According to the non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), \$15 billion a year in U.S. crops—including apples, berries, cantaloupes, cucumbers, alfalfa, and almonds among others—are pollinated by bees. Meanwhile, U.S. honey bees produce some \$150 million in honey annually.

Simply put, fewer bees means less food on our shelves and a major economic hit to the agricultural sector. "The global economic cost of bee decline, including lower crop yields and increased production costs, has been estimated at as high as \$5.7 billion per year," reports NRDC.

While we still aren't 100 percent certain what is causing the decline across the board for bees, most researchers believe a class of pesticides called neonics (short for neonicotinoids) are at least partially to blame. Designed to eliminate insect pests that most commonly afflict agricultural crops, neonics—which are now genetically engineered right into the crop seeds themselves—are wreaking havoc on so-called "non-target insects" like bees as well. And the shifting

habitat zones and crazy weather that has accompanied global warming is only exacerbating the bees' survival issues.

But NRDC remains optimistic that we can bring back bee populations if we each do our part to create pollinator-friendly habitat. For starters, you can welcome bees to your backyard by laying off the intense landscaping and letting things go a little wild. A greater variety of plants—especially native ones—will encourage bees to set up shop nearby.

Researchers at Michigan State University (MSU) Extension report that bees especially love to forage on purple, blue, white, yellow, mauve or violet flowers that direct them via markings and patterns unseen by the human eye to a "landing pad" where they can get pollinating. Find more regionally appropriate plants that will work to attract bees and other pollinators by downloading the free Bee Smart Pollinator Gardener app, which helps users select pollinator-friendly native plants to use in landscaping projects large and small based on location, project scope, flower color and other options.

You can also encourage bees to move right in by creating habitats tailor-made for them. "Revisit how you approach a fallen tree or a dead limb: it's not an eyesore; it's a potential bee nest!" counsels NRDC. "Drill bee-inviting holes in that dead wood, build nest blocks, or simply buy a premade bee box."

And be careful about the plants you bring home from the garden store. A 2014 report



PHOTOGRAPH BY NEIL DALPHIN, FLICKRCC

Doing your part to help bees come back will help guarantee that we can continue to enjoy the diversity of agricultural products we have come to expect on grocery store shelves.

by the non-profit Friends of the Earth (FOE) found that more than half of plant samples purchased at top garden stores across North America contained neonics. NRDC advises to only buy plants or seeds that aren't pre-treated with pesticides, and to read the fine print on the label: "If a plant is marked 'protected,' that may mean it's chemically treated." Patronizing smaller, organic plant nurseries is the best way to avoid neonics.

CONTACTS: NRDC, www.nrdc.org; FOE, www.foe.org; MSU's "Gardening for Pollinators," http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/gardening_for_pollinators_choosing_smart_plants_to_support_pollinators; Bee Smart Pollinator Gardener App, pollinator.org/bee-smart-app.

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Governor Hogan Proclaims 2018 the Year of the Bird

Celebrating Native and Migratory Birds and the Places They Need in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
National Audubon Society

BALTIMORE, MD (June 19, 2018)—Governor Larry Hogan proclaimed 2018 as the Year of the Bird in Maryland. The declaration celebrates native and migratory birds making their way through Maryland, as well as the Free State's remarkable landscapes and water resources that support them.

"Maryland is home to some of the most beautiful and iconic birds in the world—from the majestic Great Blue Heron on the Chesapeake Bay to our state bird, the Baltimore Oriole," said Governor Larry Hogan. "The Year of the Bird is an opportunity for Maryland citizens and tourists alike to celebrate the educational and recreational role of birds that live and migrate through our state, as well as a great reminder of the importance of conserving our natural resources. I want to thank the National Audubon Society for their efforts to protect

birds and their habitats in Maryland and beyond."

Governor Hogan's Deputy Chief of Staff Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio delivered the proclamation to more than 200 guests at Pickering Creek Audubon Center's "Annual Tour, Toast and Taste" fundraiser. Held at Lombardy Estate in Easton, MD, this event helps raise funds for Audubon's efforts to further environmental education for school-aged students.

Audubon is proud to work with a host of state and federal agencies on important bird area protection, environmental literacy and sea level rise adaptation, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland State Department of Education on Governor Hogan's Project Green Classrooms.

Maryland is home to 42 Important Bird Areas, more than 400 observed species and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which serves as an important breeding and stopover area for millions of

migratory birds each year. The Governor's declaration recognizes that Maryland's natural resources provide important habitat for birds.

People around the world are celebrating 2018 as Year of the Bird to mark the centennial of the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* (MBTA), one of the oldest wildlife protection laws in the United States. In honor of this milestone, National Geographic, Audubon, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, BirdLife International, and dozens of other partners around the world joined forces to celebrate 2018 as the Year of the Bird.

"Year of the Bird is an easy way people can take small everyday actions to help birds along their journeys," said David Yarnold, president and CEO for National Audubon Society. "Maryland's Chesapeake Bay provides wintering grounds for approximately one-third of the Atlantic coast's migratory population, including iconic waterfowl species like the Tundra Swan, Canada Goose, Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal for centuries. We'd like to thank Governor Hogan for declaring 2018 as Year of the Bird and recognizing the importance of birds and the places we share."

Many conservation organizations, agencies, businesses and ac-

ademics have been instrumental in protecting birds and the places they need in Maryland. In celebrating 2018 as the Year of the Bird, there is great appreciation for the efforts of many organizations, including local Audubon chapters and centers, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Department of Natural Resources, waterfowl associations and duck clubs, and many others.

To learn more about Year of the Bird, visit: <https://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird>.

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The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Learn more and how to help at www.audubon.org and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @audubonsociety.

July 4th from A1

Performing Arts Hall of Fame in 2005 and in 2013 the group was inducted into the Maryland Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Prince George's Stadium is located at 4101 Crain Highway in Bowie. The parking lot opens at 5 p.m. and doors open at 6 p.m. for those who wish to get a prime seat for the concert. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the stadium. Admission to Bowie's Independence Day celebration and parking are both free. For more information, call the City's Special Events Division at 301-809-3078.

The Bowie Police Department is working on a traffic control plan for the roads near the stadium to keep traffic moving safely after the event. Details will be shared on social media and on the City website at www.cityofbowie.org/fireworks in advance of the event.

The City wishes to extend its thanks to stadium owner Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for working closely with the City of Bowie to make this event possible.

Looking For More Fourth of July Events in the Area?

Here are a few more options we found nearby. A complete list of approved fireworks celebrations will be available from the PGFD around July 1st.

• **Fort Washington Park: A Fort Washington Fourth!** July 4th, 7:00 AM–9:45 PM
 13551 Fort Washington Road,
 Fort Washington, MD 20744

Fort Washington Park stays open late for viewing of fireworks from Washington and the Virginia shore. The fort remains open until 9:45 PM after the fireworks are over. Park entrance fees are waived after 7 PM (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalmall4th/things-to-do.htm>)

• **Six Flags America:**
 June 30–July 4 daily (with paid admission)
 3710 Central Ave, Bowie, MD 20721

The park will celebrate the country's independence all week long, with FIVE jam packed days of thrills, water park fun, exclusive ride times and fireworks" from June 30 through July 4.

• **The University of Maryland:**
 July 4, 5:00 PM–9:30 PM (Rain date: July 5)
 Lot 1 adjacent to Campus Drive off Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20742

The University of Maryland and the City of College Park will host a Fourth of July Cele-

bration Concert and Fireworks event. Concessions open at 5 PM, entertainment begins at 7 PM, and fireworks start a little after 9 PM.

• **Washington D.C.:**
National Independence Day Parade:
 11:45 AM–2 PM, Constitution Avenue NW from 7th Street NW to 17th Street NW

A Capitol Fourth:
 8:00 PM–9:30 PM, West Lawn, U.S. Capitol

Co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the National Symphony Orchestra, join Jimmy Buffett and the Broadway cast of *Escape to Margaritaville*, pop superstars the Temptations and the Beach Boys, country music star Luke Combs, host John Stamos, and many more as they honor our country's 242nd birthday. Gates open at 3:00 PM. Independence Day culminates with a spectacular fireworks display over the National Mall, 9:09 PM–9:27 PM. The fireworks will be launched from the area of the Reflecting Pool, and will be visible from many locations throughout D.C. and Northern Virginia. The 2018 *A Capitol Fourth* will be live-streamed on PBS.org, YouTube and Facebook.

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Wednesday Prayer Service 8p.m.

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Christmas in April ★ Prince George's County

ATTENTION GOLFERS!
Christmas in April needs you!!

Help us Celebrate 30 years in the County!
Andrews Air Force Base, September 24, 2018
All Day at The Courses at AAFB

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

Please call soon as space is limited.

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Alan Amrhine, Communications Director
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