

# The Prince George's Post



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## Bill Allows Motorists To Keep Driving Past Real ID Deadline

By JEFF BARNES  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 29, 2020)—Maryland drivers who have their licenses confiscated due to Real ID non-compliance would be protected under legislation being heard this week in the General Assembly.

In 2005, the federal Real ID Act mandated that all U.S. residents obtain an updated identification card in order to travel on commercial aircraft and access federal facilities. The rule, which goes into full effect on Oct. 1, requires states to verify documentation that proves name, birth date and residence.

Those found driving with a license that expired for failure to comply with Real ID rules can have that license confiscated by police and may not

continue to drive, as Maryland law requires drivers to be in possession of a valid license while driving.

But under this bill, drivers who have their license confiscated by police for Real ID non-

compliance would have 90 days to submit necessary documents to the Motor Vehicle Administration.

The bills would exempt drivers during this 90-day period from being charged with failing

to possess or display a driver's license if pulled over for another infraction.

The MVA began issuing the more secure Real ID cards—those with the star in the upper-right corner—in 2016, but did not require the submission of the Department of Homeland Security's required identification documentation until the beginning of 2018.

About 1.8 million Marylanders—including those who have a license marked with a star but have not yet submitted paperwork—are not yet Real ID compliant, according to data provided to Capital News Service last week by MVA spokesperson Whitney Nichols. Overall, about 61% of Marylanders are compliant, well above the 27% national average, Nichols wrote in an e-mail.

In December 2018, the MVA began notifying drivers in phases that additional documentation was needed to bring their licenses into compliance, issuing recall notices in advance of the Oct. 1 deadline, when a

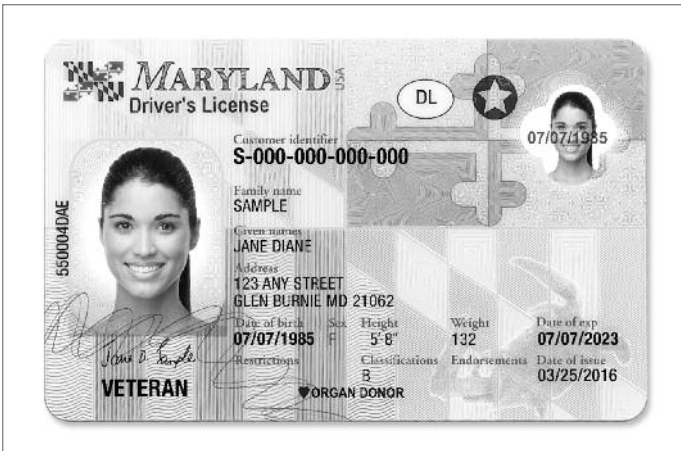


PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

The federal deadline for Real ID compliance is Oct. 1, 2020.

See REAL ID Page A7

## PGCPS and University of Maryland Announce Broad Partnership Focused on School Improvement

By OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
Prince George's County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Jan. 28, 2020)—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and The University of Maryland (UMD) College of Education announced a new institutional partnership that focuses on K-12 school improvement issues through a range of initiatives. The PGCPS/UMD Improvement Science Collaborative will work to prepare excellent school teachers and leaders, support efforts for school improvement, advance teacher preparation programs and take a new approach to connecting research to practice.

While UMD and PGCPS have a longstanding relationship of collaborating on individual projects, this new three-year agreement represents a shared long-term

institutional commitment to working together on school improvement.

Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Monica E. Goldson and UMD College of Education Dean Jennifer King Rice signed the agreement. UMD President Wallace Loh and Dr. Segun Eubanks, director of the College's Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement (CEii), and other distinguished guests gathered today at the PGCPS Sasser Administration Building to support and celebrate the signing of this significant partnership.

"We are committed to the success of Prince George's public school students and teachers, and this new partnership will extend our relationship and help achieve these goals," said University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh. "We will become partners in classroom innovation and profes-

sional leadership training. It will also help increase the pipeline of Prince George's students to the university."

"As the state's flagship public university, the University of Maryland is uniquely positioned to support Prince George's County Public Schools in our efforts to improve teaching and learning," said Dr. Monica E. Goldson, CEO, Prince George's County Public Schools. "We are grateful for the university's continued partnership as we work to enhance academic excellence and opportunities for higher learning across the school system."

CEii will serve as the planning hub for the PGCPS/UMD Improvement Science Collaborative, which is based on improve-

See PARTNERSHIP Page A4



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(L to R) Gary Michael, University of Maryland College of Education Advisory Board Chair; Dr. Segun Eubanks, Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement Director; Dr. Wallace Loh, University of Maryland President; Dr. Jennifer King Rice, University of Maryland College of Education Dean; Dr. Monica Goldson, Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer; Dr. Alvin Thornton, Prince George's County Board of Education, Chair; Dr. Kara Libby, Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Charoscar Coleman, Prince George's County Public Schools Instructional Director



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Photo of entrance sign at Rosaryville State Park

## Board of Public Works Approves 200-Acre Land Acquisition in Central Maryland

Property adjacent to Rosaryville State Park will expand recreation

By PRESS OFFICER  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 29, 2020)—The Board of Public Works last week approved the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' acquisition of nearly 200 acres in Prince George's County. The property is adjacent to Rosaryville State Park and its acquisition will expand the park's offerings including equestrian opportunities and an expanded trail network.

Without the department's acquisition, the property might

otherwise have been slated for extensive development.

"This is a special opportunity to obtain a relatively large piece of property in an urban area and provide important water quality protection to the Western Branch watershed," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said. "It will also be a great addition to the region's outdoor recreation opportunities."

Rosaryville is a 982 acre day-use park with miles of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrians and is well known for hosting trail rides, fox chasing, and horse trials.

## Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation Statement On Safeway Distribution Closure Announcement

By LORI VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, Md. (Jan. 30, 2020)—Following the Albertsons Companies announcement that its Safeway Distribution Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland will be closing and relocating to Pennsylvania, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGCEDC) President and CEO David Iannucci issued the following statement: We are deeply disturbed to have learned of the Albertsons Companies announced intention to close its Leeland Road facility and move jobs to Pennsylvania. For the men and women who have worked there, we know that this news is heartbreaking. We urge Albertsons to reconsider this decision, just as their predecessor reconsidered a similar decision in 2016.

Four years ago, the Teamsters made significant and meaningful financial concessions in order to keep the facility open, and Albertsons has had the benefit of those cost savings these past years. The company owes it to its workforce to explore every possible way to keep these jobs here in Maryland.

The Economic Development Corporation initiated contact

with union representatives shortly after learning of Albertsons' decision, and will be engaged in discussions to do all we can to ensure job and financial security for the workers. In addition, Employ Prince George's, our workforce support service, will immediately reach out to the Teamsters to provide support should the outcome of discussions not be successful.

While it is premature to talk about the real estate aspects of this news, the Leeland Road facility is an outstanding location, and we anticipate no shortage of immediate interest in that property should Albertsons decision be maintained.

For more information, contact the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation at 301-583-4650.

The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, a 501c3 nonprofit, provides business services that help attract, retain, and expand businesses and create high-quality jobs. PGCEDC's mission is to cultivate an environment where entrepreneurs and businesses thrive. Our vision is a strong economy that retains its current businesses and attracts new ones which leads to more high-wage jobs—all which transforms lives.

### INSIDE

#### Fresenius Kidney Care Hosts Open House at New Capitol Heights Dialysis Facility

About 1 in 7 adults in the U.S. have chronic kidney disease, with many not detecting the condition until they have lost more than 96 percent of their kidney function.

Community, Page A3

#### To Be Equal: Kobe Bryant, Once a Basketball Wunderkind, Remembered as a #GirlDad

And he wasn't just a cheerleader for women in sports. As a coach to Gigi's youth basketball team, he was actively helping to create the next generation of stars.

Commentary, Page A6

#### Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Promotes Maryland's Strength in Biohealth, Life Sciences At Arab Health 2020

Maryland companies participating in Arab Health this year include GraceMed Solutions, LLC (Beltsville).

Business and Finance, Page A7

#### The Best Music of Yesterday... Today! The O'Jays ... Phyllis Hyman ... and Motown's Top Tunes

Everyone's favorite Motown tunes form a tribute tri-fecta, this spring at The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

Out on the Town, Page A9

#### Calendar of Events

Theatre Companies Perform Plays Created in 24 Hours!

GALA Hispanic Theatre 44th Season Continues With a Washington First

Features, Page A11

#### New Bomb Squad Robot Will Expand Capabilities

State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci stated: "Bomb Technicians carry out some very delicate work and often risk their lives performing their duties. This addition to our fleet will keep our personnel safer."

Computers and Tech, Page A13



# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### For Our Children, Risk Is Okay— Danger Is Not

As parents, a common goal is to protect our children as much as possible. We don't want to see our kids hurt physically, emotionally or psychologically. And yet, most of us realize that such a goal is virtually impossible to achieve.

While it's relatively easy to try and keep our children from some physical harm through actions like making them buckle up every time they're in the car, making sure they have the necessary vaccinations, and keeping a regular schedule of doctor and dentist visits, kids are sometimes still going to get hurt just because they're kids. Climbing that tree probably seemed a good idea, just like sledding down that steep hill looked perfectly safe and riding that mountain bike off that jump looked like it would be nothing but a fun experience.

The reality is that kids often aren't able to see the danger in certain activities with the same clarity that parents can. Yet, despite our parental fears, it actually is a good thing for our kids to learn to take some risks, even if they fail at them sometimes. The intention for parents should be to help educate their child on the differences between danger and risk.

While climbing a tree will often look dangerous to a parent, a child will only see the challenge. But if the child has not been taught on safe ways to climb that tree, what height limits are okay and similar information, it can indeed be a perilous activity.

When a parent can instruct on how to minimize danger and instead enjoy the benefits and thrills that overcoming risk can offer, the parent is helping their child develop in a healthy way. Children are very sensitive to things that are bothering or worrying their parents, and if a parent is communicating constantly the need to be careful or to avoid most situations or activities, it only heightens a child's fears and feelings of insecurity.

But when a parent encourages sensible risk, and helps teach a child how to approach and conquer such risk, they are helping that child to grow and feel more secure, confident and successful.

We all want our children's world to contain as little danger as possible, but encouraging a child to take on some risk and teaching them to do it in safe ways is essential to having that child develop into a strong, secure adult.

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

## Fresenius Kidney Care Hosts Open House At New Capitol Heights Dialysis Facility

Public invited to tour center on Feb. 19

By MADDIE RONQUILLO  
for Fresenius Kidney Care

CAPITOL HEIGHTS, Md. (Jan. 28, 2020)—Fresenius Kidney Care, the dialysis division of Fresenius Medical Care North America and the nation's leading network of dialysis facilities, invites the community to attend an open house celebration on Feb. 19 at its new center in Capitol Heights. In Maryland, there are more than 16,000 patients on dialysis.

Fresenius Kidney Care Fairmount Heights will have capacity to treat up to 72 patients a week. Patients, healthcare providers and members of the community will be able to tour the center and learn about chronic kidney disease. Clinicians will also provide screenings and risk assessments and offer blood pressure checks at the event.

About 1 in 7 adults in the U.S. have chronic kidney disease, with many not detecting the condition until they have lost more than 96 percent of their kidney function. Symptoms and warning signs for late-stage kidney disease include changes in urination, fatigue, swelling in hands or feet and pain in the small of the back. Physicians recommend that people who are at risk for CKD are screened at least once a year. More than 600,000 Americans live with kidney failure, which requires either a transplant or dialysis to remove waste from the blood, maintain safe levels of potassium and sodium and control blood pressure.

WHAT: Open House at Fresenius Kidney Care Fairmount Heights

Local experienced medical professionals available to discuss:

- Patient services and the latest dialysis treatment options, including in center dialysis, which takes place in a kidney

dialysis center, under the supervision of a care team.

- How the center's care team meets patients' physical and emotional needs by individualizing their care.
  - How BMA of Maryland Fairmount Heights strives to empower people to thrive and live the healthiest, fullest way possible—with kidney disease treatments that fit in with life, not the other way around.
  - How FreseniusRx renal-trained pharmacists can help dialysis patients manage their medications.
  - How to begin the search for a transplant.
  - How to sign up for Fresenius Kidney Care's free KidneyCare:365 class to learn more about kidney disease. Light refreshments available.
- WHO: Open to the public  
WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 4-7 p.m.  
WHERE: Fresenius Kidney Care Fairmount Heights  
6301 Walker Mill Rd  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743  
COST: Free  
CONTACT: For more information, please contact Director of Operations Scott Anderson at [scott.l.anderson@fmc-na.com](mailto:scott.l.anderson@fmc-na.com) or 202-263-9840.

Fresenius Kidney Care, a division of Fresenius Medical Care North America (FMCNA), provides dialysis treatment and support services to more than 190,000 people with kidney disease every year either in their own homes or at more than 2,400 facilities nationwide. Fresenius Kidney Care's dedicated teams help address the physical and emotional aspects of kidney disease through personalized care, education and lifestyle support services. Visit [www.FreseniusKidneyCare.com](http://www.FreseniusKidneyCare.com).

### Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Statistics

- About 1 in 7 U.S. adults, or about 30 million people, have CKD.
- The leading causes of CKD are diabetes and high blood pressure. Together they account for 73 percent of new diagnoses.
- About 96 percent of people with reduced kidney function do not even know it. The progression of kidney disease can often be slowed with early treatment, but many people do not show symptoms until late stages of CKD.
- Kidney disease affects people of all ages, but those 60 and over are the most likely to develop it.
- Certain ethnic groups, including African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans, are at a higher risk of CKD.
- Mortality rates for people living with kidney failure declined 28% between 2001 and 2015.
- 95,000 Americans are waiting for a kidney transplant while 215,000 are currently living with a transplant.

### Dialysis Fast Facts

- 1 in 3 people starting dialysis had not seen a kidney doctor before the diagnosis.
- Nearly 500,000 Americans are receiving life-sustaining dialysis treatment.
- Cardiovascular disease is prevalent in 70 percent of patients receiving hemodialysis.
- 12 percent of patients currently administer their own dialysis at home.
- Home dialysis has increased 82 percent since 2007.

## Poetry Thrives in Prince George's County!



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT LIZ ECHOLS

Prince George's poets celebrated the display of The Poetry Poster Project at the Maryland House of Delegates on January 30, 2020. The Posters are on exhibit outside Room 207 until the end of February. From left—Diane Wilbon Parks, Sylvia Dianne "Ladi Di" Beverly, Edgar Silex, Hiram Larew, Prince George's County Youth Poet Laureate Marissa Michel and Prince George's County Poet Laureate J. Joy "Sistah Joy" Matthews Alford. See Spotlight, page A9, for two events on February 8 and 9 featuring Prince George's County Poet Laureate "Sistah Joy".

### Register NOW for the 10th Annual "A Fairway to Help" Golf Tournament

[www.nhssi.org/content/fairway-help-golf-tournament-2020](http://www.nhssi.org/content/fairway-help-golf-tournament-2020)  
Friday, May 8, 2020

Registration 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start 8:30 a.m.

Oak Creek Golf Club, 600 Bowieville Manor Lane,  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

We are also looking for sponsors for this annual event and New Horizons' only fundraiser.

Proceeds benefit over 200 individuals with disabilities. Funds raised provide necessary skill development, job training, and employment services to help those we serve lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Jerry's Seafood is once again hosting our turn refreshments. As part of your golf registration, enjoy a delectable spread to include Jerry's famed crab cake sandwich and lots more.

## University of Maryland Capital Region Health Launches Heart & Vascular Institute

New Institute Rises to the Challenge to Meet the Cardiovascular Health Needs of Prince George's County and Southern Maryland

By JANIA MATTHEWS  
University of Maryland  
Capital Region Health

CHEVERLY, Md. (Jan. 28, 2020)—To better meet the healthcare needs of residents in Prince George's County and Southern Maryland, University of Maryland Capital Region Health has launched its Heart & Vascular Institute (HVI). According to the CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, in Prince George's County, from 2015–2017, heart disease was the leading cause of mortality, accounting for nearly 4,500 deaths—a rate that exceeds both state and national averages.

The UM Capital Heart & Vascular Institute provides multidisciplinary care, bringing together clinical expertise across a range of services and specialties that will give residents access to care close to where they reside. UM Capital's HVI includes core services such as minimally invasive procedures, heart surgery, cardiac rehab, chest pain center, cardiac diagnostic testing and advanced procedural technologies that support the delivery of enhanced cardiovascular care.

The focus on cardiac intervention has been an ongoing priority for UM Capital. Since re-launching the cardiac surgery program in 2014, the program has earned the highest rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for the quality of the hospital's Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) procedure. CABG (often referred to as "cabbage") is the most common type of open heart surgery, improving blood flow to the heart by bypassing clogged arteries.

"Launching a Heart & Vascular Institute represents a broad commitment from University of Maryland Medical System to address the most prevalent health challenges in the communities we serve," says Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA, President & Chief Executive Officer, University of Maryland Medical System. "Providing high-quality care coupled with an overall commitment to help meet the needs of our communities are important priorities. I am steadfast in my support

of UM Capital as we work to fulfill our mission to be the premier health care provider in Prince George's County. This Institute exemplifies our commitment."

The launch of HVI takes place 15 months in advance of opening a new hospital, the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center, in Largo, MD. The new hospital represents a \$543 million investment by Prince George's County, the State of Maryland and UMMS. The 600,000 square foot flagship facility will include 205 private inpatient rooms and eight operating rooms. The Heart & Vascular Institute will move from University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center with its other programs and services in April 2021.

"While there's much excitement mounting around our new hospital, we need to serve our patients with safe, high quality care close to home now," says Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH, FAAP, President & CEO (interim), University of Maryland Capital Region Health. "Our focused effort to advance how we more comprehensively address cardiovascular disease in our community cannot wait until our move. We have the technology, clinical expertise, drive and commitment to provide the right care, in the right place, right now."

Patients receiving care in the HVI can expect a highly skilled and experienced team to guide them throughout their treatment course. Assembling a team of physicians and caregivers to deliver compassionate care was also a top priority in launching the HVI.

"When a patient comes into our care, it's an unexpected critical medical emergency for them," says Jamie Brown, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon who serves as the Medical Director for HVI and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Our team understands the sensitivities and complexities of caring for patients who are in life-threatening situations. They understand our mission and their dedication to our patients is like no other."

The guiding principles of the HVI fo-

cus on quality, safety, patient experience, and efficiency. The care team has committed to adhering to a culture of learning, discovery, and personal growth within the field of heart and vascular medicine.

For more information about the new University of Maryland Capital Region Health Heart & Vascular Institute, visit <https://www.umms.org/capital/health-services/heart-and-vascular-institute>. For information on how to support UM Capital Region Health with philanthropic support, visit <http://umcapitalregionfoundation.org/>.

Providing primary and specialty health care services to Prince George's County and the neighboring area, University of Maryland Capital Region Health was established in September 2017 upon formal affiliation with the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), and is committed to making a positive impact on the health and well-being of patients and families. University of Maryland Capital Region Health operates the University of Maryland Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center, University of Maryland Bowie Health Campus, and the University of Maryland Family Health & Wellness Center in Suitland. Together, community physicians and University of Maryland School of Medicine (SOM) faculty provide clinical expertise across a range of specialties and programs including: emergency medicine; neonatology; a certified and designated primary stroke center; and the State's second-busiest trauma center. A new state-of-the-art regional medical center is expected to open in Largo in 2021. Visit [www.umcapitalregion.org](http://www.umcapitalregion.org). The University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) is a university-based regional health care system focused on serving the health care needs of Maryland, bringing innovation, discovery and research to the care we provide and educating the state's future physician and health care professionals through our partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the UM Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Social Work and Dentistry in Baltimore. Visit [www.umms.org](http://www.umms.org).

# COMMUNITY

## Maryland Retired School Personnel Association Awards Mini-Grants Throughout State



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE MARYLAND RETIRED SCHOOL PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION (MRSPA)

Pictured left to right: George Denny, Jr., MRSPA President-Elect and President, PGPSRA; Jenelle King, Mini-Grant Winner; Craig Barnes, Assistant Principal, Rosa Parks ES; Wanda Twigg, MRSPA Executive Director.

By FRANKIE MCDONNELL

### Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

ODENTON, Md. (Jan. 16, 2020)—The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA), through its Community Service Committee, has awarded six mini-grants to classrooms across the state of Maryland. As part of its outreach to communities and support of current educators and excellence in education, the mini-grants were designed to assist educators with special projects for which school system funds were not available. 120 applications were received, and one winner from each of MRSPA's six geographic regions was celebrated at a school staff meeting with the

presentation of a check, flowers, balloons, and cookies for the staff.

MRSPA congratulates the following mini-grant winners for their outstanding projects designed to enhance student learning:

**Jenelle King of Rosa Parks Elementary School, Prince George's County, for "Kinder Learning Parties"**

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association is the only organization in the state that works exclusively for retired school personnel. The organization represents nearly 14,000 retirees with local affiliates in every county and Baltimore City. MRSPA's national affiliate is NRTA: AARP's Educator Community. For more information about MRSPA, go to [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org) or call 410.551.1517.

## Maryland Department of Planning Awards More than \$332,000 to Municipalities Across Maryland For Census Outreach Funding

32 Municipalities to Receive Funding for Census Outreach Activities in Traditional Hard-to-Count Areas

By DAVID BUCK

### Maryland Department of Planning

BALTIMORE, Md. (Jan. 24, 2020)—The Maryland Department of Planning (Planning) announced that 32 municipalities have been awarded funding to support the accurate counting of the state and its local jurisdictions for the 2020 Census.

In fall 2019, Planning announced \$5 million in overall Census outreach funding, which included \$4.1 million in grants to nonprofits, \$300,000 to the Complete Count Committee, \$300,000 to 15 Maryland counties and more than \$300,000 to go to municipalities that met certain population thresholds and other criteria.

Forty municipalities applied to receive part of the more than \$300,000 designated only to the 157 municipalities in Maryland. Following a grading and scoring of the applications, 32 municipalities will receive funding.

The funding will be used throughout Maryland to ensure a fair, accurate, and inclusive count for Maryland and increase the response rate of hard-to-count communities and populations in Maryland.

#### Prince George's County Recipients include:

Town of Bladensburg	\$19,000.00
City of Bowie	\$6,000.00
Town of Brentwood	\$14,500.00

Town of Capitol Heights	\$10,000.00
Town of Cheverly	\$10,000.00
Town of Colmar Manor	\$7,335.00
Town of Cottage City	\$5,000.00
City of District Heights	\$19,000.00
Town of Fairmount Heights	\$7,670.00
City of Glenarden	\$19,000.00
City of Hyattsville	\$19,000.00
Town of Landover Hills	\$5,000.00
City of Laurel	\$15,000.00
Town of Morningside	\$5,000.00
City of Mount Rainier	\$19,000.00
City of New Carrollton	\$6,750.00
Town of Riverdale Park	\$10,000.00
Town of Upper Marlboro	\$3,365.00

## Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism Announces Martin Luther King Day of Service Impact

More than 1,000 Marylanders Rise for MLK Day of Service, 17 Sites Across the State

By JOANNA CHEN

### Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 29, 2020)—The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism announced the impact of Martin Luther King Day of Service, a national event led by the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS), after Governor Larry Hogan released a Public Service Announcement encouraging civic engagement through service and volunteerism by making their Martin Luther King Jr. holiday "a day on, not a day off." More than 1,000 Marylanders volunteered at 17 AmeriCorps sites across the state, amounting to over 2,200 reported service hours.

CNCS is a federal agency that leads service, volunteering, and grant-making efforts in the United States, and recognized Baltimore as one of the Top Three AmeriCorps in recruiting AmeriCorps members who "get

things done."

"When we stand united, we serve others as a powerful force—steadfast and ready to overcome any challenge," said Steven McAdams, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives at the 32nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner in Anne Arundel County to honor Dr. King's legacy. "As Governor Hogan has said, we should never lose sight of the values of unity and of serving others together, and do our best to integrate these into all we do."

AmeriCorps members engaged citizens across Maryland.

"MLK Day of Service in Frederick is an example of how Maryland is leading through service," said Nicki Fiocco, Director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism. "The inclusivity and accessibility of these projects brought AmeriCorps and community members together to share an experience of service where diverse groups and in-

dividuals are united for a common goal to serve others—this is the spirit of the day."

In **Adelphi**, the Latin American Youth Center served more than 650 students and families for a full day of presentations and workshops addressing human trafficking, anti-bullying, and financial literacy. Their event was a part of Prince George's County's first county-wide MLK Day of Service, which served more than 1,200 students and families. (See photos below)

The Maryland Conservation Corps cleaned up the Anacostia River, removing 100 bags of trash and a mound of debris with 400 volunteers performing 1200 hours of service.

Governor Hogan is a champion of national and community service in Maryland and an advocate for unified volunteer efforts. For every dollar invested in national service, there is a nearly 4 times larger return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased output, and other community-wide benefits.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

### Partnership from A1

ment science principles that bring together researchers and experts in co-equal partnership with practitioners and school leaders to create evidence-based approaches to solving pressing school issues.

"Through this partnership, we are working to solve tough problems in schools, from addressing achievement gaps in math to high rates of absenteeism," Dr. Eubanks said. "We are committed to research that is directly relevant to local schools' needs, as they identify them."

One innovative part of the partnership is a dual appointment model, where university faculty hold joint appointments in the school district, and district leaders serve on the university faculty as visiting professors or fellows. This model exists in very few locations in the country, Dr. Eubanks said, and further reflects the commitment to transform K-12 education.

The Collaborative will also focus on the preparation of high quality teachers and leaders, in line with the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission, which examined Maryland K-12 education practices, policies and funding to improve students' college and career readiness.

"The Kirwan Commission has underscored the importance of addressing school improvement in Maryland," Dean Rice said. "At the University of Maryland College of Education, we are excited to be on the leading edge of this work through the design of innovative teacher and leader preparation programs that are responsive to the needs of our local school systems. Through this partnership, we will create a pipeline of highly effective and diverse educators who are prepared to address issues and challenges germane to PGCPs."

The Collaborative's projects—some new, some pre-existing—include:

- Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership Program—in this innovative, practice-based Ed.D. model, PGCPs school system leadership work collaboratively to address a problem in their school system.
- School Improvement Leadership Certificate Program—the second class of PGCPs teachers will complete the certificate program in June 2020.
- Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Project—participation in the Improvement Leadership Education and Development (iLEAD) project.
- Professional Learning Opportunities for UMD and PGCPs Faculty/Staff.
- A Postdoctoral Network—the Network will bring together Ed.D. program graduates, along with UMD faculty and other PGCPs school leaders, to continue to address school issues and improve student outcomes in Networked Improvement Communities.
- Data Sharing and Joint Publication.
- High Quality Teacher and Leadership Preparation Programs—furthering the work of the Kirwan Commission, which focused on improving Maryland K-12 education, UMD will work to improve teacher preparation programs to meet PGCPs' workforce needs.
- Dual Appointments between PGCPs and UMD.

### Record Keeping For Your Small Business BREAKFAST WORKSHOP • FREE ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING FOR VETERANS

When: February 18, 2020 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.  
Department of Community Services Building, Conference Room 346, 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046  
Guest Speaker: Brenda Dilts, Founder, Next Step Coaching and Consulting

This workshop is being hosted by the Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families and will be held at the Department of Community Services Building, Conference Room 346, 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046 and is **open to all veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs**. Check-in begins at 8:15am. Seats are limited. Registration is required. ID is required to enter building  
This workshop is sponsored by Philip E and Carol R Ratcliffe Foundation. The Ratcliffe Foundation is based in Annapolis, Maryland and operates as a charitable organization designed to encourage and reward entrepreneurship, create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Check In will begin at 8:30 a.m. —  
**Seats are limited so please register**  
[www.project-opportunity.com/record-keeping-for-your-small-business-february-18th-2020/](http://www.project-opportunity.com/record-keeping-for-your-small-business-february-18th-2020/)

## The Prince George's Post

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# COMMUNITY

## Congratulations to Elks Lodge of Maryland-DC-Del Hoop Shoot Finalists

Photos and Text By DEWAYNE WILCHER  
Camp Springs Elks Lodge

Congratulations to the following youth for winning their local Elks Lodge Hoop Shoot free throw competition and the southwest district of Maryland-DC-Del Championship: Saige Oliver, 9, Graham Cleveland, 10, and Andrew Jarrett, 9, representing Camp Springs Elks Lodge; Jaden Bazil, 13, representing Prince George's Elks Lodge; Elizabeth Fitzwater, 10 and Ryleigh Adams representing Deale Elks Lodge. On February 9, these youth will compete for the Mary-

land-DC-Delaware Elks title and an opportunity to move on to the Regional round of competition against youth from Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina. Winners from that round of competition earn a berth as a national finalist in Chicago where the national winners gets their name listed in the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Elks Hoop Shoot has been around over 40 years. In 2019, Saige Oliver competed as a national finalist. Good luck to all of our participants.

—February 1, 2020



## National Anthem and Voice of Bowie Auditions—February 29

The City will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City special events and for those interested in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, Fourth of July, and the International Festival. Auditions for the National Anthem will be held in the TV Studio at the Kenhill Center (2614 Kenhill Drive) on Saturday, February 29, beginning at 9 a.m. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella before a judging panel. Auditions for the Voice of Bowie will follow, beginning at approximately 11 a.m. Candidates will be asked to read from a prepared script for a judging panel. The chosen performer(s) will be invited to perform at various City-sponsored special events. For information or to schedule an audition, contact Special Events Manager Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

—Una Cooper, City of Bowie

## Application Deadline Coming Up for Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program

2020 Application Period Jan. 6–Feb. 28, 2020

There is still time to apply for our Youth@Work/Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP). County residents between the ages of 14–22 are eligible to apply for this award-winning summer jobs program. If you are between 18–22 years old and looking for work now, we will be hosting several job fairs where you can apply and interview on the spot to potentially receive a temporary or permanent position prior to the summer program.

Whether you are looking for a job now or for one this summer, be sure you apply today. Visit our website ([https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3349/Apply-for-a-Job?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/3349/Apply-for-a-Job?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)) to learn more and to complete an application.

—Community Connections Newsletter

For Charles,  
kayaking  
offers total  
freedom.

His heart  
almost took  
that away  
from him.



**Coronary bypass surgery ranked in the nation's top 10%.** Charles lives to kayak... and he almost lost it all when he developed congestive heart failure and an aortic aneurysm. He was referred to Dr. Jamie Brown at UM Capital Region Health, who is also a faculty physician at University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Brown and his team replaced Charles' aortic valve and restored his life.

Charles is thankful for the outstanding care he received. "This is a miracle to me. I'm back kayaking and playing with my grandchildren—which wouldn't be possible without Dr. Brown."



See Charles' story at [umcapitalregion.org/evidence](http://umcapitalregion.org/evidence)

Bowie • Cheverly • Laurel • National Harbor • Suitland

# COMMENTARY

## Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



### To Be Equal:

## Kobe Bryant, Once a Basketball Wunderkind, Remembered as a #GirlDad

*"The kid we had first seen as spoiled—bickering with established stars next to him to whom we thought he should have shown deference—we saw now as an avuncular figure generously sharing his knowledge of the game with younger players who grew up idolizing his talent ... We watched him step into the role of a retired athlete, not commenting on TV, but lending his energy, fame and wealth to foundations to help people in need—kids at risk, veterans struggling to transition to civilian life, and the homeless."*

—Kevin B. Blackstone

The Census is one of the most powerful tools the African American community has to claim our

rightful voice in the political, legislative and social institutions of our nation.

The sudden death of a beloved public figure in the prime of his life is always a shock. When Kobe Bryant took the basketball world by storm in the mid-1990s, anyone could have predicted he'd leave his mark on the game. Many could even have predicted he'd transition into a successful business career, as so many former pro athletes have done.

Few could have predicted one of the key ways that Bryant is being memorialized on social media, with the hashtag #GirlDad.

Several years ago, ESPN's Elle Duncan, who was pregnant at the time, encountered Bryant back-

stage at an ESPN event, and the discussion turned to children.

"I would have five more girls if I could," Bryant told Duncan. "I'm a girl dad."

That he died alongside one of his four beloved daughters compounds the tragedy of his passing immeasurably. Gianna, nicknamed Gigi, was the daughter he considered most like himself—fiercely competitive and passionately in love with the game of basketball.

He told ABC's Jimmy Kimmel, "The best thing that happens is when we go out and fans would come up to me and she'll be standing next to me, and they'll be like, 'You've gotta have a boy, you and V gotta have a boy. You gotta have somebody to carry on your tradition, the legacy.' She's like, 'Oy, I got this.'"

"I'm like, 'that's right. Yes, you do, you got this.'"

Bryant is survived by his wife Vanessa, and daughters Natalia ("Nani"), age 17; Bianka ("B.B."), age 3, and Capri ("Coco"), age 7 months. Nani is an avid volleyball player.

It is sadly ironic that Bryant used helicopters as a frequent mode of transport because, he said, it allowed him to spend more time with his family.

He credited his love for his daughters with changing his view of women in sports. He became a champion of women's basketball, both college and professional, often using his immense social media following as a platform to promote it.

In one of his final interviews, he insisted that

some of the WNBA's top players—Diana Taurasi, Maya Moore and Elena Della Donne—could play in the NBA.

And he wasn't just a cheerleader for women in sports. As a coach to Gigi's youth basketball team, he was actively helping to create the next generation of stars. The helicopter crashed en route to a youth basketball tournament, and the other six passengers included two of Gianna's teammates, their parents, an assistant girls' basketball coach, and the pilot.

Bryant was more than just an extraordinary basketball player. The first guard ever to enter the NBA directly from high school, he was seen as a bridge between the old guard, represented by Michael Jordan, and the new, embodied by LeBron James. Just the day before he died, Bryant tweeted his congratulations to James on breaking Bryant's record career total of 33,643 points.

His career represented a change in the way players controlled the path of their own careers, orchestrating a deal among teams that landed him with the Lakers, his preferred franchise.

He will be included on every list of all-time great athletes, of those who transformed the game. But to be remembered as a devoted father, and an unapologetic champion of opportunity for his own children and everyone else's, is his unique and loving legacy. Our hearts go out to Vanessa Bryant and her daughters, as well as the families of all the others lost in the crash.

—January 30, 2020

## Marion Wright Edelman

President Emerita,  
Children's Defense Fund



### ChildWatch:

## Be Ever Vigilant: No Turning Back

A new Black History Month ad by Google featuring some of the search engine's "Most Searched" terms has gained a lot of attention. It begins with a simple statement: "There are moments in American history that captivate us all." Viewers then see images from the top Google searches for 20 of those historic moments: The most searched performance. Most searched guitar solo. Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony winner. Female poet... Tennis player. Ballerina. Gymnast. Athlete... Homecoming. Tap dancer. Pulitzer winner. Talk show host... World War II airman. NASA mathematician. Autobiography. Movement. As the ad ends with the "most searched speech" and a clip of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sharing his dream for America at the March on Washington, we have just seen that all of these celebrated moments and accomplishments feature Black Americans.

At too many points in our national experience, Black history and American history have seemed to tell different stories. But we need to continue to search out and celebrate every moment where we see the threads of our separate stories woven together. Native American history, Black history, Latino history, Asian American history, women's history, immigrant history, and LGBTQ history—are all American history. President Barack Obama's election was a nation defining moment. On the day of his first inauguration, the sea of nearly two million multi-colored faces cheering together on the National Mall confirmed its historic impact, not just for Black Americans, but for all Americans. In today's tumultuous times it often feels as if our nation is veering off course and our divisions are being exploited and threatening to unravel our national fabric. In this current election year, I hope we can reaffirm the promise and hope of that moment.

Everywhere one looked on that historic day there were reminders of how Black history and American history converge. Journalists pointed out that our Capitol was built with slave labor and our National Mall sits on land that once held slave markets. At the opening ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial the Sunday before his swearing in, President Obama, surrounded by monuments to our most revered leaders, reminded our nation of that "most searched speech" that took place on that sacred ground: "Directly in front of us is a pool that still reflects the dream of a King, and the glory of a people who marched and bled so that their children might be judged by their character's content." Civil rights giants Dr. Dorothy Height and John Lewis, members of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, and many other trailblazers for liberty bore quiet witness by their presence.

During the inauguration ceremony Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and reminded all Americans of our nation's original promise to "let freedom ring." During his benediction, Rev. Joseph Lowery quoted a stanza of the song we call our Negro National Anthem, James Weldon Johnson's "Lift Every Voice and Sing":

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou, who has brought us  
thus far along the way,  
Thou, who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path,  
we pray...  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our  
native land.

For all of us who immediately recognized those beloved words the symbolism was overwhelming. For over a hundred

years, every time that hymn has been played in church sanctuaries, school auditoriums, or community meetings it allowed Black Americans to sing our own song about our faith in America's promise of liberty and hope for the future. Rev. Lowery didn't recite every line, like those that speak of the bitter obstacles overcome and the blood shed along the way. He didn't need to. As part of the blessing of our nation and its new President, the Negro National Anthem became—at long last—part of the larger American hymn. And as President Barack Obama's name was added to a list that began with George Washington and First Lady Michelle Obama graciously stepped into her role, we watched with pride the next chapters in Black and American history coming together before our eyes.

The book is still being written. As we celebrate Black History Month this year, this is a time to celebrate and cheer past progress but it is no time to drop our vigilance. All Americans must remain vigilant and help our nation move ahead to fully include all its peoples. All of the people beginning with its children. We must continue to speak out, organize, vote and challenge any effort to undermine the progress made to date. We've come this far along the way and must continue to work for a nation where no child is left behind.

*Marion Wright Edelman is Founder and President Emerita of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org).*

## Anthony Brown

Maryland Congressional District 4



## Brown, Waltz, Rubio, Scott Introduce Bill to Modernize State Water Quality Allocation

WASHINGTON (Jan. 31, 2020)—U.S. Reps. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.) and Anthony Brown (D-Md.) have introduced legislation to modernize the national water quality allocation formula to states. Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) have introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

H.R. 5628, the Clean Water Allotment Modernization Act, would update the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) formula, which determines the amount of money states receive for water quality projects. The current formula has not been updated since 1987.

The CWSRF provides states annual funding for low-interest financing of water infrastructure projects, including wastewater systems (septic-to-sewer conversion), stormwater management, estuary projects, nonpoint source and water reuse projects.

The House version of the bill

is currently supported by seven other members, including Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart, Al Lawson, Brian Mast, Bill Posey, Francis Rooney, Ross Spano and John Rutherford.

"It's time to bring our water infrastructure into the 21st century," said Brown. "Modernizing this critical program will reduce pollution and protect important environmental resources like Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. This is a common sense change that's long overdue."

"As a lifelong Floridian, one of my first goals when I came to office was to improve our state's water quality," said Waltz. "I quickly discovered Florida has been shortchanged by the outdated Clean Water State Revolving Fund. In order to keep our water clean, every dollar matters."

If passed, the legislation would update the CWSRF allotment formula to include Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Needs Survey data, decennial Census population counts and states' Quality Impairment Component Ratio. These factors for modifying to the allotment formula are consistent with EPA's 2016 recommendations to Congress, Review of the Allotment of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Moving forward, the allotment will be updated every four years to reflect the most recent needs, population and impairment data.

The adjusted formula would significantly increase Maryland's allotment, enabling the state to finance new clean water infrastructure over the next decade. Maryland's population and water infrastructure demands have substantially increased since 1987 as the state continues efforts to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways.

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



## Cardin Says Block Granting of Medicaid Is a Reckless Attack On Vulnerable Americans

WASHINGTON (Jan. 30, 2020)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee, released the following statement on the announcement that the Trump Administration plans to limit Medicaid spending by converting its funding into block grants.

"This guidance represents the latest, most egregious move in the Trump Administration's campaign to slash social safety nets and jeopardize the health of our most vulnerable communities. Turning Medicaid into a limited block

grant will give states unprecedented license to cut benefits, eligibility, and provider payments for the 70 million low-income and disabled Americans who rely on this life-saving program. Such a reckless attack on health coverage for vulnerable Americans is unacceptable. Families across the country already successfully raised their voices to stop Republicans' attempts in Congress to block grant Medicaid. Now we must come together once more to protect every American's right to quality health care."

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### About Warnings to Make Sure I “File Properly”

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

**Dear Rusty:** I am currently 63 years old and planning to delay retirement until 70 to maximize my benefit. I've been seeing a lot of financial planners advertising claims that you can lose thousands of dollars in benefits if you don't “file properly.” Is there really anything more to it than simply applying for benefits when you are ready to retire? Do I really need to pay a financial advisor just to tell me how to apply to get the most benefits? **Signed: Skeptical**

**Dear Skeptical:** Nearly all the advertisements you see using language like that have an underlying purpose of trying to sell you something—usually a book, a subscription, or financial services. The phrase “losing thousands if you don't file properly” are very generic words meant to lure you into contacting them so they can sell something to you. Reality is that “filing properly” means simply choosing the right age to file for benefits given your specific personal circumstances. And personal circumstances are different for everyone. There aren't any tricks in the filing process itself—it's really quite straightforward, and you can get all your Social Security filing questions answered here at The AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service. Our staff of Social Security Advisors are fully trained and certified by the National Social Security Association (NSSA®), and we have years of experience on this complex topic. We provide Social Security information and answers to several thousand people each year, without a fee because we are a not-for-profit entity operating only on donations. And contacting us is easy at either [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org), or 1-888-750-2622.

As for when you should file, everyone's personal situation is different, and your marital status should always be considered. But as an individual, waiting until age 70 will give you the maximum benefit available to you. If you are now 63, your age 70 benefit will be 29.3% more than it would be at your full retirement age of 66 years and 4 months, and about 65% more than you'd get at age 64. And provided you are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84) not only will your monthly payment be more, but you'll collect more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting. And here's an extra bonus—if you are married and you predecease your wife, her survivor benefit will be based upon that larger amount you were receiving because you delayed claiming. If she has reached her full retirement age, as your widow your wife will get 100% of your actual benefit. But if you were to claim earlier, your wife's survivor benefit would be based on that smaller amount.

The answer to your specific question is that there is no magical way to apply for benefits once you determine the age at which you wish to file. You can file by calling the Social Security Administration directly, either at their general number (1-800-772-1213) or your local office (find it at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)), or you can also file online at [www.ssa.gov/retire](http://www.ssa.gov/retire). Filing online is by far the easiest and most efficient way to complete and submit your application for benefits.

The 2 million member Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) (<https://www.amac.us>) is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at <https://amac.us/join-amac>.

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

Maryland Small Business Development Center  
<http://www.mdsbdc.umd.edu/>

#### Ready Set Go! The Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Business February 11, 2020 • 1:30–4 p.m.

Location: White Oak Library Branch,  
11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
Contact Information: Ruth Chavez 301-403-8300 Ext 110  
This FREE workshop is for those who are interested in starting their first business, but want to find out more information on what to expect. Our experienced business consultants will share with you everything to anticipate when starting a new business including, information on the legal and licensing requirements, the business plan, the different financing options, preparing a marketing strategy and all the perks and drawbacks that come with the life of an entrepreneur.

#### Smart Start Your Business Workshop February 20, 2020 • 1–5 p.m.

Location: Bowie City Hall, 15901 Excalibur Road, Room 243,  
Bowie, MD 20716  
Cost: \$55

Contact Information: Sandra Conaway 410-706-5463  
The Smart Start Your Business workshop is one in a series of three workshops highly recommended for new start-up businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. Learn how to avoid common pitfalls, explore the feasibility of your idea and increase chances for success! Professional presentations will be made by an attorney, an accountant, a banker and an insurance professional. Discover how to: Legally define your business and register your business name, keep proper financial records and report taxes, assess the insurance requirements, evaluate alternatives for accessing investment and working capital

## Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Promotes Maryland's Strength in Biohealth, Life Sciences At Arab Health 2020

World's Second-Largest Healthcare Exhibition Includes 11 Local Companies

By HANNAH MARR  
Maryland Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 27, 2019)—Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford last week addressed attendees of Arab Health 2020, the second-largest healthcare exhibition in the world and the largest in the Middle East, as part of an international trade mission in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). During his remarks, Lt. Governor Rutherford promoted Maryland's strength and global reputation in the healthcare, biohealth, and life sciences industries.

“Attending one of the world's top healthcare trade shows is a fantastic way to show off Maryland's innovative companies and advanced biohealth and life sciences sector,” said Lt. Governor Rutherford. “Arab Health provides a great opportunity for our state to strengthen its relationship with some of the industry's top leaders and decision makers from around the globe and encourage them to do business in Maryland.”

2020 marks the seventh year that the State of Maryland, through the Department of Commerce, has exhibited at the trade show, promoting the state's healthcare assets as well as a number of small and mid-size companies to a global audience. Companies that participate have the opportunity to receive matchmaking as-

sistance through Maryland's global office in the UAE, as well as showcase their products and services to thousands of attendees. Last year, the conference attracted more than 55,000 attendees from nearly 160 different countries.

Maryland companies participating in Arab Health this year include emocha Mobile Health Inc. (Baltimore); Get Real Health (Rockville); GraceMed Solutions, LLC (Beltsville); Health Solutions Research (HSR) (Rockville); Integrated Pharma Services (Frederick); LKC Technologies Inc. (Gaithersburg); Pevco Systems International Inc. (Middle River); Pindox Pharma Inc. (Gaithersburg); Shreis Scalene Sciences USA (Gaithersburg); Sonavi Labs, Inc. (Baltimore); and 20/20 GeneSystems, Inc. (Rockville).

Maryland's life sciences industry includes 2,700 businesses, employs nearly 45,000 people in both the public and private sectors, and generates more than \$18 billion in economic activity for the state. Additionally, the state is able to provide a soft landing for companies that want to explore the market, make connections, and build relationships with American businesses.

“There really is no better place for companies looking to expand to the United States, and we are ready and eager to work with businesses from all over the world,” said Lt. Governor Rutherford. “We're ‘Open for Business.’”

## Doctors Community Health System Raises Minimum Wage to \$15 Per Hour

By CHONDRIA ANDREWS  
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, Md. (Jan. 27, 2020)—Doctors Community Health System (DCHS) is raising the minimum wage for its employees to \$15 per hour effective February 2020. This increase will impact about 176 employees who currently make less than \$15 per hour.

“Our employees are the heart and soul of the organization. Their dedication to providing compassionate and quality services is what encourages people to rely on us for care and support. We view the new minimum wage as an investment in our team members who truly make a difference in people's lives and strengthen the health of our community,” said Paul Grenaldo, president at Doctors Community Health System.

This policy change is one of the benefits of the system's partnership with Anne Arundel Medical Center and the formation of Luminis Health. Another benefit is DCHS' plan to submit a certificate-of-need (CON) application in the coming months to establish obstetric services as part of a comprehensive women's health program at Doctors Community Hospital. This investment will provide women and families more access to quality care in Prince George's County.

“Serving others with respect and dignity is one of the principles that guide us. We are committed to continuing that tradition while making the lives of people—both employees and community members—better,” stated Grenaldo.

Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC), a regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Md., serves an area of more than one million people. Founded in 1902, AAMC includes a 349-bed not-

for-profit hospital, a multi-specialty medical group, imaging and lab services, community care clinics, a research institute, a substance use treatment center and health enterprises. In addition to an Annapolis campus, AAMC has outpatient pavilions in Easton, Bowie, Kent Island, Odenton, Pasadena and Waugh Chapel. AAMC is nationally recognized for its joint replacement center, emergency heart attack response and cancer care. A leader in women's services, AAMC delivers the state's second highest number of babies annually and has a Level 3 NICU. AAMC is among just 6 percent of U.S. hospitals to be designated a Magnet® hospital, the highest-level credential for quality patient care and nursing excellence. As a Most Wired® healthcare organization, AAMC is nationally recognized for using technology to enhance the patient experience. With more than 1,200 medical staff members, 4,700 employees and 1,000 volunteers, AAMC consistently receives awards for quality, patient satisfaction and innovation. To learn more, visit [askAAMC.org](http://askAAMC.org).

Doctors Community Health System is a network of medical and surgical services provided throughout Prince George's County and in Anne Arundel County. At the heart of this network is its flagship—Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland. To complement the hospital's high quality and comprehensive services, the system has more than a dozen centers of care in Bowie, Camp Springs, Crofton, District Heights, Hyattsville, Lanham, Largo, Laurel, Riverdale and Temple Hills. In addition to being recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a high-performing hospital in colon cancer surgery and heart failure, it is the only hospital in Prince George's County on Forbes' list of best midsize employers. Also, it earned Hospital Compare's four-star quality rating—the highest in Prince George's County. For more information, visit [DCHweb.org](http://DCHweb.org) or call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

### Real ID from A1

valid Real ID will be necessary to access federal facilities or board commercial aircraft.

The staggered deadlines were designed to ensure the department could provide “outstanding service” to all customers, Nichols wrote in an e-mail.

In July, law enforcement officials in Maryland began confiscation of those licenses that had been recalled due to non-compliance.

Lawmakers expect to hear House bill 28 on Thursday (Jan. 30). The cross-filed Senate bill 173 was heard on Tuesday (Jan. 28).

The House bill's lead sponsor, Delegate Eric Ebersole, D-Baltimore and Howard counties, told Capital News Service that the process may be confusing for those drivers who have never had to provide the necessary documentation during previous renewals.

“This is an unusual thing for people to have to do,” Ebersole said. “They may not fully understand the whole situation.”

Ebersole said he spoke with several law enforcement agencies and some indicated they would enforce the confiscation of non-compliant licenses while others indicated they would not, fearing an “adversarial” position.

“When you do a traffic stop, you don't

know exactly who you've got there,” he said. “They say officers are very, very nervous when doing traffic stops, because they don't know what person they're going to be coming up on.”

In a Maryland State Police bulletin provided to Capital News Service, troopers are instructed on how to handle confiscation of recalled licenses. The bulletin reminds officers that possession of a recalled license is not probable cause for a traffic stop and to use “extreme caution” when charging someone for not possessing a driver's license if that license was confiscated due to non-compliance.

During testimony on Senate bill 173 on Tuesday, Sen. Katie Fry Hester, D-Carroll and Howard, the lead sponsor, said the legislation would provide clarity for drivers and law enforcement in the coming months.

Sen. Ronald Young, D-Frederick, during Tuesday's hearing questioned the 90-day grace period for drivers to bring their licenses into compliance after confiscation.

“If I get stopped and they take my license, I'm going to go into a DMV the next day or the next week,” Young said. “I mean, how much do we bend over?”

Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery, said during the Senate hearing she wanted to hear from the MVA to provide clarity on

the Real ID process; committee Chair William Smith, D-Montgomery, said they would request information from the agency.

“We need to do something about it, so that some people don't fall between the cracks,” she said.

In addition to several mailings to affected customers, the MVA has extended hours, opened new annex locations in Columbia and Parkville to help serve customers, and offers more than 28,000 appointments per week, guaranteeing customers will be seen within 15 minutes of their appointment time.

Brian Zimmer, president at Keeping Identities Safe, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit that aims to educate the public about the importance of secure identification, said Maryland's MVA had a “phenomenal” roll-out of the Real ID program, calling the department one of the top five in the country.

Zimmer argued against the idea that Marylanders were still unaware of the new requirements, calling it a “myth.”

“If they don't know about this, they don't live where they said they did when they got their Real ID,” he said.

Marylanders can check the status of their Real ID using the MVA's online lookup tool at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realid/realidlookup.htm>.

**ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS!** Prince George's County Council Member Derrick Leon Davis, in partnership with RPAI (Retail Properties of America, Inc.) invites you to a briefing on the Carillon Project in Largo, Maryland. Friday, March 13, 2020, 9 a.m.–12 noon, Homewood Suites by Hilton, 9130 Basil Court, Largo, Maryland 20774

If you are a small minority, woman or locally-owned business in Prince George's County, you are encouraged to attend and learn more about the Carillon Project in Largo and subcontractor opportunities.

Attendees are encouraged to RSVP via telephone (301-952-4919) or email ([mdjackson1@co.pg.md.us](mailto:mdjackson1@co.pg.md.us)).

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## University of Maryland School of Nursing and University of Maryland, Baltimore County Partner to Launch Clinical Nurse Leader Guaranteed Seat Partnership

Students complete traditional four-year undergraduate experience before entering competitive master's program.

By LAURA HAGER  
University of Maryland  
School of Nursing

BALTIMORE, Md. (Jan. 27, 2020)—The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) have launched a Guaranteed Seat Partnership for UMSON's Master of Science in Nursing Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Option, which prepares students with undergraduate degrees in fields other than nursing for careers as the nation's most trusted professionals, according to Gallup.

The CNL Guaranteed Seat Partnership, the first of its kind, is for students who wish to have a four-year undergraduate experience, plan to become a nurse, and want to earn a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. Through the partnership, UMSON provides UMBC students who meet criteria with guaranteed admission to its competitive CNL program, ranked No. 2 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

The CNL role was developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in 2003 to address the critical need to improve the quality of patient care outcomes. A CNL helps solve complex health care challenges via an advanced degree and collaborates with health care providers from other disciplines to ensure the most effective

and efficient care possible. The partnership positions students for career progression and for doctoral education and allows students to leverage their first degree in a strategic and supported way.

"This partnership deepens the strong relationship we have with our colleagues in Catonsville as we provide pathways for exceptionally talented students at UMBC who wish to complete their undergraduate education and then embark upon their nursing journey with us," said Larry Fillian, associate dean for Student and Academic Services, UMSON. "The UMBC undergraduate educational experience is exceptional and produces students who think critically, communicate effectively, and appreciate an approach to learning which is both grounded in theory and in practice. These skills will serve students very well in nursing school, and we look forward to ensuring their educational dreams become a reality."

Any undergraduate major is applicable. Interested UMBC students should speak to their advisors; UMSON expects the first partnership students to matriculate into its CNL program in fall 2021.

"We are proud to be working with our colleagues at UMSON to offer UMBC students a unique opportunity to pursue a career as a medical professional after completing a traditional four-year degree in any major," said William R. LaCourse, dean of

the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences at UMBC. "A strong liberal arts education teaches students to effectively communicate, solve problems, and have cultural competence. This multidisciplinary approach will better serve patient and societal needs in the field of nursing."

Selected students will know early in their undergraduate career if they've been accepted to the partnership program and can then plan for the CNL pathway and trajectory accordingly. To be eligible to apply to UMSON, students must have completed at least 45 undergraduate credits at UMBC, have a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.0 science GPA, and interview at UMSON. For those in the partnership program, the UMSON application fee will be waived. Hands-on advising at UMBC and UMSON will ensure students take the correct prerequisites courses during their undergraduate studies.

The University of Maryland School of Nursing, founded in 1889, is one of the oldest and largest nursing schools in the nation and is ranked among the top nursing schools nationwide. Enrolling nearly 2,000 students in its baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral programs, the School develops leaders who shape the profession of nursing and impact the health care environment.

## Md. Lawmakers Override Several Bills Hogan Vetoed Last Year

By RYAN E. LITTLE  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 30, 2020)—Maryland lawmakers overrode Gov. Larry Hogan's vetoes five times on Thursday (January 30), but had to give up on three other bills, including a bill one designed to make freight rail safer.

A major economic development project played a role in that bill's doom.

The concurrent votes in the two chambers of the Maryland General Assembly were the first time this session Democrats have exercised their veto-proof majorities after postponing these votes several times this session.

The votes passed generally along party lines.

Democrats were successful in overriding vetoes on five bills, including a "ban the box" measure that will make it illegal for employers to ask about an applicant's criminal history before the first interview, and a "Dream Act," which eases restrictions on when an undocumented immigrant can pay in-state tuition at state colleges and universities.

But Senate Democrats ultimately did not have the votes to require a minimum of two workers on freight trains.

A much-anticipated Howard Street Tunnel expansion in Baltimore would allow double-stacked rail cars through it, greatly increasing the flow of goods out of the Port of Baltimore.

Hogan, R, has allocated \$80.3 million in his proposed 2020 budget to match \$125 million in federal grant dollars. CSX Transportation, a major freight train operator, is also contributing to the project.

House Minority Leader Nicholas Kipke, R-Anne Arundel, told Capital News Service that the prospect of CSX pulling out of the deal led to the two-man crew bill's demise. He said lawmakers didn't want to risk it.

The project is touted by officials on both sides of the aisle as one of the most important economic development projects in the state.

Senate President Bill Ferguson, D-Baltimore, told Capital News Service that the project "certainly came into play as part of the discussion," but suggested that it or the two other vetoed bills whose votes were postponed indefinitely could come back in future sessions.

"I think it was a collective decision that, in some cases, the timing wasn't right, or there were ways to hone the policy even more moving forward," Ferguson said. "The good news is that we are here every year for 90 days. I think these are issues that are very important and may come up in the future, but this year wasn't the right time."

The Senate also indefinitely postponed a bill that would require the governor's office to submit an annual report on personnel matters. The House indefinitely postponed a bill that would require the governor to appropriate at least \$3.8 million annually to fund a network of bike trails in the Maryland Department of Transportation's budget.

Spending mandated by legislators is one of Hogan's most-often repeated complaints.

The bike bill's sponsor, Delegate Brooke Lierman, D-Baltimore, told Capital News Service it was postponed because Hogan has already proposed the spending in each of the next two years.

"And if we need a bill in the future (to get the funding), we will put it in," Lierman said.

The General Assembly veto overrides also reestablish the Oyster Advisory Commission and require a new fishery management plan for oysters. Another measure approved Thursday expands when some state employees can file a dispute through the state's grievance proceedings instead of going to an arbitrator, of which they had to split the costs with the state.

Lawmakers votes also abolished the state's Handgun Permit Review Board. Democrats had complained that the board—filled with political appointees—wielded its power to overturn handgun permit denials from the State Police too

generously. Republicans argued that the change wasn't needed because they said no one who won on appeal before the board had since committed a violent crime and that a criminal wouldn't actually go through an appeals process. The bill cuts the board out of the process. Appeals will now go directly to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Current law already allows some undocumented immigrants to pay in-state tuition in Maryland as part of the Maryland Dream Act. But there are restrictions.

Legislation approved Thursday removes the requirement that such a student earn an associate's degree or at least 60 credits at a community college before attending a four-year university, increases the number of years allowed for a student to register after earning a diploma or its equivalent, and relax requirements on the number of years a student attended high school in the state.

In-state students paid \$26,111 less than out-of-state students at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus in 2019. Out-of-state students paid \$36,918. The difference ranged from \$4,800 to \$26,847 at other public universities in Maryland.

The "ban the box" bill drew arguably the most passionate debate on the House floor Thursday. Republicans argued that the bill would waste time and money for Maryland businesses that now have to wait until after they have interviewed someone to ask about their criminal history.

"If this body is serious about public safety, we must become serious about recidivism," Delegate Nick Mosby, D-Baltimore, the bill's sponsor, said on the House floor.

Violent crime in Baltimore has dominated much of the dialogue in the first 23 days of the 2020 legislative session.

Mosby said the bill provides felons with a "fighting chance for gainful employment."

"Why should they wear a scarlet letter on their chest for the rest of their life?"

## NASA Awards Hydrosphere, Biosphere, Geophysics Support Services Contract

By GREY HAUTALUOMA / CYNTHIA M. O'CARROLL  
Headquarters, Washington / Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md.

(Jan. 29, 2020)—NASA has awarded a contract to **Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI) of Lanham, Maryland**, for hydrosphere, biosphere, and geophysics (HBG) support services.

The small business set-aside, cost-plus-fixed fee, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract has a minimum ordering value of \$9 million and a maximum of \$425 million. The five-year ordering period begins April 1. There is a 45-day phase-in period under a separate ordering agreement.

The purpose of this contract is to acquire scientific research services to conceive, develop and apply space, field-deployed (airborne and in situ), and laboratory-based technologies and observations. The work includes scientific research related to water resources, land and ocean ecosystems, health, global and regional sea-level change, natural hazards, changes in the Earth's cryosphere, gravity field, magnetic field, solid Earth, topography, reference frames, and the effects of climate variability on Earth systems.

SSAI will provide a full range of science and research support across the breadth of various laboratories that make up the HBG Subdivision of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, including the Cryospheric Sciences, Ocean Ecology, Hydrological Sciences, Biospheric Sciences, Geodesy and Geophysics and Terrestrial Information Systems Laboratories.

The work will be performed at Goddard and the contractor's facilities.

For information about NASA and agency programs, visit: <https://www.nasa.gov>

### PERSONAL FINANCE

## 3 Financial Planning Trends To Look For in 2020

(StatePoint) The latest financial planning trends anticipated by industry experts will have important implications for consumers.

From new tech to new rules and regulations, here are three of the biggest trends to watch out for in the months to come, and what they mean for you:

1. **More consumer protections.** The recommendations and information you receive from your financial advisor may change if he or she is required to comply with new regulations and professional standards taking effect in 2020.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission recently approved a new rule known as Regulation Best Interest (BI) that requires broker-dealers to recommend investments and other financial products that are in their client's best interests. Broker-dealers must also fully disclose any conflicts of interest related to the investments and products they sell or recommend to their clients. All broker-dealers must comply with the rule by June 30, 2020.

New professional standards for certain advisors will also enhance consumer protections. The Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board), for example, recently adopted a new standard requiring CFP professionals to act as a fiduciary—and therefore in their client's best interest—at all times when providing financial advice. CFP Board will begin enforcing this standard in June 2020, as well.

2. **Streamlined technology.** The continued development of financial technologies may lead many firms and advisors to adopt new tools that automate certain tasks in the financial planning process. For example, you may be able to communicate with your advisor, check your portfolio performance, manage your accounts and catch up on relevant financial news using a single online financial portal. Your advisor may also employ artificial intelligence and data analytics tools to help assess investment risk, conduct market research or execute trades, allowing them to spend more time taking a big-picture look at your finances and developing a comprehensive strategy to help you achieve your goals.

3. **More socially responsible investment opportunities.** Heightened awareness of climate change and major social issues, coupled with younger generations' desire to make a positive impact on the world, will likely lead to increased options for aligning your values with your investments. Socially responsible investing; environmental, social and governance investing; and impact investing, all present opportunities to earn financial returns while supporting social change. Your advisor can help evaluate your options in this area, including the risks and rewards of each investment type.

A CFP professional can help you understand and navigate these and other trends. To find a CFP professional near you, visit [www.lets-makeaplan.org](http://www.lets-makeaplan.org).

Staying up to date on financial news and developments will help you keep ahead of emerging trends.



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# OUT on the TOWN

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Prince George's County Council's  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
PROGRAM  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
County Administration Building

## Spotlight: Black History Month

### Marietta House Museum & Prince George's County Historical Society's Black History Month Presentation: The Green Book, Travel in Prince George's County and Beyond

Date and Time: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 1 p.m.  
Description: Join historians Susan Pearl and Anne Bruder, as they discuss "The Green Book: Travel in Prince George's County and Beyond," which was published from 1936 to 1966. The book listed accommodations available to traveling African Americans in Prince George's County, Baltimore, and beyond. Light refreshments will be served following the program.  
Cost: \$5/person (ages 8 and up)  
Location: Marietta House Museum, 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769  
Contact: 301-464-5291 *Reserve your seat*

### Paul Laurence Dunbar: "Beyond The Mask"—A Documentary

Date and Time: Saturday, February 8, 2020, 2 p.m.  
Description: A feature length documentary on the life and legacy of the first African American writer to gain international fame. Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy will attend the screening and community discussion.  
Cost: Free, first-come first-served basis, register at Eventbrite  
Location: Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Mumford Room, 6th Floor, Madison Bldg., Washington, DC 20540  
Contact: Darren Jones djon@loc.gov; 202-707-3827

### City of Greenbelt Black History Month Celebration

Date and Time: Sunday, February 9, 2020, 2–4 p.m.  
Description: Prince George's County Poet Laureate Sistah Joy will present poetry with accompaniment by Djembe drummer, Doc Powell. Also featuring Chris Haley, keynote presenter; Belly Dancers of Color Collective; S.I.T.Y. Stars Jump Rope Team; Kids in the Dream local youth band; and Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir.  
Cost: Free  
Location: Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Contact: 301-397-2208

### African American Memories in Song

Date and Time: Saturday, February 15, 2020, 1–2 p.m.  
Description: Experience some of the work and play songs, spirituals, and art songs that serve as a sonic memory of the African American experience in the 19th and early 20th century. Listen and learn how the melodies carried layers of meaning for generations of people who endured oppression while cultivating a culture uniquely their own. James Dorsey is an artist and educator in Prince George's County. He enjoys sharing vocal music, dance, and connected arts and contexts with people of all ages.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Belair Mansion, 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715  
Contact: 301-809-3089

### Voices from the Past: Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges—The Black Mozart

Date and Time: Sunday, February 16, 2020, 4–5 p.m.  
Description: This event is in partnership with the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. Enjoy the extraordinary, lesser-known violin music of Le Chevalier de Saint Georges as narrator Nevilla Ottley and a violinist explore his life and compositions. In 1769, the Parisian public was amazed to see Guadeloupe born Joseph Le Chevalier Saint-Georges, playing as a classical musician and composer. His work is thought to have influenced Mozart and he, himself, is often considered the "Black Mozart." ADA: Yes  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Belair Mansion

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF BOWIE

**Belair Mansion**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, offers a look at Bowie's earliest history. Built circa 1745 for Provincial Governor Samuel Ogle and his wife, Anne Tasker Ogle, the Mansion later became one of the homes of William Woodward, noted American horseman of the 20th century. Enlarged by Woodward in 1914, the Mansion today reflects its 250-year use as a residence. Today, the Mansion interprets the lives of residents from 1747–1950. Open Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m. Tours for groups of 10 or more are available by appointment. Admission is free; donations are welcomed. The Mansion is also available for rentals for groups of 75 or less persons. For more information call 301-809-3089.

Belair Mansion: 12207 Tulip Grove Dr., Bowie, MD 20715 • 301-809-3089 • <https://www.cityofbowie.org/288/Belair-Mansion>



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY THE BOWIE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The performance at the Bowie Center on February 15 will be a Tribute to the Music of the O'Jays.

## The Best Music of Yesterday... Today! The O'Jays...Phyllis Hyman...and Motown's Top Tunes Spring Concert Series Only at The Bowie Center For the Performing Arts

By DAVID ANDRUSIA  
The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 15, 2020)—The Philadelphia Soul of the O'Jays...the sultry sounds made famous by Ms. Phyllis Hyman...and everyone's favorite Motown tunes form a tribute trifecta, this spring at The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

Concert impresario Robert Smoot brings his super-popular tribute concerts back to the Bowie Center with more variety and verve than anywhere else. "Our performers were thrilled by the reception they received here for our first Motown Tribute performance, and we're thrilled to bring these new shows to the Bowie," he says.

The Center's Executive Director, Jason Cook, feels the same way. "Robert's productions are known all around the mid-Atlantic region and beyond at the finest supper clubs and nightspots. It's a privilege to bring the Brencore All-Stars Band and his crackjack performing artists to our stage, at prices that are a fraction of what audiences pay at expensive and exclusive venues."

February 15 A Tribute to the Music of the O'Jays  
February 29 A Tribute to the Music of Motown  
March 14 A Tribute to the Music of Phyllis Hyman  
Tickets: \$25.00 Children and Seniors, \$30.00 Adults  
Where: The Bowie Center, 15200 Annapolis Road  
Bowie, MD 20715



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT GEORGE TREADWELL (MANAGER) PHOTO BY JAMES KRIEGSMANN, NEW YORK, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sarah Vaughan in 1955.

### MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION:

## African American Women in Music Series *The Music of Sarah Vaughn*

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Join us on Saturday, February 22, at 1 p.m. at Marietta House Museum, as we present the life and music of Sarah Vaughn.

Sarah Vaughan, 1924–1990, nicknamed, "Sassy" and "The Divine One", was the winner of four Grammy Awards, which included the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1989, she was given the NEA Jazz Masters Award. Her career spanned 1942–1989.

Light refreshments will be served following the program. \$5/person (ages 8 and up)

Call 301-464-5291 for more information and to *reserve your seat*.

Marietta is the 1813 home of Judge Gabriel Duvall, a Supreme Court Justice and Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury. Marietta stands on terraced, landscaped grounds with two contemporary outbuildings: a brick law office and a stone and brick root cellar/harness storage room.

Marietta is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

## ERIC D. SNIDER'S IN THE DARK

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

## Mini Movie Reviews

**Just Mercy**—(PG-13, 136 min.) A fine, sturdy based-on-a-true-story drama with Michael B. Jordan as a Harvard-educated lawyer who returns to his native Alabama to help an innocent man (Jamie Foxx) get off death row. Nothing you haven't seen before—it definitely follows the template—but its feel-good vibes are right for this time of year. **B**

**1917** (R, 119 min.)—Two young British soldiers are sent across enemy lines to convey an important message. The story is thin (I just told you the whole thing), so there's a gimmick: It's all presented as one long, unbroken shot, in real time. But the trouble with telling a story in real time is that you have to include the boring parts where people are just walking around. I was more interested in the technical and logistical aspects than in the movie itself. **B-**

**Cats** (PG, 110 min.)—The

musical about different kinds of cats—only more boring than that sounds—combined with nightmarish feline-human CGI makes for a disaster of a movie with a few isolated well-performed scenes. Most of the visual choices are mistakes, but ultimately it fails for the same reason the stage version does: it's boring and stupid. **D**

**Little Women** (PG, 134 min.)—A most pleasant and spiritually faithful adaptation of the beloved classic, directed by Greta Gerwig ("Lady Bird"), starring Saoirse Ronan as Jo March and Timothee Chalamet as Laurie Laurence. It's two hours of mostly decent people being glad to see each other. The cast (also including Florence Pugh, Laura Dern, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper) has great chemistry. **B**

**Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker** (PG-13, 141 min.)—The epic saga limps to a conclusion

in a weak finale that feels like an epilogue—like *The Last Jedi* was the final film and they tacked on another one to establish a spinoff franchise ("Star Wars: The Next Generation"). The stakes feel low; the film feels like an episode in an ongoing drama rather than an Event. The callbacks to previous films are mostly extraneous, tripping over themselves to nudge us and say, "Eh? Eh? Remember that?" Quite disappointing. **C**

**Bombshell** (R, 108 min.)—Not an exposé of Fox News as a whole, but of one particular incident: lecherous network boss Roger Ailes (played by John Lithgow in a fat suit) being ousted for multiple counts of sexual harassment. Charlize Theron stars as Megyn Kelly, who's unsure whether to back fellow on-air talent Gretchen Carlson (Nicole Kidman) in her crusade against Ailes. There's a parade of actors in makeup and prosthetics playing real people (the silliest is Richard Kind as Rudy Giuliani). Despite being a true story about real people, nobody in the film seems real, though Theron comes closest. Diverting in its way but ultimately toothless. **C+**

**The Irishman** (R, 209 min.)—In Martin Scorsese's career of excellent movies, this ranks as

one of his best (and longest), encapsulating many of the themes (and actors) he's dealt with before. (This is somehow his first collaboration with Al Pacino, though.) Based on a book that was based on a mobster's probably exaggerated stories, it stars Robert De Niro as a small-time Philadelphia crook who rises in the ranks of the Philly mob under capo Joe Pesci (who reports to don Harvey Keitel) and eventually becomes a go-between for them with corrupt labor leader Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino). Masculine anger, hubris, and a stubborn refusal to reckon with the past are at the forefront. It's similar to "GoodFellas" but more contemplative, and the epic length, decades-spanning story, and sprawling cast give it the weighty feel of history. Scorsese is 77. I hope he lives to be 100 and makes another 20 movies. **A**

**Charlie's Angels** (PG-13, 118 min.)—This new iteration of the '70s TV jiggle-fest, written and directed by Elizabeth Banks, doesn't make fun of its cheesiness like the 2000 version did, and hardly goes over the top at all. It's light and frivolous; just not ludicrous (generally). It's kind of pointless, yet harmlessly so. Kristen Stewart as the casual, almost reckless Angel is having a better time than anyone else. **C+**

# LOCAL EVENTS



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

Alicia Keys will perform at The Theater at MGM National Harbor on August 7, 2020 as a part of ALICIA – THE WORLD TOUR.

## Alicia Keys to Perform at The Theater At MGM National Harbor, August 7, 2020

By ALAINA CURRY  
for MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. (Jan. 28, 2020)—GRAMMY-Award winning and global music icon Alicia Keys will perform at The Theater at MGM National Harbor on August 7, 2020 as a part of ALICIA – THE WORLD TOUR.

The tour announcement comes fresh off Keys' exciting news to fans that her forthcoming seventh studio album ALICIA is set to be released worldwide on March 20, via RCA Records. Keys will bring her repertoire of worldwide hits to iconic venues across North America and Europe, visiting major cities including London, Paris, Berlin, Atlanta, Toronto, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [mgmnationalharbor.com](http://mgmnationalharbor.com) or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com). For more show and ticket information, visit [mgmnationalharbor.com](http://mgmnationalharbor.com), call 844-346-4664 or follow on Facebook or Twitter.

Keys released the anthemic "Underdog," the album's new single, earlier this month to critical acclaim ("A be-jewelled slice of pop-soul with a gently euphoric feel"—Clash). The track became the most added song at US top 40 radio upon its release. Previously released singles include "Time Machine" and "Show Me Love," which earned Keys a record-extending 11th No. 1 on the Billboard Adult R&B Songs airplay chart.

In addition to new music, Keys will bring her classics—including "No One," "If I Ain't

Got You," and "Girl on Fire," among many others—to life in a special multi-media, artistic experience on the ALICIA – THE WORLD TOUR stage each night. A meditation on love and life, the show will be a true celebration, filled with the magnetic energy that only live music can create.

She will release her book *More Myself* on March 31, via Flatiron Publishing.

The Theater at MGM National Harbor offers an experience unlike any other in the region, providing fans the opportunity to see world-class entertainment in an intimate setting. The Theater features seven VIP suites and flexible seating designs, accommodating 3,000 guests for reserved-seating events and a little more than 4,000 for general admission shows.

## Explore Grief in Dementia Patients and Earn 3 CEUs With Chesapeake Life Center

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PASADENA, Md. (Jan. 9, 2020)—Social workers can earn continuing education credit while learning how to help dementia patients and their families navigate the grief process with "Where Are You? Where Am I? An Exploration of the Grief Experience in Persons with Dementia," a continuing education opportunity offered by Chesapeake Life Center.

The Alzheimer's Association reports that 5.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. By 2050, that number will nearly triple, with about 14 million people diagnosed. Yet, grief in adults with dementia is not extensively understood nor researched, which creates limitations for professionals and caregivers on how it is best to offer support. Adults living with dementia experience the loss of present and future: When they lose a loved one, it can pose challenges as they grieve. Presented by Roberta Rook, licensed clinical professional counselor, and Casey Dressel, licensed master social worker, both with Chesapeake Life Center, this presentation is designed for caring professionals to clarify the needs and experiences

of adults living with dementia and how to support them in their grief.

The class will take place from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Feb. 28 on the Hospice of the Chesapeake's John & Cathy Belcher Campus, 90 Ritchie Highway, Pasadena, Maryland. Social workers licensed by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners who complete the course can earn 3.0 Category I continuing education units.

The cost is \$40. Current Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteers can attend for free. Preregistration is required and can be completed online at [www.hospicechesapeake.org/event/where-are-you/](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org/event/where-are-you/). For details, call 888-501-7077 or email [griefinfo@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:griefinfo@hospicechesapeake.org).

### About the presenters:



**Roberta Rook, LCPC,** has over 20 years of experience in the field of counseling. For the past 18 years, she has been working as a bereavement counselor and program coordinator for Chesapeake Life Center. Rook holds a post-graduate

certificate in thanatology, the study of death, dying, and bereavement, and is a facilitator in the expressive therapeutic technique known as SoulCollage. She has conducted trainings and presentations on grief-related issues for hospice staff, volunteers and professionals from the community at large.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

**Casey Dressel, LMSW,** has experience working with the geriatric population in skilled nursing facilities and as a psychotherapist at an outpatient mental health agency. Dressel joined the Chesapeake Life Center in the fall of 2019. Chesapeake Life Center, a program service of Hospice of the Chesapeake, serves hospice family members and the community with bereavement services and activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Chesapeake Life Center is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education programs and maintains full responsibility for this program.

### Hospice of the Chesapeake Gala

Saturday, April 4, 2020 • 5:30 to 11:30 p.m.  
The Hotel at the University of Maryland College Park

This year's theme, "An Evening Under the Tuscan Sky," will take guests to the Italian countryside filled with gardens, groves and vineyards.

The gala is the organization's signature black tie event and features an open bar, fine cuisine, a silent and live auction, a band and dancing.

The gala draws close to 500 attendees and directly supports the mission and programs of Hospice of the Chesapeake.

The nonprofit is celebrating its 40th year of serving the community and continues to celebrate its status as a leader in hospice and palliative care as well as grief support in Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Meg Lawton at 443-837-1531 or [mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:mlawton@hospicechesapeake.org).

## Working: A Musical The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

By DAVID ANDRUSIA  
The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts

BOWIE, Md. (Jan. 30, 2020)—The Bowie Center for the Performing Arts proudly hosts WORKING: A MUSICAL, starring the students of Bowie High School and under the direction of Ms. Angelica Brooks, 2019 Prince George's County Public Schools' Teacher of the Year.

According to Executive Director Jason Cook, "We are honored to present this multi-dimensional work, one with both musical and thematic importance. WORKING brings together musical artistry with an uplifting theme that people of all ages in our community will enjoy."

"This musical is extremely accessible," says Ms. Brooks, who adds, "its characters are everybody you know! The situations are everyday situations. But this musical is anything but ordinary. A different look at the seemingly humdrum lives of working people reveals a myriad variety of hopes, aspirations and dreams.

Of course," Ms. Brooks says, "to some, life is a Monday to Friday drudge, but to others there is great pride in their daily routine." The show's powerful contemporary score backed by a vital and dramatic book makes this a winner.

Although several versions of the musical exist,

February 7 and 8  
at 7 p.m.

The Bowie Center's version is the 2012 incarnation, with commensurately contemporary songs. The score covers many musical genres from blues to Latin pop. Some of the key songs are "All the Livelong Day" and "Just a Housewife."

To present the full wonder of this musical work, Ms. Brooks tells us, "The pit is orchestrated for a rhythm section. We have a bass guitar, lead guitar, drum set, keyboard, and auxiliary percussion. The show features a cast of 7 students: Christine Armwood, Bezejouh Ateawung, Savannah Dodd, Felix Okpali, Faith Shepard, Aiden Wheeler, and Marcus Wilder. These students masterfully cover 26 roles."

While a musical theatre can be enjoyed on their own merits, this is a "message" show in many respects. "This production is so relevant because it speaks to how everyone is working toward a common goal," Ms. Brooks advises. "It gives our students an opportunity to literally step into the shoes of non-fictional characters and makes us all realize just how much we all have in common. This is a trait we could all use in this day and age, and this show causes us to appreciate and see life through someone else's perspective."

Adult tickets are \$15.00; students aged 13 and up, \$10.00. This production is not recommended for students under the age of 13.

To reserve, please visit [www.bowiecenter.org](http://www.bowiecenter.org)

From The DoE Sprout

## Monthly Animal Services: Pet Parenting Classes

Learn what it takes to be a responsible pet owner and a great family host to a four-legged friend for its lifetime. Time, cost, food, toys, medical, safety, social...all topics will be covered during this FREE 1-hour presentation with Q & A to follow.

Meets the third Saturday of each month at Noon. Next class is scheduled for this February 15.

Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center, 3750 Brown Station Road, Upper Marlboro.

Call 301-780-7220 to register for this class!

## Introduction to Fostering

Next classes:

Saturday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 19 at 6 p.m.

Come learn how you can help give animals a second chance before they find their fur-ever home!

Learn how caring for animals recovering from surgery, too young for adoption or requiring other care, can save their lives! Register for your seat today at 301-780-7202.

ANIMAL SERVICES FACILITY AND ADOPTION CENTER | DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
3750 Brown Station Road | Upper Marlboro | (301) 780-7201

# Staff Favorites

## ADOPTION EVENT

Show your love and adopt! Visit the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility and Adoption Center to see the dogs that have been hit with Cupid's bow and selected as "staff favorites." These dogs will have heart icons on their cages.

Throughout the month of February, adoption fees for these select dogs have been reduced to \$125.\* Give a dog a loving home and receive a lifetime of unconditional love.

**FEBRUARY**  
**1-29** 2020

\*Fee covers adoption spay/neuter surgery (if necessary), post-surgery pain medication and e-collar

Applications must be received in February. Please note: Event goes until the 29th due to the leap year.



# ENVIRONMENT

## Earth TALK™ No Idling: An Easy Way to Help the Planet



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: SEVEN DAYS VERMONT

Americans waste some six billion gallons of fuel annually as a result of idling their car and truck engines. What can we do to stop this scourge?

Dear EarthTalk:

Every day when I pick up my kids at school, all the parents wait in their cars with the engines running. Is all this idling a significant contributor to the atmosphere's carbon burden or am I being a worry wart over nothing?

—Mary B., Burlington, VT

Idling is indeed a scourge on the environment, given the noxious emissions coming out of our engines. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), a single vehicle dropping off and picking up a kid at school each day adds three pounds of air pollution to the atmosphere per month from idling. The 250 million personal vehicles on the road in the U.S. alone generate about 30 million tons of carbon dioxide every year just by idling. DoE reports that eliminating unnecessary idling by personal vehicles would be equivalent in emissions reductions to taking five million vehicles off the road.

Personal cars are only part of the problem. About half of the six billion gallons of fuel we waste on idling each year in the U.S. comes from commercial vehicles. We've all seen those delivery trucks with their engines humming while the driver eats his lunch inside or makes his rounds of deliveries on foot. But this kind of irresponsible behavior is actually against the law in 41 U.S. states (some of these restrictions are in municipalities but not necessarily state-wide). The rules vary by jurisdiction: A few states have outlawed idling altogether with the majority of others limiting it to five minutes before fines kick in.

Environmental activist George Pakenham made news last year by collecting some \$9,000 in bounty payments for reporting commercial vehicle idling around New York City as part of a new anti-idling ordinance (successful tattlers get 25 percent of the fines they call in, which range from \$300–\$2,000).

What's surprising is how much idling still goes on, given that most modern engines run better—and warm up faster—while in motion. And you won't cause any measurable wear-and-tear on your car or truck by turning it off and on instead of idling, given the sturdiness of modern-day starters and batteries.

The non-profit Sustainable America launched its #TurnItOff campaign to spread awareness about the need to reduce or eliminate wasteful automotive idling. The group recommends that if you're pulled out of traffic and going to be waiting for more than 10 seconds, do everyone around you and the environment a favor by turning off your engine. (If you have a hybrid or electric car—or a newer internal combustion car with so-called "stop-start" technology—you're already part of the solution, as these vehicles shut themselves off when at a complete stop and then come back to life when the driver steps on the gas.)

While preventing automobile idling may be an up-hill battle, the shift to hybrid and electric engines is a step in the right direction. Maybe one day when all the vehicles on the road are zero-emission EVs, idling won't be an issue anymore. But until then, whether you're a mom at school pick-up or a delivery driver between drops, be responsible and shut it off while you wait.

**CONTACTS:** DoE's Idling Reduction for Personal Vehicles, [afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling\\_personal\\_vehicles.pdf](https://afdc.energy.gov/files/u/publication/idling_personal_vehicles.pdf); Idling Laws By State, [cdllife.com/2014/idling-laws-state/](https://cdllife.com/2014/idling-laws-state/); "Idle Threat" Film, [videoproject.com/Idle-Threat.html](https://videoproject.com/Idle-Threat.html); #ITurnItOff, [iturnitoff.com](https://iturnitoff.com).

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## EPA Letter Criticizes Maryland Over Chesapeake Lawsuit Threat

By KARL BLANKENSHIP  
Bay Journal News Service

In a letter to members of Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 28 maintained its support for Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts while criticizing Maryland, which has threatened to take the agency to court.

The letter was the latest salvo in an escalating battle over whether the federal agency is doing enough to prod Pennsylvania, which is far behind its Bay commitments, to take greater action.

It's a dispute that appears increasingly likely to head to court. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation on Monday announced its intent to sue the EPA for failing to use its Clean Water Act authority against Pennsylvania.

That followed Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's January 9 directive for his state attorney general to initiate legal actions against Pennsylvania, citing the "obvious inadequacy" of its Bay cleanup plan, and against the EPA, which he said has "no intention" of forcing his northern neighbor to do more. Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has also said his state may take legal action.

The EPA's letter said it "will continue to work diligently and professionally with all the jurisdictions and stakeholders engaged in supporting restoration of the Bay."

But it also took aim at Maryland for threatening to sue the agency and Pennsylvania. "Diverting our collective resources to litigation will undoubtedly distract from efforts to restore the Bay and harm the existing partnership among the parties that has been the hallmark of the effort," said the letter from EPA Region III Administrator Cosmo Servidio.

It was in response to a letter from 20 members of Congress sent earlier in the month questioning the agency's commitment to Bay restoration.

The agency has come under increasing fire for not doing enough to press Pennsylvania to do more. The state is far behind in its efforts to reduce nutrient pollution and last year submitted a cleanup plan that fell 25% short of achieving its nitrogen reduction goals and identified an annual funding gap of \$324 million.

In reviewing Pennsylvania's plan at the end of last year though, the agency acknowledged the shortfall but did not announce any new regulatory actions. Instead, it offered the state more technical and financial support.

In its letter to Congress, the EPA pointed out that five of the Bay jurisdictions, not just Pennsylvania, must "do more to achieve their goals"—the others being Maryland, Virginia, New York and Delaware. Only the District

of Columbia and West Virginia are on track to meet cleanup goals by the 2025 deadline.

In December, the EPA called on the five others to provide more detailed cleanup plans, but its recent letter singled out Maryland—the first to threaten legal action—for criticism, saying it needs to do more "to provide confidence that it can comply with its own responsibilities" to meet 2025 goals.

The letter contended that the state was a year behind schedule in submitting a number of stormwater permits for approval and, when it finally did so near the end of 2019, the EPA rejected them for being incomplete.

Meanwhile, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-MD, a key author of the Congressional letter, issued a statement saying he was "frustrated and concerned" with the EPA's response.

"Their response ducks the main question we asked: do they plan to enforce the pollution reduction targets in the Bay Agreement? Failure to enforce these targets puts the health of the Bay at risk. And without stronger assurances, we must take them to court."

*Karl Blankenship is editor of the Bay Journal and executive director of Bay Journal Media. He has served as editor of the Bay Journal since its inception in 1991. This article was distributed by the Bay Journal News Service.*

## Earth TALK™ Has Wall Street Gone Green?

Dear EarthTalk:

Are climate change and other environmental issues affecting or informing mainstream (Wall Street) investment strategies, or is sustainability-oriented investing still just a do-gooder niche?

—Mary S. New York, NY

It wasn't long ago that so-called "triple bottom line" investing—factoring in not just financial returns but also social and environmental impacts—was purely the domain of a small set of outliers willing to forego profits for the sake of proving that investing could be used as a tool to drive change. Just two decades ago, the only real way to have an eco-friendly investment portfolio would be to put your money with one of a handful of mutual funds focused on "Socially Responsible Investing" (SRI)—or research and invest in often speculative individual "green" companies directly.

But in intervening years, many investors' perspectives have changed. It turns out that "green" investments are not only safer than their conventional counterparts given the actuarial risks of rampant climate change, but they also tend to perform better. Generation Investment Management (GIM), founded in 2004 by former VP Al Gore and ex-Goldman Sachs exec David Blood, was one of the first well-heeled firms devoted exclusively to sustainable investing—and shocked analysts 10 years in by how profitable they were. GIM's 12.1 percent annual average increase over its first decade ranked it second in profitability of over 200 competitors, including many of the biggest names in conventional investing. The lesson is that those companies prepared for and even poised to profit from a warmer future are most likely to succeed.

A 2019 report by BlackRock, the world's largest investment firm with more than \$7 trillion under management, confirms what GIM's founders claimed all along: Going green pays. Not only has funding/investment in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) space almost doubled over the last five years, but these investments outper-

formed non-ESG bets overall. ESG-focused equity benchmarks in the U.S. yielded an annual return of 14.5 percent, compared with 14.4 percent for non-ESG investments. Meanwhile, globally ESG-based investments also bested non-ESG ones 8.1 percent to 7.7 percent.

Perhaps this new reality is why BlackRock recently announced a sweeping new set of policies aimed at making sustainability the "new standard for investing." The firm plans to launch new active and passively-managed SRI-based funds in the short term and will look into other ways to align the rest of its investments according to its investors' increasingly pro-environment values.

Environmental advocates are glad to hear about BlackRock's plans, especially given the need for the private sector to step in and take an active role in carbon drawdown in lieu of federal action. Ben Cushing of the non-profit Sierra Club considers Black-

Rock's shift "a major step in the right direction and a testament to the power of public pressure calling for climate action."

But he would like to see BlackRock—still the world's largest investor in coal, oil, and gas—go a giant step further and divest entirely from fossil fuels. "BlackRock should expand on its commitments and other financial institutions should follow suit."

**CONTACTS:** GIM, [generationim.com](https://generationim.com); BlackRock report, [blackrock.com/corporate/insights/blackrock-investment-institute/publications/sustainability-the-future-of-investing](https://blackrock.com/corporate/insights/blackrock-investment-institute/publications/sustainability-the-future-of-investing).

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IMAGE CREDIT: KATJA TIMM (VCU CNS), FLICKRCC

Al Gore's Generation Investment Management is one of the firms that has revolutionized investing by showing what good returns sustainability-oriented investments can yield.

## New Technologies Boost Winter Road Safety While Reducing Salt Use

(StatePoint) Last year's long and brutal winter depleted road salt supplies throughout much of the U.S. As a result, a number of cities have experienced significant price spikes when placing their salt orders this year. At a time when experts are highlighting the environmental and infrastructural damage caused by excessive salt use on roads, new technologies are helping American communities reduce their growing dependence on salt, while still keeping roads safe.

The U.S. spreads up to 22 million tons of salt per year, a large portion of which finds its way into rivers, streams and soil. Numerous environmental groups and universities have documented the tremendous damage that road salt does to soil conditions, water quality and wildlife. What's more, excessive road salt also damages roads and bridges, creating the need for millions of dollars' worth of repairs nationwide every year.

Experts say all this salt is not necessary, pointing to Europe where, thanks to smarter technologies, less salt is spread on roads without compromising safety, even in countries with significant snowfall.

"The U.S. lags Europe by at least a decade in the adoption of smart

salt spreading technologies," says Marcus Scherer, senior vice president of research and development for Aebi Schmidt, manufacturer of Swenson smart spreaders. "Heavier, wetter salt sticks where it is put down and jump-starts the melting process. However, we still see some municipalities in the U.S. using dry salt, which is highly inefficient because it bounces or blows off the road before it has a chance to work. Even those U.S. cities that do use wet salt primarily use a mixture that's less efficient than those used in Europe—as little as a 5% brine mixture in the U.S. as compared with Europe's 70:30 ratio which includes 30% brine."

Scherer goes on to explain that most salt spreaders currently on the road in the U.S. cannot handle the preferred mixture used in Europe, largely because their pumps and tanks aren't large enough to accommodate the additional brine. In addition, they don't offer precision placement technologies that carefully and consistently spread salt on the primary driving surfaces. Instead, they randomly drop excessive amounts of salt.

Experts say that smarter salt spreaders offer a variety of spreading

patterns to cover multiple lanes simultaneously, allowing for greater coverage in less time so that salt trucks don't need to make multiple passes to sufficiently clear the roads. As a result, roads can be driven on safely without delay, reducing labor time and related costs, which is attractive to budget-strapped municipalities.

According to Scherer, several cities in the U.S. have already incorporated smart Swenson spreaders into their fleets and have documented salt and labor savings as high as 35%. Such success opens the door to additional testing in other markets, especially given the public's increased focus on the environmental impact of road salt and the growing burden of rising salt prices on city and department of transportation budgets.

For more information on the latest smart salt spreading technologies, visit [spreadsaltsmarter.com](https://spreadsaltsmarter.com).

As road salt takes its annual toll, experts say it's time to stop oversalting U.S. roads. Luckily, new technologies are making it possible to keep roads safe in budget-friendly and environmentally responsible ways.

# COMPUTERS AND TECH

## TECHNOLOGY

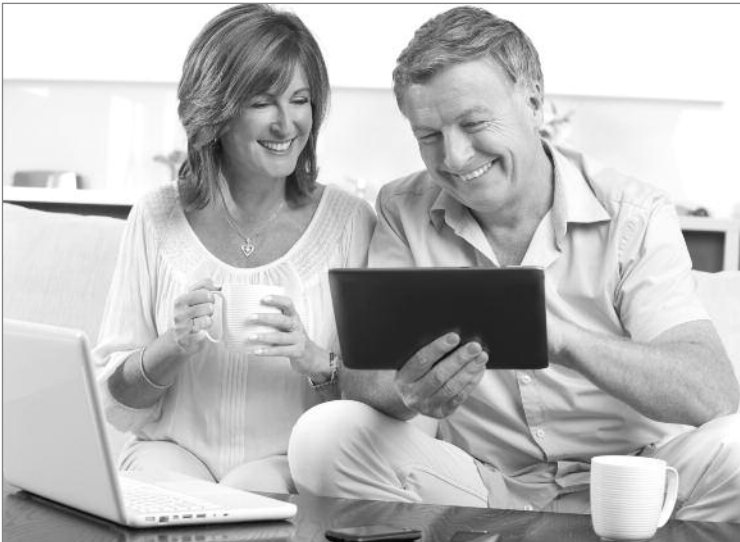


PHOTO SOURCE: © COURTNEYK / ISTOCKPHOTO

## How to Troubleshoot Your Technology Issues

(StatePoint) If you're like most people, you've spent more time than you're willing to admit troubleshooting a technology issue with any one of the many devices in your connected home. Did you know that the average person owns at least 10 connected devices from Macs and PCs, smartphones, tablets and printers, to voice assistants, video doorbells and even home automation systems?

As homes get "smarter" with more connected devices, more complex problems arise, including issues with setup, troubleshooting and syncing devices. Calling the manufacturer or going to the store where you bought the device could help, if it's still under warranty. Trying to diagnose and solve the problem yourself might work, if you have time, patience and some know-how.

But what many people really need is an IT expert on-call, ready to solve all their personal tech issues...but how realistic or affordable is that?

"Subscribing to a technical support plan is actually an increasingly popular option for consumers who want to keep their tech working 24/7. Many plans provide a professional, remote, 'IT team' available anytime you run into trouble. This can help keep costs low since the team resolves your tech issues by phone, chat or by virtually remoting into your device," says Renée Soulliard, of Support.com.

Googling "tech support" brings up numerous options that promise to solve your various tech problems. With so many options, how do you know which ones are reliable?

Fraudulent tech support companies continue to get more sophisticated and difficult to detect, warns Soulliard. "To find a trusted tech support provider, choose one with a long history and highly trained, professional tech support agents," she says.

Here are some potential questions to ask while evaluating tech support providers:

- How long has the company been in business?
- Are the company and its agents US-based?
- Is there a limit to how many devices are covered? Are there any restrictions on the types of devices, brands or problems covered?
- What operating systems are covered?
- Is the support provided unlimited? Is support available 24/7?
- Are there monthly plans available or just annual plans? Are there set-up fees?
- Are there any guarantees if my issue can't be resolved? Can I cancel any time?
- Do I have access to support via phone and chat? Is online self-support available?
- Can I schedule a time to have a tech support agent contact me?
- What do other customers say about the service?

Look for an affordable monthly or annual subscription plan that offers unlimited tech support for any issue with your connected devices, regardless of the type of device, brand, or where you bought it. Plans can cost as low as \$10 per month with no long-term commitment. Find tech support providers with US-based support agents that offer a range of support options, including phone, chat, or video-based "virtual house calls." You could even try the free self-support tools from Support.com's TechSolutions or, if you need more help, learn more about their tech support plans at [www.support.com](http://www.support.com).

Having a tech support plan with a highly qualified tech support provider is an efficient and smart way to manage and maintain your technology, and can help you get the most out of all your home tech.

## New Bomb Squad Robot Will Expand Capabilities

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Office of the State Fire Marshal

STATEWIDE (Jan. 30, 2020)—The Office of the State Fire Marshal Bomb Squad is prepared to deploy its newest bomb disposal robot. Bomb Technicians have been training for months on the new Telerob Telemax PRO. On Monday, February 3, 2020, the robot [was] placed into service and ready to mitigate possible explosive hazards. The Office of the State Fire Marshal Bomb Squad is one of nine National Capitol Region Bomb Squads, commonly referred to as "Metrotech." The new robot will be a welcomed addition to the current fleet of seven older units the OSFM has spread across the State.

The cost of the Telemax PRO was approximately \$400,000.00 and acquired via a grant from the National Capital Region, Urban Area Security Initiative. Among the many functions, the robot is capable of its conducting remote diagnostics, render safe operations on packages, and assist with barricade situations. One of the most exciting pieces of technology the unit has is hazardous material sampling equipment. This will support HAZMAT teams by sending the robot into a scene versus public safety personnel for collection. State Fire Marshal Brian S. Geraci stated: "Bomb Technicians carry out some very delicate work and often risk their lives performing their duties. This addition to

our fleet will keep our personnel safer."

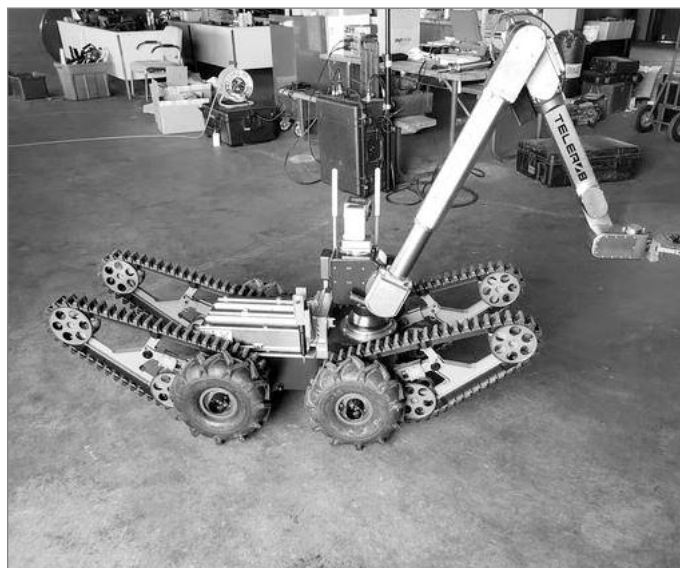
With the new unit being a medium-sized robot with a larger platform, Bomb Technicians will have the advantage of maneuvering into small spaces such as airplane cabins, train cars, and buses. The new robot weighs significantly less at only 170-pounds compared to the approximate 400-pound units the agency has in service. "Being able to send a robot into a situation remotely is critical. This new robot will be small enough to enter tight spaces where bomb technicians had to go before, and that was a high-risk environment for them. Confined spaces magnify the effect of explosives," stated Deputy Chief Duane K. Svites, Bomb Squad Commander. The robot is equipped with more than 30 pre-programmed automatic motion sequences for manipulators and flippers.

Telerob is a German-based company; however, service to the robot can be accomplished through their local office in Erie, Pennsylvania. The robot will be available for responses out of the agency's office located at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Bomb Technicians must complete six weeks of initial training at the FBI Hazardous Devices School in Huntsville, Alabama. The Bomb

Squad requires monthly in-service training and collaborative mock simulation exercises with other agencies. Additionally, the OSFM operates a maritime explosive response team that provides the Bomb Squad with the ability to respond and manage explosive incidents in or around Maryland's waterways and shipping industry. DCFM Bomb Technicians assigned to the Underwater Hazardous Device Team receive advanced training in underwater diving, boating, and tactical operations.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is an agency of the Department of State Police dedicated to helping protect citizens from fire and explosion through a comprehensive program of education, inspection, investigation and fire protection engineering. For more information on fire safety call 1-800-525-3124, log onto our website at: [MarylandStateFireMarshal.com](http://MarylandStateFireMarshal.com) and/or our Facebook Page.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford Touts Maryland Cybersecurity Industry At World-Renowned Cybertech Conference

By HANNAH MARR  
Maryland Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Jan. 29, 2020)—Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford touted Maryland's advanced cybersecurity industry during the world-renowned Cybertech Conference in Tel Aviv as part of an international economic development trade mission in Israel. The lieutenant governor's remarks marketed Maryland's many assets in cybersecurity, one of the state's strongest industry sectors. The Cybertech Conference is expected to attract nearly 15,000 attendees from more than 80 countries, including industry executives, entrepreneurs, investors, and government officials.

"Cyber is one of our state's most important industries," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "This is an industry where people want to be, and it is an industry

where Maryland is known to be a leader."

Maryland enjoys numerous assets benefiting companies in the cyber and information technology industries. The state is home to a number of the U.S. government's most important cyber assets, including Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade, the National Security Agency, and the U.S. Cyber Command. Additionally, Maryland has sixteen higher education institutions that are designated by the National Security Agency as National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. The state's information technology sector, which includes cybersecurity, boasts about 121,000 private and public sector jobs, generating \$45 billion in economic activity.

The state also has numerous resources available to cyber companies to help them grow. The Maryland Venture Fund provides seed and early-stage equity funding

to startups, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) facilitates technology transfer from academic and federal labs to the private sector, and the Maryland Department of Commerce provides tax credits for companies with significant research & development expenditures, as well as credits for those who invest in Maryland cybersecurity companies.

"No state in America is better able to address the rapidly emerging and evolving cybersecurity challenges facing the world today," said Lt. Governor Rutherford. "And in an increasingly competitive international economy where companies can—and do—locate virtually anywhere, we are looking beyond our borders for opportunities to strengthen international partnerships, and strengthen Maryland's position as the cyber capital of America."

## How the Latest Cyber Threats May Affect You

(StatePoint) New cyber threat intelligence suggests that while the volume of cyberattacks is trending down slightly, the attacks are becoming more targeted and nefarious. This latest data can help individuals and businesses make sense of current cyber threats and take action.

New SonicWall Capture Labs threat research reveals that 7.2 billion malware attacks were launched in the first three quarters of 2019, as well as 151.9 million ransomware attacks—marking 15% and 5% year-over-year declines, respectively.

At the same time, however, Internet of Things (IoT) malware jumped to 25 million, a staggering 33% increase since the last report, and encrypted threats spiked 58% through the first three quarters of 2019. Web app attacks are also on the rise, showing a 37% increase over the same period last year.

SonicWall threat researchers are also analyzing new and growing attack vectors, such as side-channel attacks and evasion.

"When we observe how ransomware spreads, we also identify that ransomware tactics have changed," says SonicWall president and CEO, Bill Conner. "Historically, the goal for most malware au-

thors was quantity of infections and now we're seeing attackers focus on fewer higher-value targets. This shift in tactics has also seen a corresponding rise in ransom demands, as attackers attempt to make more money from fewer but higher value targets, such as local municipalities and hospitals."

Following suit with ransomware and malware are phishing attacks, which are also trending down globally with a year-to-date decrease of 32%, a number that has held steady for most of the year. Similar to ransomware, attacks are being more targeted toward high-level executives, human resources personnel and information technology leaders.

"What the data shows is that cybercriminals are becoming more nuanced, more targeted and savvy in their attacks. When it comes to businesses, stricter security rules can reduce the threats that our researchers are identifying," says Conner. "We recommend deploying an approach that provides real-time protection across all networks, so that you don't find yourself front-page news for a data breach."

To that end, consider breach detection and prevention services that use artificial intelligence to identify and adapt to new threats in



PHOTO SOURCE: © URUPONG / ISTOCK VIA GETTY IMAGES PLUS

real-time, from security experts such as SonicWall, which has been fighting the cybercriminal industry for over 28 years. For more information, visit [sonicwall.com](http://sonicwall.com).

As cybercriminals hone their abilities, be sure to strengthen your security strategy to follow suit. With the right security measures, you can better protect your organization, business or household.

