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PG County Honored by the Maryland Economic Development Association

Prince George's County's \$50 million Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund recognized for attracting and retaining Maryland businesses

By Press Officer
Prince George's County Gov.

Cambridge, MD - Monday evening at the Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) Annual Conference and Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Chesapeake Resort in Cambridge, MD, Prince George's County was honored multiple times for its economic development successes. Specifically, Prince George's County's \$50 million Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund was given a MEDA Award for best Economic Development Program in the State of Maryland. Additionally, two Prince Georgians, Prince George's County Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure David S. Iannucci and former Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond Skinner were inducted into the MEDA Hall of Fame. The Maryland Economic Development Association (MEDA) is the leading organization of economic development professionals in Maryland, with almost 600 members from both government and the private sector in all jurisdictions in the State.

Each year, MEDA recognizes the people, programs, and projects that bring economic prosperity to Maryland.

"Over the past four years, Prince George's County has created over \$6 billion dollars in pipeline economic development – this success did not occur by accident or happenstance," said Prince George's County Executive Baker. "Our economic development success is a result of an incredible amount of work by our dedicated economic development team consisting of our Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, the Prince George's County Financial Services First Corporation, the Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority, the Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission working in concert with my office and the County Council. I want to congratulate the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and Financial Services First Corporation for winning a MEDA Award for our Economic Develop-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

Pastor Willie Mae Footman, 81, stands outside of the Saint Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church on the corner of 4th and I streets in Southeast Washington, D.C.

Historic African Union Methodist Protestant Churches Face New Challenges in New Era

By JASMINE WHITTINGTON
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON -- "The church has been a busy little building," said Bruce DarConte, marveling at the 90-year-old structure that houses St. Paul African Union Methodist Protestant (AUMP) Church near Nationals Park.

"It survived two gentrifications of the community, it sur-

vived the highway installation, it survived the construction of Capper/Carrollsborg, its demolition and the construction of Capital Quarter," he explained.

Today, St. Paul is still in survival mode. Surrounded by new housing and with most of its members having moved out of the neighborhood, the historic church's congregation has dwindled to about 15 hardy souls.

But the church's members, including community leader Bruce DarConte, his wife, Anne DarConte, and Pastor Willie Mae Footman have faith that the church will survive this crisis as well.

Founded more than 200 years ago by former Maryland slave Peter Spencer, the AUMP denomination has an aptitude for survival. The Delaware His-

torical Society and scholars credit the denomination to be the oldest incorporated, independent African American denomination in the country.

Today church leaders say, there are 24 AUMP churches in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Delaware, New Jersey, New

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Oxon Hill High School Principal Named 2015 Winner of the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

The Washington Post has named Dr. Jean-Paul Cadet, a principal at Oxon Hill High School in Prince George's County as one of twenty recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The metro area educators recognized were chosen by their school systems for demonstrated leadership abilities and a commitment to creating an exceptional educational environment for students, faculty and staff, among many other attributes. See the full list of winners here.

Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools, praised Dr. Cadet for his exemplary leadership and accomplishments.

"The success of a school begins with its principal and how their leadership transcends throughout the school," said Dr. Maxwell. "While ensuring excellence in teaching and learning in every classroom, Dr. Cadet goes beyond the call of daily demands to make a mean-



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Maryland's outreach and foreclosure prevention counseling efforts rank among the most effective in the country.

ingful impact, by inspiring students and staff to raise the bar of excellence," added Maxwell.

Winners will be honored during an award ceremony at The Post on Tuesday, May 5 and receive a personalized trophy, a monetary award and mentions in The Washington Post Magazine and on The Post's site.

The Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards were established in 1987 and honors principals who go beyond the daily responsibilities of their position to create an exceptional educational environment through dedicated leadership. The Post also named 20 recipients of the

Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards, which were formed in 1983 and recognizes pre-kindergarten-12 teachers who ensure students receive a high-quality education through first-class and creative instruction.

In presenting these awards, The Washington Post hopes to encourage excellence in school leadership and to contribute to the improvement of education in the Washington metropolitan area.

To read about the PGCPS honoree for the 2015 Washington Post Outstanding Teacher Award, visit the website at <http://www1.pgcps.org/communications/press.aspx?id=208835>.

PGCPS School-To-Work Training Program Partners With TGI FridaysSM

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – In an effort to graduate students who can navigate life successfully when traditional academic frameworks aren't effective, administrators at Prince George's County Public Schools Evening High School developed a School-to-Work Training Program.

The goal of the program, which is available at Evening High School-Crossland and

Evening High School-Northwestern, is to prepare students for employment by offering them with a wide variety of professional services. These services include: resume review and writing, interview preparation (mock interviews), wardrobe guidance, and employment databases.

The School-to-Work Training Program also maintains a partnership with TGI FridaysSM. As part of the partnership, TGI FridaysSM, located in District Heights and Greenbelt, uses Evening High School

as one of its recruitment centers. Students in the program have the opportunity to participate in pre-interview workshops with management and staff from the company.

"Our staff strongly believes that our students can have productive lives. One way to ensure this was to develop a program with a career-ready trajectory so that they can be trained and prepared for a career with upward mobility—not

See TRAINING Page A5

AC Hotel Washington, DC at National Harbor Opens its Doors to Guests

By Press Officer
AC Hotels Marriott

(National Harbor, Md. - AC Hotel Washington, DC at National Harbor, the third AC Hotels by Marriott to open in the United States, opened its doors to guests today.

The eight-story AC Hotel Washington, DC at National Harbor features 192 guest

rooms and six suites, 3,700-square-feet of meeting space and a fitness center. Additional amenities include free Wi-Fi, and signature spaces including AC Kitchen, AC Library and AC Lounge. The hotel is designed to attract millennials who want a sophisticated experience with style, inspired social spaces and technology.

BAR WITH A TWIST

At AC Hotel, beverages come first. The AC Lounge features all-knowing bartenders who act as a go-to source for exploring the local area. Guests can experience classic drinks, like its signature Gintonic, along with

See AC HOTEL Page A5

INSIDE

Comcast Awards \$118,000 in Scholarships to 109 Maryland High School Seniors

The Program recognizes students who strive to achieve their potential, who are catalysts for positive change in their communities, who are involved in their schools and who serve as models for their fellow students.

Community, Page A3

Stuck Outside the Poor Door

The contrast between the haves and have-nots might be especially stark at that New York building, but millions of families across the country are finding themselves on the wrong side of the poor door. Housing is the single largest expense for most families and for far too many is growing increasingly out of reach.

Commentary, Page A4

Metro Riders Like the New Series-7000 Trains

Ushered in are non-slip floors, lumbar support vinyl-cover seats and LCD maps that help passengers track their location. The cars are brighter in comparison to their dingy and dull predecessors and feature LED screens that provide riders with upcoming station information.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Avengers: Age of Ultron"

When Tony Stark jumpstarts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth's Mightiest Heroes ... Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Black Widow & Hawkeye, are put to the ultimate test as they battle to save the planet from destruction at the hands of the villainous Ultron.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What on Earth are plastic "microbeads" and how are they threatening the Great Lakes?

— Billy Alexander,
Macon, GA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Remembering Morningside's longest-serving First Lady

Jean Glaubitz, who served as Morningside's First Lady for 43 years, would have turned 90 on May 19.

During those 43 years, her husband Jerry was not only Mayor of Morningside but Morningside's first chief of police, "Chief for Life" of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, judge advocate of VFW Post 9619, president of the County Board of Trade, special assistant to several Maryland Governors, president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors, and more. And Jean was there at his side, the best possible wife and companion. She was also president of the Morningside and County VFD Auxiliaries, Morningside Senior Citizens, and an officer in a half dozen other organizations.

She was born in Lincoln, Nebr., the daughter of William and Anna Quapp. When she was only 16, Jean Quapp met a handsome sailor, Gerald Glaubitz, at the five-and-dime where she worked in the days shortly before Pearl Harbor. A year later she married her sailor on Dec. 23, 1942, while he was on leave from the USS San Francisco.

After the war, in 1947, Jean and Jerry moved to 507 Maple Road in Morningside where they raised their daughter Carol and son Larry. After Jerry died in 2005, Jean lived on in that house until she moved to assisted-living homes, the final one, The Heritage in Solomon.

During those final years, she often called me. I miss those calls. She died March 19, 2014. I think it would be appropriate for the Town of Morningside to have a plaque or other marker honoring Jean. Perhaps in Glaubitz Circle.

Happy 90th birthday, Jean.

Neighbors

About 200 turned out for the Morningside elections on May 4. I don't have full coverage yet, but incumbent Todd Mullins, who has served on the Council since Feb. 2012, kept his seat. Bradley Wade, brother of Mayor Kenneth Wade, won a tight race

for the second seat. More in next week's column.

Morningside holds its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m. Swearing in for the two winners will also be held soon.

The Skyline Citizens Association turns 45 this month. We'll acknowledge this milestone at our meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m. at Skyline School.

Congratulations

To County Exec Rushern Baker who ran the Boston Marathon. He finished in 5 hours, 47 minutes.

To Dr. Jean-Paul Cadet, of Oxon Hill High School, who has been named Prince George's County's Principal of Excellence by The Washington Post.

To Louis and Marcella Constantino Palmer on their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married in Camp Springs on April 22, 1955. They currently live in Port Tobacco and have five children, six grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter.

Changing landscape

Styrofoam clamshells, packing peanuts and other polystyrene products have been banned by a unanimous County Council vote. Legislation is due to go into effect on July 1, 2016.

Work continues on MGM National Harbor with completion due the fall of 2016. It'll cost approximately \$1.2 billion, will be 23 stories high and feature 308 guest rooms, 12 restaurants, a 3,000-seat theater and 4,800 parking spaces.

A new Fairmont Heights High School is set for construction and is expected to be ready for students by August 2017.

Coming up

"The Civil War: Why the North Won and the South Lost" will be discussed by Dr. Tom Jarvis at a free lecture June 6 in the Surratt Society's Hall Research Center at 4 p.m. For information, call 301-868-1121.

Jimmy Holson, athlete and philanthropist

James Joseph "Jimmy" Holson, 61, of Edgewater, an incredible athlete and philanthropist, died April 7. He was born in

Washington and grew up in Camp Springs, the oldest son in a family of ten girls and four boys. He graduated from St. Philip's and Bishop McNamara where he excelled in varsity football and he continued to play sports throughout his life. In 2012 he was inducted into the Greater Washington Hall of Fame along with his father.

Jimmy's charitable contributions were never ending, whether it was running his holiday food and clothing drives for the DC homeless, or providing construction work for the elderly and less fortunate. He was a major contributor to the PAL youth baseball organization and a sponsor and donor for a number of charities. In 1985 he was a founding member of the Chris Delinski Memorial Foundation in honor of his late sister.

As a teenager, Jimmy grew up working for his father's roofing business, J & J Contractors, Inc. He eventually took over operations and had successfully maintained his family's legacy that boasts over 60 years of notable work. The company's largest client has always been the Archdiocese of Washington.

Survivors include his son James and daughter Lindsay Van Leer; parents, James "Bootie" and Patricia Hill Holson; sisters, Cathy Waltersdorff, Barbie Lloyd, Vicki Farri, Maureen Taylor, Ann Horak, Paula Caulk, Joan Emrick and Jeannine Schaefer; brothers Michael, Pat and Mark; and a multitude of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by sisters Christi Delinski and Bonnie Watson. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Catholic Church in Davidsonville.

Milestones

Happy birthday to my granddaughter Naomi Gallegos and Helen Fadness, May 15; Father Charles McCann, Kenneth Darcy, Tim Cordero and Kitty Marshall, May 16; Patti (Parco) Grey, May 18; Kaylin Barbour, Otis Jones and Ellen Ashby, May 19; and Aidan Kilbride, May 20.

Happy 52nd anniversary to Aidan and Mary Kilbride on May 18; to Dennis and Leigh D'Avanzo, their 26th on May 20; and to Ronnie and Karen Ellis, their 49th on May 20.

Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Joan Falby, Janet Smalling, Nana Smalling, Abena Smalling, Doris Hill, Andrea Johnson, Angela Williams, De'Andre Bowden, Teresa Joiner, Agatha Jalloh, Ihuoma Mbakwe, Blair Stephens, Cameron Barron, Mia Kerrick, Carolyn Glee, Ricky Thomas, Dacinth Dorsett and Beverly Vitale who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of May.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversaries to Clinton United Methodist Church members Valentine and Charmaine Grant, Bonnie and Mark Hayes who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries during the month of May.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC.

CSS is a caring Agency serving Southern Prince George's and Northern Charles Counties. If you need help with rent or mortgage, food, utilities or health care contact Community

Support Systems to see if they can help. The contact number is 301-372-1491. You must live in their service area-Brandywine, Baden, Croom, Malcolm, Accokeek, Aquasco, Upper Marlboro (South of Route #4 and Clinton (South of Woodyard Road).

CSS 2015 BIG SALE

Saturday, May 16, 2015 there will be a Yard Sale and Flea Market from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. The rain date is May 23, 2015. The Yard Sale will be held at the Chapel of the Incarnation located at 14070 Brandywine, Road Brandywine, Maryland 20613. There are spaces for rent for \$15. There will be refreshments on sale. For more information call 301-372-1491.

FLY UNDER MY WINGS

Come travel with Fly Under My Wings to Niagara Falls, Canada August 7-August 11, 2015. The trip includes: Harriet Tubman 2-Days Underground Railroad Tour, Tour of Toronto and Maid of the Mist Boat Ride. You must have a Passport to travel. For more information contact Phyllis Slater at (301) 653-7345.

THE KARATE KID

New Hope Fellowship U.M. Parish presents the Karate Kid on May 23, 2015. Let's Talk: 5:00 PM and Show Time: 6:00 PM. We will have exhilarating, fun, spirit-filled entertainment and many life applications. Rev. Constance Smith is the Pastor of New Hope fellowship U.M. Parish.

Come and join us at The Family Life Center 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, 20772. Hot dog, popcorn and drink with each admission donation of only \$8.00. Five years and under free. Contact Wanda Contee 301-404-6513, Valerie Pinkney 240-350-5105, Jina Jackson 301-787-4422 or Deborah Proctor 301-275-2544.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

The Women of Westphalia invite you to celebrate "Living free to be a better me, for His Glory" Sunday May 31, 2015. Rev. Dr. Lora Hargrove will be the guest speaker at both services. Rev. Timothy West, Senior Pastor of Westphalia located at 9363 D'Arcy Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards and Brooks Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Hubble Space Telescope

Washington, D.C. — On April 24th, Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) and Congressman Mo Brooks (AL-5) celebrated the 25th anniversary of the deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope, which was developed jointly by Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. For a quarter of a century, Hubble has provided over 1.2 million observations of more than 38,000 celestial objects, allowing scientists to study the most distant stars and galaxies as well as the planets in our solar system. It is one of the most productive scientific instruments ever built, with more than 12,800 scientific papers published utilizing Hubble data.

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards: "The Hubble Space Telescope is among the greatest scientific achievements since we started searching the night sky for a better understanding of our universe. Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, home to the control center for Hubble, has a team of scientists and engineers monitoring the telescope's performance and converting the raw data into usable information. Originally expected to last only 15 years, NASA now estimates that Hubble's mission life can at least double that figure, a testament to the dedication of NASA and its public and private sector partners. In its 25 years of service, Hubble has helped scientists to solve many of the great mysteries of the universe, changing fundamentally how we see our cosmos. More importantly perhaps, it has inspired a new generation of researchers and scientists."

Congressman Mo Brooks: "Today we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope, designed and developed at Marshall Space Flight Center. Hubble has greatly expanded man's understanding of the cosmos, providing awe-inspiring images of space which have broadened the appeal of science and space for countless people. From the astonishing Hubble Deep Field image, to determining the rate of cosmic expansion (the Hubble Constant), few telescopes have had such a profound impact on astronomical research as Hubble. I look forward to the future of space telemetry, and I eagerly await the many exciting cosmic revelations to come. I'm proud of Marshall's contributions to Hubble, and am thankful for the partnership with Goddard that resulted in one of NASA's most successful and long-lasting science missions."

Out of curiosity about the content of the seemingly "empty" areas of our universe, scientists decided to take the deepest optical picture of the universe by aiming Hubble for 150 consecutive orbits over 10 days on a single piece of sky. The Hubble Deep Field image, above, covers only a tiny segment of the sky—about the width of a dime 75 feet away. Inside that tiny segment of the universe, Hubble uncovered a bewildering assortment of



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

roughly 3,000 galaxies at various stages of evolution, transforming our view of the distant universe.

Fitch Ratings Again Gives Bowie a AAA Bond Rating

Fitch Ratings announced on March 19, 2015 that it had affirmed the AAA bond rating it had previously given to the City of Bowie for its general obligation bonds. The AAA rating is the highest rating issued by Fitch and is assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments, when it believes this capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

In a press release issued by Fitch on March 19th, the company cited the City's strong finances, conservative budgeting practices, operating surpluses, and ample reserves as being key factors in its rating. The rating is to assess the risk to investors for the general obligation bonds issued in 2009, when the City was building a new City Hall to house municipal offices and the headquarters of the Bowie Police Department. The City of Bowie originally received a AAA long term rating on its general obligation debt from Standard and Poor's and similar high ratings from Moody's and from Fitch in 2009.

Mayor G. Frederick Robinson said, "This rating not only reaffirms to investors that our bonds are an extremely safe investment, it is also an endorsement of the sound financial management practices that guide our decision making. In addition, it demonstrates to residents, business owners, and others that Bowie is a very well run City, with a low unemployment rate, and ideally situated in the Washington, DC/Baltimore region."

Two Maryland Schools, One System Nominated For National Green Ribbon Honor

Federal Program in Its Fourth Year

BALTIMORE — The Maryland State Department of Education today nominated two schools and one local school system for the U.S. Department of Education's 2015 Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) Award.

The two schools nominated are: Northwest High School (Montgomery County Public Schools) and J. C. Parks Elementary School (Charles County Public Schools). The Howard County Public School System was nominated for the district award. All applications for the award were evaluated by a committee comprised of staff from State and national government

agencies, State and regional environmental organizations, and private businesses.

"Maryland schools have been at the leading edge in their commitment to environmental education and to practices that will sustain our world for future generations," said State Superintendent Lillian M. Lowery. "These nominees represent the great work taking place throughout our State."

Education agencies in 41 states and territories, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, are participating in the fourth year of the GRS award program. Maryland schools have received national honors during each year of the program.

Federal officials will recognize schools that save energy, reduce costs, feature environmentally sustainable learning spaces, protect health, foster wellness, and offer environmental education to boost academic achievement and community engagement. The recognition award is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about practices proven to result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness, as well as a government-wide aim to increase energy independence and economic security.

Hoyer Tours Prince George's County Public Safety Communications Facility

BOWIE, MD — Today, Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5) toured Prince George's County's Public Safety Communications, the county's 911 and dispatch center located in Bowie, Maryland. Rep. Hoyer was also briefed by Brian Moe, the director of Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security on first responder communications in the county, including an overview of the county's radio system and communications with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

"I was pleased to visit Prince George's County's Public Safety Communications today and hear about the role they play in the county's crime prevention and emergency response," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "I was proud to secure federal funding to enhance communications equipment and provide infrastructure upgrades to the old network system. Responding quickly and efficiently to Prince George's County residents and visitors in an emergency is critical, and the work being done at this facility is vital to our efforts to help keep Prince George's County residents safer."

The Public Safety Communications facility opened in 2011 and is responsible for maintaining and operating the county's state of the art P-25, standards-based digital trunked radio network. This network is the primary voice network for all of Prince George's County's public safety first responders as well as other County public service agencies.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

A Guide to Travel Insurance

A sudden storm, a missed connection or a family emergency can turn a hard-earned vacation or important business trip into a big disappointment. Travel insurance can save the day, but picking the right coverage requires research, cost comparison and above all, reading the fine print.

A quick online search can make it easy to identify and price highly rated travel insurance carriers. But personal circumstances and coverage should be examined thoroughly before any trip reservations are made.

First, travelers should evaluate their own life, home, auto and health insurance coverage. It is wise to call personal insurance agents to discuss the future trip and its accommodations and activities. The idea is to see where personal coverage ends and where additional travel insurance might be beneficial.

Some travelers, for example, might be surprised to know that their homeowners' policy actually offers liability coverage for out-of-state or foreign trips and their health insurance might offer full or partial evacuation insurance. Credit card companies may offer additional protection. List specific risks and circumstances surrounding the trip to discuss with insurers to determine whether additional travel coverage might be necessary.

For business trips, employees should repeat this process with their benefits or human resources departments. Employers that regularly do business in risky areas where crime, geopolitical conflict or rough weather are common may have specific systems in place for these issues. But it is important to know how extensive an employer's protections might be to determine whether you'll need additional coverage.

Travel insurance covers these main risks: trip cancellation and/or trip interruption, baggage loss, medical and/or dental, pre-existing (medical) conditions and evacuation (medical or otherwise).

It is difficult to cite average premiums for trips because every trip and traveler is different. Coverage for short domestic trips with basic coverage for cancellation or lost baggage might cost some money; comprehensive coverage for a major world excursion may go well into the hundreds.

Travel companies like airlines and cruise lines sell various forms of trip insurance, but it might be wise to buy directly from an actual insurance company in the travel insurance business, better known as a "third-party" carrier. While travel insurance sold by travel companies might be adequate, they generally cannot match the quality of coverage or customer service that a full-time insurance provider can.

Before you buy travel coverage, it is particularly important to know what the policy's exclusion clause says. That section of the travel insurance policy indicates particular activities or circumstances that will prevent the payment of a claim.

Insurance companies respond to claims when customers file documents properly. Travelers who need to make a claim should have copies of receipts, ticketing and paperwork relevant to losses such as flight delays, lost luggage or any other potential loss indicated in the policy. If the claim is the result of a criminal act, policyholders should make sure they obtain and file copies of police, hotel or other relevant documentation safely.

Finally, it never hurts to visualize potential risks on an upcoming trip. Quick online searches make it easy for travelers to check on weather and potential conflicts at their destination. The U.S. State Department features its own global travel alert and warnings webpage (<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html>) to prepare travelers for local crime, terrorist attacks or geopolitical conflict. The U.S. National Weather Service also features sites for long-term storm and hurricane prediction, though travel insurers will generally not issue coverage after a particular storm system is named.

Bottom line: Travel insurance can be a financial lifesaver. However, it's important to thoroughly evaluate such coverage in light of personal and business coverage you already have and, most of all, to read the fine print.



Comcast Awards \$118,000 in Scholarships to 109 Maryland High School Seniors

Annual Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program Recognizes Students' Leadership Skills, Academic Achievement and Commitment to Community Service

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

Baltimore — On March 13, 2015 — The Comcast Foundation announced the 2015 recipients of its annual Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Program awards in Maryland. The Program recognizes students who strive to achieve their potential, who are catalysts for positive change in their communities, who are involved in their schools and who serve as models for their fellow students. The philosophy behind the program is to give young people every opportunity to prepare for the future and to engage them in their communities. The program also demonstrates the importance of civic involvement, and the value placed on civic involvement by the business community.

"I applaud this year's well-deserving scholarship recipients who have chosen to make

their educational success a priority," said Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford. "Support from Maryland's corporate citizens like Comcast not only helps our students realize their potential in the classroom, it helps our state thrive in a global economy."

Comcast, joined by Lt. Governor Rutherford; Dr. Darla Strouse, Executive Director of the Maryland State Department of Education's Partnerships and Recognition Programs and other local elected officials, recognized the students at a special event held Thursday, March 12, at the Historic Inns of Annapolis. One hundred and eight recipients of the 2015 Maryland Leaders and Achievers® scholarships received \$1,000. DaNia Henry, a senior at Takoma Academy in Takoma Park was awarded a \$10,000 Comcast Founders Scholarship — instituted in honor of Ralph J. Roberts, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Comcast

Corporation — for a total of \$118,000 awarded this year to Maryland high school students. After a prize drawing, two students were also given iPads to use at college.

"I am very proud of these exemplary students," said Dr. Strouse, "and very thankful for the dedication of their teachers, guidance counselors and parents who supported the endeavors that led them to this great accomplishment."

"Our Leaders and Achievers Scholarship winners exemplify leadership and are committed to academic excellence and community service," added Donna Rattley Washington, Vice President of Government and Community Affairs for Comcast's Beltway Region. "We are honored to recognize their achievements, and excited to support them as they continue their educational journeys."

To date, Comcast has awarded more than \$22.8 million

to nearly 23,000 Leaders and Achievers Scholarship winners.

2015 Comcast Leaders and Achievers® Scholarship Recipients from Prince George's Maryland:

- Bria Pender of Lanham Christian School in Lanham
- Megan P. Lee of Riverdale Baptist School in Upper Marlboro
- Jennifer S. Enoch of New Hope Academy in Landover Hills
- Zyair O. Jennifer of Potomac High School in Oxon Hill
- Fatime-zara Beri of Laurel High School
- Jerron N. Hawkins of Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro
- Jianni E. Adkisson of Oxon Hill High School
- Marissa Jagarnath of Parkdale High School in Riverdale
- Moises Diaz Pereira, Jr. of From the Heart Christian School in Suitland

New Era from A1

York, and Pennsylvania. Maryland is home to 10 of those churches and there is one church in Washington--St. Paul. The denomination's membership increased from about 1,500 in 1865 to approximately 4,000 by 1900. Church officials were unable to provide a current number of its members.

Spencer was born into slavery in Kent County, Maryland about 1779. Later freed by the death of his slave master, Spencer moved to Wilmington, Delaware in the 1790s. There, he became active in the Asbury Methodist Church, a predominantly white congregation.

In 1805 about 100 "colored members" belonged to the church, making up almost half of the congregation. That same year, Spencer and about 40 other African Methodists left the church because of racial discrimination and started their own African Christian denomination, originally named the Union Church of Africans, an all-black denomination.

The denomination became incorporated in September 1813 in Dover, Delaware and is now known as African Union Methodist Protestant according to the Delaware Historical Society.

Over the years, much of the denomination's expansion happened in Maryland at churches like Mount Pleasant AUMP Church in Mardela Springs on the Eastern Shore.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

The Saint Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church in Southeast Washington, D.C. was built in 1924 on the corner of 4th and I streets and is listed as a historic landmark in the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites.

Rev. Michael A. Davis pastors Mount Pleasant. He was raised in Potomac, Maryland and is also a special education teacher in the Howard County public school system. He came to the AUMP Church from the Pentecostal Church six to seven years ago.

When asked how his Maryland church keeps founder Spencer's legacy alive, Davis responded, "Through reminders and worship." They celebrate Spencer on Founder's Day in

August and acknowledge him and his accomplishments during worship services.

Spencer's accomplishments include organizing and building 31 churches and schools. He also organized the Big Quarterly in Delaware, which is the oldest celebrated African American festival in the country, according to the Delaware Historical Society.

Spencer was "a voice of advocacy against racism, slavery, and the colonization of his people in

his time," said Dr. Lewis V. Baldwin, historian, author, and former professor at Vanderbilt University specializing in the history of black churches in the United States.

Spencer was also an advocate for sobriety and temperance and urged all his church members to live exemplary lives. He was a pioneer in resistance against discrimination and slavery.

Spencer died in Wilmington on July 25, 1843. His last words were "The battle is fought. The battle is fought and the victory is won forever." The "victory" Spencer references is a place for African Americans to worship freely.

In Spencer's time, when slavery was part of the social climate, leaders of black churches were often concerned with social justice. They used Christianity as a tool to fight against inequality and vied for their physical and religious freedom.

"The black church has been a place for people to get together to celebrate their humanity in a safe space. Having spaces for African people to express themselves in faith, freely, was a level of resistance," said Dr. Ida Jones, assistant curator of manuscripts at Howard University and adjunct professor in the African American studies department at the University of Maryland College Park.

St. Paul AUMP Church in Washington wants to continue this legacy. "We are here to save souls,



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

Pastor Willie Mae Footman holds a Bible in front of the altar of the Saint Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church in Southeast Washington, D.C. The church is part of the African-American denomination that was incorporated in 1813 and is the only surviving church in the Navy Yard area.

Office Help Wanted



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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Stresses Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Reforms and Resources at Hearing on DOJ Budget

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee, attended a CJS hearing to review the fiscal year 2016 budget request for the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The following are Vice Chairwoman Mikulski's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

"I'm glad to be here with Chairman Shelby and happy Loretta Lynch was finally confirmed as the United States Attorney General.

"Attorney General Lynch, you've had an eventful two weeks in office. This is your first hearing since being confirmed and I look forward to your testimony on the 2016 budget. I am eager to hear from you about ongoing efforts at the many Justice Department agencies.

"First off, I want to thank you Attorney General Lynch for your professional and intensive interaction with the Maryland delegation and with the leadership of Baltimore — our mayor, our law enforcement officers, our community leaders and our faith leaders.

"You and your team have been on the ground, including Vanita Gupta who leads the Civil Rights Division, Ron Davis who is the Director of the COPS Office and your Community Relations Service staff. On Tuesday, we were in Baltimore together listening

to the faith community, meeting with local officials and getting the facts.

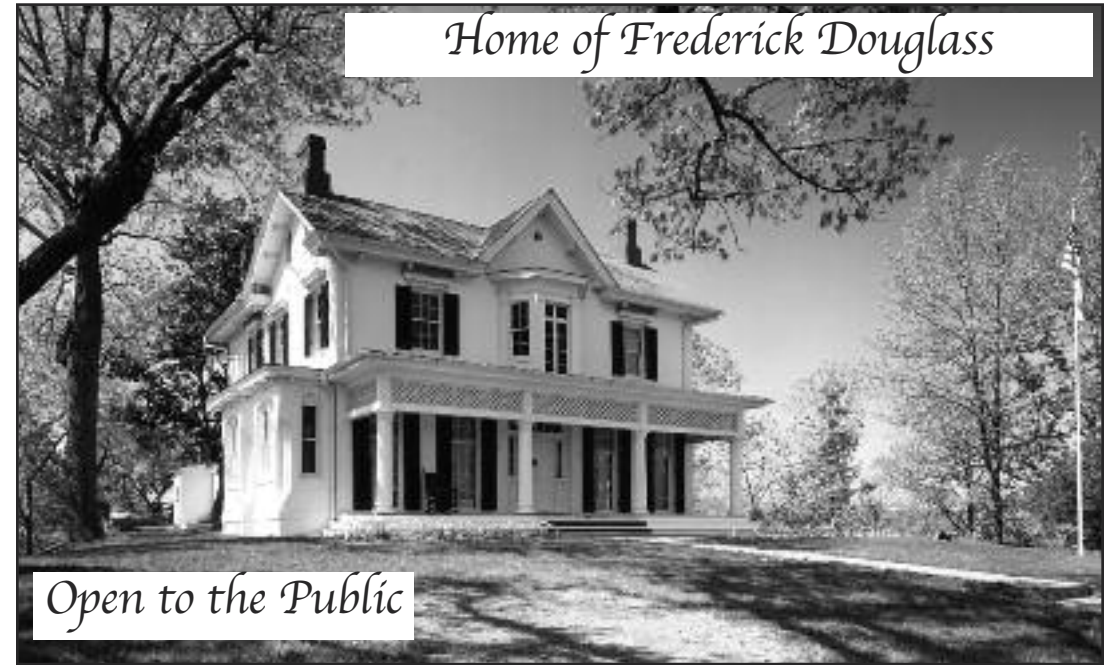
"Today I will not ask questions about the Freddie Gray investigation. Charges have been filed against the six officers and the legal process is unfolding. We should let justice be served with due process for Freddie Gray and his family, and due process for the officers and their families.

"However, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has requested you conduct a pattern and practices investigation, examining the entire Baltimore Police Department's procedures and their impact on the civil rights of Baltimore's citizens. Today, Senator Cardin and I will be sending a letter supporting the request for a pattern and practices investigation. I look forward to your response.

"In many cities throughout the country, including my own city of Baltimore, the trust between community and police is broken. We must do all we can to restore that trust. We need criminal justice reform undertaken with the fierce urgency of now.

"I intend to ask: what resources you need? And, what does need to be reformed? We need targeted reforms that protect the rights of communities, while also protecting the rights of officers who do difficult jobs and deserve our respect.

See DOJ BUDGET Page A6



Home of Frederick Douglass

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the most famous 19th century African American. His life was a testament to the courage and persistence that serves as an inspiration to those who struggle in the cause of liberty and justice. Visitors to the site learn about his efforts to abolish slavery and his struggle for rights for all oppressed people.

In 1877 Frederick Douglass purchased the home which he named Cedar Hill. This location was authorized Sept. 5, 1962, as Frederick Douglass Home; and re-designated Feb. 12, 1988 as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Frederick Douglass' life spanned nearly eighty years, from the time that slavery was universal in American states to the time it was becoming a memory. Douglass freed himself from slavery and through decades of tireless efforts he helped to free millions more.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Stuck Outside the Poor Door

More than 88,000 people have applied to enter the "poor door" at a new luxury condominium tower on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Only one in 1,600 will win the lottery to live there. Some months ago a New York developer made headlines with the plans for this building, which takes advantage of zoning rules encouraging affordable housing by including some low-priced rental units along with the luxury condos for sale. A separate entrance for the people living in the low-income apartments continues with segregated living inside. Low-income tenants won't be allowed to use the pool, gym, private theater, or any of the other amenities reserved for the wealthy owners. Critics immediately pounced on this design as a modern-day form of Jim Crow. But the need for affordable housing is so overwhelming that when the deadline came this month to participate in a lottery for the spots behind the "poor door" tens of thousands applied. Meanwhile, The New York Times reports that most of the 219 luxury condos on the other side of the building have sold, some for more than \$25 million.

The contrast between the haves and have-nots might be especially stark at that New York building, but millions of families across the country are finding themselves on the wrong side of the poor door. Housing is the single largest expense for most families and for far too many is growing increasingly out of reach. The number of families with worst-case housing needs increased from 6 million in 2007 to 8.5 million in 2011, including 3.2 million families with children, and the number of homeless public school students was 85 percent higher in 2012-2013 than before the recession.

Ayriq Sims has been one of those students. He and his siblings spent their childhood bouncing between unstable living arrangements, extended stays at relatives' homes, and homeless shelters. Even when Ayriq's family had somewhere to stay, he remembers all the times their lights and water were turned off, or when he went hungry because he'd made his younger siblings something to eat but there wasn't enough food

left for him to eat too. Through it all Ayriq stayed committed to excelling in school and winning an academic scholarship to The Ohio State University. But even this year, his senior year in high school and on his way to college, he found himself homeless again. Ayriq says: "I don't want to be homeless again. I don't want that to be who I am."

The Children's Defense Fund honored Ayriq with a scholarship for overcoming tremendous odds. Homelessness and housing instability can have serious, negative consequences on children's emotional, cognitive, and physical development, academic achievement, and success as adults. Federal rental assistance, including public housing and vouchers for private rentals, helps about 5 million of the neediest low-income households afford a place to live. But because of funding limitations only about 1 in 4 needy families with children receives assistance. To add insult to injury, the Republican House and Senate budgets are proposing severe cuts to already inadequate and desperately needed housing subsidies. The White House estimates that compared to the President's budget proposal, the Republican House budget would cut housing

vouchers for 133,000 families and housing assistance for 20,000 rural families. This is on top of the 2013 sequestration cuts that led to 100,000 fewer families receiving assistance by June 2014.

In our Children's Defense Fund report Ending Child Poverty Now we asked the non-profit Urban Institute to study the impact of expanding the housing voucher program to better meet the huge need among poor and near-poor families with children who would have to pay more than half of their income to afford a fair market rent apartment. The Urban Institute found that providing enough subsidies to serve eligible families would reduce child poverty by 20.8 percent and lift 2.3 million children out of poverty — the largest impact among the nine policy improvements we proposed in our report. More than 2.5 million more households would receive a subsidy, worth an average of \$9,435. We could easily pay for this housing subsidy expansion by making fairer and common sense reforms to close corporate accounting tax loopholes, saving \$58 billion a year. Or if we had more respon-

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Police Reform Now: The State of Emergency in our Precincts

"There is no crueler tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice."

— Charles de Montesquieu, "The Spirit of the Laws," 1748

A tragic déjà vu is playing out in communities all across America, particularly in the growingly skeptical streets of Black and Brown neighborhoods.

Once again, our nation is forced to grapple with fresh accounts of police misconduct in its deadliest incarnation. Once again, the victims are unarmed Black men and the perpetrators are the very public servants charged with keeping them—in fact, all of us—safe; it seems only the states and the circumstances change.

On April 4, Walter Scott was driving a Mercedes-Benz with a busted taillight through North Charleston, South Carolina. Officer Micheal Slager pulled Scott over. Said to be in fear of being arrested, the 50-year-old ran away from the car. A cellphone video shows Officer Slager chasing Scott and shooting at him with his stun gun, when that failed to stop him, he used his gun to fire eight shots at Scott's back, killing him on the scene. Weeks later, in a West Baltimore neighborhood, witnesses used cellphone video to capture parts of Freddie Gray's arrest. Police say the 25-year-old was arrested after making eye contact with the police and then running away. Gray can be heard screaming in pain as he's being dragged into a police van. While the mystery of what happened in the van has yet to be solved, we do know that his encounter with the police left him with serious spinal cord injuries. He died of those injuries a week later.

This unjust treatment of our nation's Black and Brown citizens by law enforcement officials sworn to dispense justice should stir, if not shock, our collective consciences. These heavy-handed, sometimes fatal, police tactics should inspire outcry from all corners of our country—and the world. But we can't leave our frustrations—and our fight—at the doorstep of outrage. Our challenge is to make the Scotts and Grays of this nation the rarest of exceptions, not the fatal rule. Anger has its place, but it is in action—strategic, comprehensive action—that we will begin to attack the cancer of police misconduct.

In light of the most recent deaths, and our nation's desperate need for solutions during this state

of emergency that calls for action, and an action plan, I want to reintroduce the National Urban League's 10-Point Justice Plan for police reform and accountability, calling for:

1. Widespread Use of Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras
2. Broken Windows Reform and Implementation of 21st Century Community Policing Model
3. Review and Revision of Police Use of Deadly Force Policies
4. Comprehensive Retraining of All Police Officers
5. Comprehensive Review and Strengthening of Police Hiring Standards
6. Appointment of Special Prosecutors to Investigate Police Misconduct
7. Mandatory, Uniform FBI Reporting and Audit of Lethal Force Incidents Involving All Law Enforcement
8. Creation and Audit of National Database of Citizen Complaints against Police
9. Revision of National Police Accreditation System for Mandatory Use by Law Enforcement To Be Eligible for Federal Funds
10. National Comprehensive Anti-Racial Profiling Law

The rage that has spilled out onto so many of our streets since the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri last year makes it clear that the issue of police-involved killings is one that will not be easily swept under a rug of unawareness and indifference. When we, as a nation, address the problem of police officers using deadly force, particularly against people in communities of color, we know that we are saving lives—perhaps our own—and shaping a more just system of justice for all. When officers are held accountable for using excessive force—as they have thankfully been held in the cases of Scott and Gray—we are encouraged and know that change is possible, but our work does not end there.

To deliver on the promise of fair treatment by law enforcement for every American, we: citizens, community stakeholders, policy-makers and politicians, must all commit to play our part for the long haul to right the historic wrong of the unequal treatment of people of color by police under the law.

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Don't Remain Trapped In An Abusive Relationship

Relationship abuse is more common than most people realize. The National Domestic Violence Hotline reports that as many as 12 million women and men in the U.S. were the victims of such abuse last year.

Reportedly, about 1 in 4 women, and 1 in 7 men, aged 18 or older, will have suffered severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. And psychological aggression by an intimate partner will be experienced by almost half of both men and women during their lives.

Why do people stay in relationships where abuse, whether physical or psychological, is taking place? There are numerous reasons. It may be fear of what will happen if the decision is made to leave the relationship. Or it might be that the abused person has been put down so often that their low self-esteem has them believing the abuse is their own fault.

For someone who has come from a troubled family, he or she may not be able to recognize the difference between an abusive relationship and a healthy one. The abuse may simply seem normal.

Embarrassment is another reason for not escaping an abusive relationship. The abused person may find it hard to admit that they've been abused, may worry that friends and family will judge them, and may even feel that they've done something wrong by being involved with an abusive person.

Even for someone who wants to leave, doing so can be difficult. The person may have little or no money of their own. They may have no place to go or know where to find help. Children may be involved.

Fortunately, today, there is a wider recognition of the abuse problem, and a number of agencies willing to offer support and shelter. The National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233) is one place that offers confidential information, support and resources for victims of abuse. They also offer assistance for someone who recognizes that his or her behaviors may be harmful or unhealthy to a partner.

If you are in an abusive relationship, call the Hotline for advice and help. And if you know of a friend or family member who may be the victim in an abusive relationship, let her or him know that you're there to listen and be supportive, without being judgmental. Let them know that there are options and encourage them to get help before their situation gets worse.

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

AC Hotel from A1

small plates at the AC Lounge. The lounge delivers to its guests' handcrafted cocktails, wine on tap, and local craft beers in a can.

EUROPEAN-INSPIRED FOOD SCENE

The food scene found at AC Hotel stems from its Spanish roots, offering tapas in the evening at AC Lounge and a European-inspired breakfast at AC Kitchen. Guests enjoy freshly baked croissants flown in from France, hand sliced prosciutto from a Berkel artisan slicer, an assortment of cheeses, sweet and savory tarts, and freshly brewed hot and iced coffee.

ART SCENE

AC Hotel Washington, DC at National Harbor was designed purposefully and has incorporated the linear design of the harbor into its art. Upon entering the eight-story hotel, guests will find a rope wall inspired by boats docked on the Potomac River, as well as modern nautical accents throughout. Outside in National Harbor lies a growing public art scene of both international and local artists. Special highlights include the iconic "The Awakening" statue by J. Steward Johnson, Jr. and "The Beckoning" by Albert Paley.

MILLENNIAL-DRIVEN EXPERIENCE

Looking to engage the millennial traveler, AC Hotels by Marriott incorporates a design-focus approach. Guests will find open-concept closets and integrated work desk and luggage benches in all rooms. Complimentary WiFi, ample USB and power ports and smart TVs that can stream on-demand content is a much appreciated, added bonus.

A PART OF THE COMMUNITY

AC Hotel adds to the roster of new investments in the growing destination of National Harbor. With its opening, it has created nearly 50 new jobs with more than half of the positions filled by associates living in Prince George's County, Maryland. Operated under a long-term management agreement by Marriott International, the hotel is owned by Ryman Hospitality Properties.

To learn more about AC Hotels by Marriott or to book an experience at AC Hotel Washington, DC at National Harbor, visit www.marriott.com/ac-hotels/travel.mi or www.marriott.com/ac-hotels/travel.mi.

Metro Riders Like Series-7000 Trains

By ANIKA REED
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—Metro has a new train on the tracks and it's all people can talk about. "Oohs" and "ahs" were heard Wednesday when passengers stepped onto the newest addition to Metro's fleet.

The transit agency debuted its first set of eight 7000-series train cars Tuesday morning on the Blue Line leaving Franconia-Springfield.

The technologically advanced 7000-series cars are constructed to meet the latest fire safety standards, uphold improved crashworthiness standards and have digital video surveillance systems.

The new cars have a sleek, redesigned look as well. Gone are the grimy, stained carpets and seats, the outdated color scheme and the garbled sounds from overhead speakers.

Ushered in are non-slip floors, lumbar support vinyl-cover seats and LCD maps that help passengers track their location. The cars are brighter in comparison to their dingy and dull predecessors and feature LED screens that provide riders with upcoming station information.

A Metro custodial employee, Kristie Harris, 37, was in awe during her first ride in one of the new cars Wednesday.

"I'm so impressed," Harris said. "I work for Metro, but before I worked for Metro I really wasn't a commuter."

Darnell Burrele, a 33-year-old who works in accounting,

rides Metro daily. "It's a lot nicer, cleaner, more modern," Burrele said. "I like the blue compared to the old [colors]."

"It's shiny and it's really comfortable," said interior designer and architect Lisa Fitzpatrick, 51. "I feel like the finishes, I think, will hold up. I think the new trains maybe we'll take care of."

Each car features slightly less seating, going from between 68 and 72 people to between 64 and 68 seats, to create additional aisle space for wheelchairs.

While the older cars were "backward compatible," the 7000-series cars cannot be coupled with the older ones because they are so advanced in their technology. All the new trains will be eight cars long and will operate in four-car sets.

"I would think if they're new things, they would be safer," said U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery employee Bobby Beasley, 29.

Indeed, Metro has emphasized its commitment to improved safety with the purchase of the 7000-series trains.

"Safety must always be at the forefront of everything we do, and that is exactly what this investment in our railcar fleet is all about," Metro Board Chair Mort Downey said in a press release.

Harris voiced her concern that the flooring might be slippery before boarding the train, but said it should be easier to clean than the carpeting on the older trains.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority introduced a new 7000-series train on Tuesday, April 13, 2015 featuring enhanced safety and technology features.

Metro will introduce the rest of the 528 new cars in the upcoming months and years, with mass production set to begin at the Kawasaki Motors plant in Nebraska. These additions will completely replace the 1000- and 4000-series trains and add a 128 cars to the fleet.

According to the transit agency, Metro's funding jurisdictions have indicated support for buying an additional 220 cars. Acquiring all the cars will cost upward of \$2 billion over the next few years, Metro said.

Frequent commuters interviewed Wednesday seemed to agree that the new system would make traveling the lines easier for tourists and out-of-towners.

Maine land surveyer Stephen Goule, 43, agreed and

said, "It's a big improvement. I think it's great, it makes it easier for everyone."

"We can hear that better, I know that," Goule said in reference to the automated voice and the voice of the conductor, commenting that the audio sounded like "Charlie Brown's teacher" on one of the older trains.

Metro said it designed the 7000-series cars with extensive customer input through the project's Customer Design Team, which was comprised of Metro riders.

The transit agency took the new cars off the tracks following Wednesday morning's rush hour for "training purposes" for its train operators, but they were put back in service beginning around 3 p.m., according to Metro's media relations office.

Training from A1

just a job," explained Cindy Martin, instructional coordinator at Evening High School.

Lovie Simmons, 18, attends Evening High School-Crossland and is part of the School-to-Work Training Program. When she began evening school, she struggled with poor attendance and low grades, and was in need of a job that would help provide a second income for her single-parent household.

Lovie shared her challenges with Martin and was immediately encouraged to apply for the School-to-Work Training Program. She applied for the program and was selected for

a full-time position with TGI FridaysSM.

"The School-to-Work Training Program has been very beneficial to me," said Lovie. "Not only have I been able to help my mother out financially but I've learned a lot about customer service. I communicate with people better, I arrive to work on time, and I'm always presentable in my uniform."

She added: "The program helped me get my feet through the door but it's up to me to work hard at my job and keep up my grades."

And Lovie is doing just that. She recently made the honor roll for the first time ever and will graduate with a high school diploma in May.

Lovie is one of four students who have been hired by TGI FridaysSM through the School-to-Work Training Program. All seniors participate in the program, however, students who demonstrate excellence are able to work with partner managers like TGI FridaysSM. These students must complete a highly selective pre-screening application and interview. Those who are selected for the program must sign a Signature of Understanding before the program starts. Once a part of the program, students participate in several meetings and workshops, where they create and receive feedback on their cover letters and resumes, complete at least three viable job applications, and participate in mock interviews.

Students who do not secure a job with TGI FridaysSM will receive help with securing other employment. All participants receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the program.

"We are extremely thrilled with the program and its direction," said Martin. "The program, and our partnership with TGI FridaysSM specifically, allows our students to gain first-hand knowledge about the competitiveness of the job market, the importance of academic success, strong work-ethic and professional speech. Our students will complete the program enlightened and equipped to market themselves for an array of post high school careers."

MEDA from A1

ment Incentive Fund. To date, this fund has leveraged 19 million County dollars into over \$300 million in private investment, creating and retaining over 3,000 jobs in Prince George's County. This accolade is clear evidence of this County's economic resurgence."

During this event, two Prince Georgians were named to the Maryland Economic Development Association's Hall of Fame for their career achievements in economic development - Prince George's County Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure David S. Iannucci, and former Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond Skinner. The Hall of Fame honor is given to those who have made a significant contribution to the economic development profession in Maryland. Consideration is given to the individual's years of service, quality of service, impact on Maryland's economy, and contributions to professional development. Please

click here for photograph of County Executive Baker and Hall of Fame recipient David S. Iannucci.

"David Iannucci has been on the front lines of leading our Prince George's County Renaissance in terms of economic development since the beginning of my administration," said County Executive Baker. "David has been our critical economic development team member who helped develop and implement the \$50 million Economic Development Incentive Fund. He has also worked to bring a new Regional Medical Center to Largo, the Maryland State Housing and Community Development Headquarters to New Carrollton, and attract the new FBI headquarters to Prince George's County. At the core of these efforts, David is focused on my goal of creating and retaining jobs, growing our tax base, and supporting economic development opportunities for all citizens of Prince George's County. His successes in Prince George's County alone over the past four years are worthy of a Hall of Fame but his success is compounded by his tireless economic development work

and advocacy over the past three decades of service to the citizens of the State of Maryland. I also want to congratulate David's fellow Hall of Fame honoree and Prince Georgian, Raymond Skinner for his induction into the MEDA Hall of Fame. As both a Director of the Prince George's County and the State of Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development, Ray Skinner has tirelessly dedicated his life to making Maryland communities more livable."

BIO OF MEDA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE DAVID S. IANNUCCI:

David S. Iannucci has served in the Administration of Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker as the Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Public Infrastructure since 2011. In that position, he directly oversees the activities of three of the County's organizations and agencies with responsibilities for economic development. His duties include a leadership role in support of the County Executive's efforts to promote the County as the superior economic location in

the Washington DC region. In addition to directing efforts to grow and retain private sector jobs in the County, Mr. Iannucci has played a prominent role on behalf of the County Executive with key projects such as a new Regional Medical Center, the Purple Line, and the pursuit of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

Mr. Iannucci served as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development under former Governor Parris Glendening, as well as Deputy Chief of Staff, from 1996 to 2003. As Secretary, he was a passionate promoter of Maryland's technologically superior workforce and the important connection between economic development and higher education. From 2003 to 2010, Mr. Iannucci served as the Executive Director of the Baltimore County Department of Economic Development, where he led efforts to promote and market Baltimore County as a business location and its transition to a diversified, knowledge based economy. Mr. Iannucci was the

See MEDA Page A6

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Avengers: Age of Ultron”

Avengers: Age of Ultron
Grade: B-
Rated PG-13, a little mild
profanity, some mild innuendo,
lots of comic book action
2 hr., 21 min

In “Avengers: Age of Ultron,” the 43rd film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe®, Earth’s mightiest heroes™ must band together to squabble amongst themselves, and also to save the world from a deadly threat unleashed by, uh, themselves. The Avengers’ ultimate goal is for the world not to need them anymore, but it seems like the world will always need the Avengers as long as the Avengers are around.

The threat is Ultron, an artificial intelligence program designed by Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) and semi-accidentally brought to life in a way that gives it full autonomy. Ultron was to bring about world peace, but now that it’s alive (sort of), Ultron has other, deadlier ideas. Taking the form of a muscular robot, Ultron has James Spader’s literal voice and writer-director Joss Whedon’s figurative voice. That is to say, he talks like a Joss Whedon character, all glib and slangy, like everything is a joke.

Also speaking like a Joss Whedon character: everyone else in this movie.

But you needn’t fear that Whedon has made “Age of Ultron” distinctly his own. No, it is still very much a Marvel Cinematic Universe® movie, with the same look and feel and vibe and climax (everyone fighting some



ROTTENTOMATOES

When Tony Stark jumpstarts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth’s Mightiest Heroes, including Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Black Widow and Hawkeye, are put to the ultimate test as they battle to save the planet from destruction at the hands of the villainous Ultron.

big thing in the air over a city) as the rest. There is a cosmic MacGuffin that has to be kept out of villains’ hands, and a Stan Lee cameo (BE SURE TO CHEER LOUDLY WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE HIM!!!!).

Tony Stark is at odds with Captain America (Chris Evans) over the scope of their mission. Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo) is dating Natasha (Scarlett Johansson), who has found a method for calming him down after Hulk episodes, though he’s still worried he can’t control himself. Thor (Chris Hemsworth) has a hammer. There’s still no need for poor Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), but he’s here anyway. To address that issue, Whedon has someone tell him that the Avengers DO need him. This person (not one of the Avengers, crucially) doesn’t explain why or how

they need him, but we’re supposed to feel like they do, because someone said it. Just take her word for it, I guess.

There are also a couple of new mutants, except we can’t call them mutants because that’s an X-Men thing, and the X-Men movies, despite being cinematic works based on characters from Marvel comic books, are not part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe®. One of them is Quicksilver (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), who moves really fast and should not be confused with the other Quicksilver who moves really fast who was in the most recent X-Men movie. These are two totally different Quicksilvers. This Quicksilver’s twin sister, Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), is also present. She has telekinesis and other psychic powers.

I’ve basically enjoyed almost all of the Marvel Cinematic Universe® movies, especially on first viewing. (I’m a big Whedon fan, too, actually, but COME ON with the characters all sounding alike.) But cranking out so many in such a short span of time — “Iron Man” was only seven years ago — dilutes the effect of seeing superheroes dash across the big screen. The impact is weakened even further when the movies begin to take on a certain sameness to them, as the last few have done. It’s like we’re watching consecutive episodes of a very large, very expensive TV show. You might love the show, but it’s not exactly an “event” every time it’s on, you know?

So ... it’s fine. A few good jokes, some decent action. Nothing surprising or very memorable. But hey, tune in next week.

MEDA from A5

Chief Legislative Officer for former Governor William Donald Schaefer from 1988 to 1993. He also served as the Vice President of Policy and Public Affairs with Prudential Health Care.

Mr. Iannucci is a 1979 graduate of the University Of Maryland School Of Law and a member of the Maryland Bar, and a 1974 graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park. David S. Iannucci is a past President of the Maryland Economic Development Association. A long-time resident of Prince George’s County, he resides in Bowie with his wife and daughter.

BO OF MEDA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

RAYMOND A. SKINNER:

Raymond A. Skinner recently served of Secretary of the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development from February 2007 to January 2015. In this position, which he previously held from 1998 to 2003, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the department and managed Maryland’s housing finance, mortgage insurance, community development, and building code programs. Prior to his appointment as Secretary he was President and CEO of The Skinner Group LLC, a consulting firm providing services in affordable housing finance,

community and economic development, and government relations. Previously he served as Director of the Prince George’s County Department of Housing and Community Development and as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Office of Business and Economic Development.

Mr. Skinner has over 30 years of professional experience in urban planning, affordable housing and community revitalization and has been an active leader in the field. He has held leadership positions with the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA), the National Housing Conference (NHC), the National Association of Housing

and Redevelopment Agencies (NAHRO), and the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSDA).

Mr. Skinner holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Pennsylvania State University and a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. He has also been awarded a Certificate in Real Estate Development and completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University. A native of Philadelphia PA, Secretary Skinner lives in Bowie, MD with his wife Karen and children Kevin and Kimberly, and volunteers his time with numerous civic and nonprofit organizations.

DOJ Budget from A4

“As appropriators, we put money in the federal checkbook to fund the Justice Department. Last year, this Committee put \$2.3 billion into the federal checkbook for grant programs and targeted resources that help police and local governments make their communities safer and more secure. These programs range from tackling the rape kit backlog to training judges handling child abuse cases. Let’s look at a few examples of what Justice Department grant funds buy:

“Mayors have told us they need help getting enough cops on the beat, so we put \$180 million in funding to hire 1,000 new officers.

“Police departments told us they need better equipment and training, so we put \$375 million into Byrne-JAG grants, which helped 1,500 local police departments buy officer radios, computers for squad cars, police car dash cameras and other equipment and training, including body cameras. In fact, this Committee provided \$20 million to purchase body cameras in 2015, and the request includes another \$30 million for 2016.

“Communities and non-profits want help keeping our young people on the straight and narrow. The Omnibus included \$252 million for juvenile justice programs, such as delinquency prevention and youth mentoring. Are we getting our money’s worth? Are we doing enough prevention and intervention?”

“Those are just some of the resources we provide to help communities. But resources aren’t enough. We’ve also heard calls for criminal justice reform from faith based organizations, community leaders and national civil rights organizations.

“There are three to consider here today, and I’d like to hear your reaction during this hearing or following it in writing.

“First, tie grant funding to training. I just discussed some of the important grants for state and local law enforcement. In order to get those grant funds, should DOJ require training on racial and ethnic bias and use of force? What national standards should we require departments to meet? Are those standards developed and in use?”

“Second, examine extensive use of body-worn cameras. Some

see recording encounters between police and the community as deterrence against improper use of force, others see it as protection. But I have questions: what policies need to be in place to meet privacy concerns, technology concerns and fiscal concerns? Should we be funding body cameras? What will we learn from pilot programs funded in 2015? We put in \$20 million for body camera demonstrations, but in Baltimore alone it would take \$9 million to put a camera on every officer. Are body cameras a needed reform, or just a quick fix solution?”

“Third, the examination of broken windows policy, which now appears to have resulted in a broken trust with the community. Initially, it appeared to be a success — crime rates were lower and even community leaders seemed satisfied with it. The idea was to stop youth from doing minor crimes to prevent them from escalating to major crimes. But what happened was an obsession with statistics. Performance became measured on how many people you stopped, not how many problems were solved.

“According to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), in

2012, there were more than 120,000 police stops in Baltimore. People were stopped for broken windows offenses, but we never fixed the broken windows. We never addressed the vacant houses, lack of jobs or truancy issue. What are your plans and strategies to examine broken windows policy to make sure police strategies don’t contribute to lack of trust within communities?”

“Last week, on that horrible night — it’s true a couple hundred kids caused a significant disturbance, but it’s also true that more than 85,000 of Baltimore’s kids went home and did what they were supposed to.

“Baltimore is a great city of over 610,000 law abiding people who respect the law and want the law to respect them. They are ready to help do their part. They don’t want quick fixes or money thrown at them or see the effort gone as soon as the TV cameras are gone. They want relentless follow through on what needs to be done long term to fix the broken windows and bring about systemic change. I look forward to hearing your ideas.”

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

So... the NYPD Just Broke an NBA Player’s Leg

Let’s not “bury the lead” here. At a moment when people across the country are reckoning with the deadly reality of police violence and the terror it imposes on black communities, the New York Police



Department fractured the leg of a player in the National Basketball Association. The NYPD had an interaction with Thabo Sefolosha of the Atlanta Hawks, and they broke his damn leg.

Sefolosha’s damaged fibula comes after a season when NBA players spent last winter making statements against police violence, after the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. It also comes at a time when police brutality is under an exacting microscope following the execution of Walter Scott by Officer Michael Slager in North Charleston, South Carolina. In the blinkered reality of the sports world, the big story is that the damage to Sefolosha has happened right when the Atlanta Hawks are about to enter the playoffs with the best record in the Eastern Conference, jeopardizing what has been a dream season. Now, unless they make a deep playoff run, it will be remembered as a dream trapped between nightmares; a squad whose season began under a cloud of racist controversy, with the ugly leaked interactions between owner Bruce Levenson and general manager Danny Ferry, and now ends under a similarly colored cloud.

How in the hell did the NYPD come to injure Thabo Sefolosha? One moment fellow NBA player Chris Copeland and Copeland’s girlfriend Katrine Saltara were being stabbed at a trendy Chelsea nightclub (both are in stable condition), then Sefolosha and his Atlanta Hawk teammate Pero Antic were being arrested for obstruction... and then a broken leg. As for how Sefolosha’s fibula was fractured, there is the police version of what went down and then there is Thabo’s version. Stuningly, several outlets including ESPN first printed the police’s version as fact. If nothing else, the death of Walter Scott should be a lesson to all of us that there is a chasm between what the police can say happened and the reality of a situation.

The police version, to quote ESPN’s original article, was, “Sefolosha sustained the injury while resisting arrest outside a Manhattan night club early Wednesday morning. Sefolosha was arrested along with teammate Pero Antic for interfering with local police’s efforts to set up a crime scene following the stabbing of Indiana Pacers forward Chris Copeland.”

A great deal of credit should go to the author of this piece, Kevin Arnovitz, who changed the wording in the article after a social media pushback. But the original text should be a reminder, especially this week of all weeks, that we should never take police versions as synonymous with reality. Sure enough, Sefolosha and Pero Antic deny this version of events. Their only statement has been the following:

As members of the Atlanta Hawks, we hold ourselves to a high standard and take our roles as professionals very seriously. We will contest these charges and look forward to communicating the facts of the situation at the appropriate time. We apologize to our respective families, teammates, and the Hawks organization for any negative attention this incident has brought upon them. We are unable to provide further comment as this is an ongoing legal matter.

We do have a videotape of what took place*, but all it reveals is multiple police officers jumping the rail-thin 6’7” 220 pound Sefolosha. Ironically, or tellingly, his fellow-arrestee, Pero Antic, has an appearance we’ll describe as ornately terrifying. Tattooed, bald, seven feet tall and over 260 pounds, he is a Macedonian guy who happens to be white. Sefolosha is a Swiss guy who happens to be black. The terrifying seven-footer walked away and the guy from Switzerland was jumped. Whether or not racial bias was involved, the optics of this are very familiar to anyone who has followed the methodologies of the NYPD.

In time, we will find out what happened. Sefolosha has the deep pockets and the lawyers to either wrest some justice out of this situation or, if it is determined that he did obstruct justice, make it go away. But in the league, it will be seen as bigger than one case, one confrontation, one injury. This is the year when the NBA intersected with the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Perhaps after a several month lull, players or the NBPA** will have something to say, if not about Walter Scott, then about Thabo Sefolosha. The message from NBA players last winter was that “what happened to Michael Brown or Eric Garner could happen to me.” Well, police violence has come home. This is bigger than the damage the Hawks have suffered to their title dreams. It’s about whether fame and fortune can buy safety in the United States, if one also happens to be living while black.

* Since the publishing of this article, another video of the arrest has been released, which shows a member of the NYPD unsheathing a nightstick and either expanding it or striking Sefolosha while he is on the ground.

** The NBPA has announced that they will be launching their own independent investigation into the arrests. Their full statement: “The players union is concerned about the circumstances of Thabo Sefolosha and Pero Antic’s arrest and is doing its own investigation of the situation. The union was fully engaged in supporting all three players in court and in the precinct this week, and will continue to stay engaged as each situation evolves.”

Calendar of Events

May 14 — May 20, 2015

Seniors: UniverSoul Circus

Date & Time: Thursday, May 14, 2015 9:30 am-3:30 pm
Description: Come witness one of the most interactive circuses in the world--The UniverSoul Circus! It is deeply rooted in traditional circus fanfare with a fresh and energetic flair. Trip leaves from the Langley Park Senior Activity Center via Commission vans. Lunch is not provided during this trip, please bring spending money.

Cost: Resident: \$25; Non-Resident: \$30
Ages: 60 & Better
Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville 20783
Contact: 301-408-4343; TTY 301-446-3402

Youth Baseball Clinic

Date & Time: Thursday, May 14, 2015 6-8 pm
Description: The clinic is presented by Giant Food and Cal Ripken Baseball. Bring your baseball equipment; clinics will be conducted by local high school coaches!

Cost: Free
Ages: 7-15
Location: Cosca Regional Park
11000 Thrift Road, Clinton 20735
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

Xtreme Teens: Rising Stars Vocal Showcase

Date and Time: Saturday, May 16, 2015 7-10 pm
Description: There are plenty of talented, young singers in Prince George's County...these teens are the best! Cheer the soloists and vocal groups on as they compete for cash prizes at the Rising Stars Vocal Showcase.

Cost: \$5/person
Ages: 5 & Up
Location: Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Kay Theatre
University of Maryland, University Boulevard & Stadium Drive, College Park 20742
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-445-4512

A-May-Zing Animal Fest

Date and Time: Saturday, May 16, 2015 12 noon-4 pm
Description: Come see the animal kingdom on display! Bring the entire family to enjoy this exciting event, featuring birds of prey, reptiles, farm animals, a puppet show, food, arts & crafts, and other surprises.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg 20710
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Big Bubba's Fishing Rodeo

Date and Time: Saturday, May 16, 2015 9 am-12 noon
Description: Let Big Bubba and his friends teach your little anglers how to hook the big one! Fee includes: Rod & Reel (to keep), all bait, expert bait and cast assistance & a raffle ticket for 1 of 10 tackle boxes.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-resident: \$12
Ages: 6-10 (must be accompanied by an adult)
Location: School House Pond
14100 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074 TTY: 301-699-2544

Tryouts for Jr/Sr League Baseball Players

Date & Time: Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17, 2015 6 pm
Description: The Prince George's County Baseball Alliance is forming a Summer Baseball League to give players a chance to hone their skills and play more baseball.

Cost: Free
Ages: 13-15 & 16-18
Location: Prince George's Sports Park
13200 Woodmore Road, Mitchelville 20721
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-446-6802

Capital Pet Expo

Date and Time: Saturday, May 16, 2015 10 am-6 pm
Description: The Show Place Arena will host the Capital Pet Expo featuring tons of exhibitors, live entertainment, giveaways, pet products, demonstrations and a mega adoption event.

Cost: Free
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-952-7998

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, May 17, 2015 2:30 pm
Description: Enjoy an innovative performance from the Riversdale Chamber Music Society. Tonight will feature musicians from the woodwind quintet performing Igor Stravinsky's Rite of Spring.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Seniors: Strike Out Stroke!

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 10:30 am-11:30 am
Description: Did you know May is American Stroke Month? Suburban Hospital and the American Heart Association have partnered to help the fight against stroke as it is the leading cause of death in the United States that affects any subsection of the population.

Through this interactive workshop, learn to recognize key signs and symptoms along with ways to reduce risk factors for this life threatening condition. What you learn could save you or a loved one's life! Seminar provided by the NIH Heart Center at Suburban Hospital.
Cost: FREE
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Langley Park Senior Activity Center
1500 Merrimac Drive Hyattsville, 20783
Contact: 301-408-4343; TTY: 301-446-3402

EARTH TALK ... Helping to Prevent Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

Dear EarthTalk:

What can I do to help prevent deforestation in the Amazon even if I don't live in the region?

— Janine Greco,
Nutley, NJ

The fact that our climate, our air and our water know no national borders means that the forests are our mutual responsibility. We all depend on their services and we all play a part in causing deforestation even if we live far away geographically. Also, deforestation is occurring everywhere on the planet, not just in the Amazon rainforest, so doing your part locally could help retain tree cover and improve air quality in your region.

Most if not all deforestation is ultimately driven by our consumption, so avoiding products and companies responsible for deforestation is the logical first step. While it may seem obvious, asking about the source of the wood you are using on your next home repair project—and rejecting it if it comes from the tropical rainforest—will help efforts to prevent deforestation. Mahogany, ipê and other tropical hardwoods should be avoided unless they are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, a non-profit which vets sustainably

harvested timber operations around the world.

Another way to do your part to fight deforestation is to cut back on or eliminate meat from your diet. Cattle from the Amazon basin are most likely raised on ranches that used to be part of the rainforest. Likewise, expanding soybean farms in Brazil to feed cattle is a huge reason for Amazon deforestation. If you can't give up meat entirely, at least eat less and get it from local producers practicing organic techniques. Meatless Monday, a project of the Center for a Livable Future (CLF) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, provides many resources and ideas to try to get Americans to cut their meat consumption by at least 15 percent.

The expansion of palm oil plantations in tropical regions is the latest insult to tropical rainforests. Making your own homemade food and health/beauty products is one way to be sure you are avoiding palm oil, but you could also start by researching what you want online to find the best ready-made choices free of palm oil. Ethical Consumer's Palm Oil Free Product List, which includes dozens of rainforest-friendly baby foods, cereal bars, chocolate bars, pet foods, shampoos and soaps, is a good place to start.



CREDIT: NEIL PALMER (CIAT)

Even if you live thousands of miles away, you can help prevent deforestation in the tropical rainforests of the Amazon and elsewhere by making smart consumer choices.

And who knew that resisting the urge to upgrade your perfectly good cell phone or computer could help prevent deforestation? Mining throughout tropical regions in Central Africa and beyond for metals and minerals that go into our electronics leads to wide swaths of rainforest destruction as well. Buying electronics made from recycled materials when possible and avoiding products with built-in "planned obsolescence"—your old phone will probably work well for a few more years—are more ways to be part of the solution.

And of course, there's no better way to fight deforestation than by planting trees. The Arbor Day Foundation provides lots of

tips for starting or joining a tree planting campaign in your neck of the woods.

CONTACTS: Forest Stewardship Council, us.fsc.org; Meatless Monday, www.meatlessmonday.com; Ethical Consumer's Palm Oil Free List, www.ethicalconsumer.org/shoppingethically/palmoilfreelist.aspx; Arbor Day Foundation, www.arborday.org.

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New Era from A3

embrace the community, help serve the community and be a part of the community," said Footman.

Located at 401 I Street, SE, St. Paul was designed in 1924 by Romulus Cornelius (R.C.) Archer Jr., Washington's second licensed African American architect. It is a one-and-a-half-story building with Gothic-Renaissance architectural elements.

The church survived two neighborhood redevelopment projects. The first, in the 1940s Capper/Carrollsborg, resulted in the construction of over 700 units of low-income public housing.

The second, Capital Quarter in 2004, resulted in those public housing units being torn down. They were replaced with 514 mixed income town homes, which changed the dynamics of the once predominantly African American, working class community that came about only two generations after enslavement.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY JAMES LEVIN

From left: Bruce and Anne DarConte, members of the Saint Paul African Union Methodist Protestant Church, pose for a picture with Pastor Willie Mae Footman in their home near the church in Southeast Washington, D.C.

The neighborhood reconstruction left St. Paul as the only surviving church in the Navy Yard area of Washington, and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

"Our rooftop view has changed consistently every year for five years in a dramatic way that I have never seen. But the one constant that remains in this community, and all that's left of

its legacy is the little building," said Bruce DarConte.

Gentrification caused the church to lose members.

"After they moved all our members out, which were older members, they have moved away and as you see this is all a brand new community. A lot of our members didn't have transportation and a lot of them have died," said Footman, ex-

plaining the congregation's declining membership.

St. Paul plans to meet the needs of the new community and attract more people by inviting groups to use its facilities, according to Footman. The non-profit Near Southeast Community Partners already holds its meetings at the church.

Meanwhile, Mount Pleasant is also looking for ways to branch out and gain members.

"As a pastor, I'm working on drawing people in," said Davis. "Drawing new people requires us to go further out, going into Salisbury and Cambridge to evangelize."

He has about 30 members and most of them are older. However, he is confident his church will grow.

"I've seen smaller African American Churches grow into bigger churches. I've seen a church with nine members grow to have many more. I know it is possible for Maryland churches and other AUMP churches to grow," he said.

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 19 2015

2015 Green Summit

Please join the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) and other sustainability leaders for our 2015 Green Summit to **ENGAGE, PROMOTE** and **EMPOWER** action for environmental initiatives and sustainability practices in our County.

This **FREE** one-day event will feature sessions with community, business and nonprofit leaders, to include:

- litter
- urban farming
- composting
- recycling
- clean air & energy
- green businesses
- water
- green careers

WHAT: Prince George's County 2015 Green Summit

WHEN: May 19, 2015 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

WHERE: Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex
7007 Back Road
Ft. Washington, MD 20774

COST: FREE *Free parking available onsite*