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Prince George's County Library CEO Named Vice President of Maryland Library Association

By PRESS OFFICER
PGMLS

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County Memorial Library System CEO Kathleen Teaze was named vice president and president-elect of the Maryland Library Association, a professional organization which provides professional development, communication and advocacy supporting libraries in Maryland.

Teaze brings more than 25 years of experience in library leadership. Prior to joining Prince George's County Memorial Library System in 2010, Teaze was administrator for the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Previously, she was assistant



PHOTO: PG COUNTY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
PGMLS CEO Kathleen Teaze

director for Collier County Public Library and Sanibel Public Library in Florida. She also was

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Prince George's County Council Announces Blue Ribbon Commission Members

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCounty Council

The Prince George's County Council announces the members of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Addressing Prince George's County's Structural Deficit, established by Council Resolution 26-2015 as a part of the approved FY 2016 County Budget. The commission will convene for the first time in early September.

The Blue Ribbon Commission is charged with recom-

mending policies to the County Council and County Executive over the next year that will address the County's structural deficit—the imbalance caused when normal government spending exceeds tax revenues on an annual basis. The commission will collect, review and discuss comparative budget data and information regarding Prince George's County's fiscal health; policies and practices

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Steve Adelson, 53, owner and operator of Carnivore BBQ, prepares his truck for the lunchtime rush on 12th Street near Metro Center.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOT BY JAMES LEVIN

Social Media, Apps Make Their Mark on D.C. Businesses

By LILY HUA
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON—The phrase “there’s an app for that” has revolutionized the way small businesses and corporations run.

So with the growing number of social media tools and mobile apps, Capital News Service took to the streets and interviewed a sample of food

truck and coffee shop operators in the Washington, D.C. area to see how these new technologies are impacting businesses at ground level.

Generally, the business operators reported using Square for their credit card processing and a willingness to adapt to accepting Google Wallet and Apple Pay as they become more popular with the public. Overall, most owners said it

was important for their business to keep up with technological changes to better serve their customers.

Here are the details of our findings:

Square

Around lunch time, the streets of Washington are lined with food trucks offering everything from falafel to barbecue. The trucks are painted in a va-

riety of colors, but one little sticker was consistent on almost every vehicle: a small square logo alongside the Visa and Mastercard stickers.

Square, a privately owned company founded in 2009, popularized mobile credit card readers for small and corporate businesses. Through a small

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The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Playground Opening at Watkins Regional Park

By DYLAN REFFE
Capital News Service

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Take a walk down the yellow brick road into the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation's new *Wonderful Wizard of Oz*-themed Imagination Playground at Watkins Regional Park, which will have its grand opening celebration on Friday, September 25, 2015.

The 14,000-square-foot playground, which encourages learning and reading, is sure to make any child, or adult, feel like they are with Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman and the Cowardly Lion in the classic book.

Guests enter by walking under a giant rainbow before arriving at the playground, which has buildings based on those in the book, cutouts of the main characters, ruby slipper slides, musical instruments and plenty of interactive elements to keep guests entertained for hours.

The six different play areas are: Dorothy's farm, Munchkin Land, the Emerald Forest, the Emerald City, the balloon escape and the ruby slipper slides.



PHOTO COURTESY THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION,
Children having fun on the ruby slipper slide.

When: Friday, September 25, 2015 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Watkins Regional Park (301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774)

The Department of Parks and Recreation provides comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities and services

which respond to changing needs within our communities. The Department strives to preserve, enhance and protect our open spaces to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit

www.pgpcps.com and stay connected on Facebook and Twitter. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Two PGPCPS Employees Honored For Humanitarian Efforts

By PRESS OFFICER
PGPCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools employees Theresa A. Moseley Fax and Cheryl Landis were honored by the Bootsly Collins Foundation for their humanitarian efforts on August 27 at the legendary, hall of fame, Bootsly Collins show at The Dell Music Center in Philadelphia, PA.

“Thank you to the Bootsly Collins Foundation for honoring Ms. Moseley Fax and Ms. Landis,” said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer, PGPCPS. “It’s great to see the work and efforts of our staff acknowledged by a foundation who is committed to giving back to our youth.”

Moseley Fax, principal at Crossland High School, was honored for her dedication to education, commitment to youth, community growth and philanthropic endeavors. Moseley Fax has been employed with Prince George's



PHOTO COURTESY PGPCPS
Theresa A. Moseley Fax and Cheryl Landis with their award trophies.

County Public Schools for nearly 20 years. She has been the principal of Crossland High School since 2013. While principal, Moseley Fax decreased suspensions and in-

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INSIDE

“School’s Open—Drive Carefully” is More Than a Motto, It Can Be a Matter of Life or Death

AAA’s “School’s Open—Drive Carefully” awareness campaign was crafted seven decades ago (in 1946) to increase awareness of school children and school buses during the beginning of the school year and to help reduce child pedestrian fatalities.

Community, Page A3

Hurricane Katrina: A Decade of Recovery and Rebuilding

Katrina did not discriminate in its devastation and made victims of most New Orleanians, but many of the most heartrending images from the storm were those of the desperation of its mostly African-American victims clinging to the roofs of flooded cars and houses waiting for help.

Commentary, Page A4

E-ZPass Phishing Scam Resurfaces, Targeting Unsuspecting Motorists

Long story short: scammers have gone “phishing” and E-ZPass account holders are the “catch of the day.” Don’t take the bait. Victims of phishing can take steps to reduce the risk of becoming victims of identity theft by visiting the FTC’s Identity Theft website.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: “Trainwreck”

Since she was a little girl, it’s been drilled into Amy’s head by her rascal of a dad that monogamy isn’t realistic. Now a magazine writer, Amy lives by that credo-enjoying what she feels is an uninhibited life free from stifling, boring romantic commitment—but in actuality, she’s kind of in a rut.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is off-shore drilling any safer for the environment today given lessons learned from the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico?

—Leslie Jackson,
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Community Health Fair coming up—free flu shots and lots more

Councilman Obie Patterson (Council District 8) is hosting Community Health Fair 2015 on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex. It's open to the public and it's free.

Included will be: free flu shots; medical, dental, vision and HIV/STD screenings; hospital representatives; vendors; and physical fitness activities for seniors, family and children.

There'll be giveaways, door prizes, a farmers market (free produce), and much more.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with registration beginning at 9 a.m. The Complex is at 7007 Bock Road in Fort Washington. The Fair is in partnership with M-NCPPC, County Health, and the Kappa Foundation of Fort Washington.

See the Thunderbirds at Andrews' Air Show

The public is invited to the Air Show at Joint Base Andrews on Sept. 19. Gates will be open 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Opening ceremonies are 11:30 a.m. and air demos—including the Air Force Thunderbirds—will be from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(There will also be an air show on Sept. 18 with the same hours, but it's limited to Department of Defense cardholders and special invitees.)

There will be no parking on the base. Free shuttles will depart FedEx Field and the Branch Avenue Metro Station beginning at 8:00 a.m. The last buses will depart the base to return to parking at 5:30 PM. Shuttles will run continuously, but the last bus to the Air Show will be at 1:00 p.m.

Among the prohibited items: food and beverages (except for baby formula and water in plastic bottles), coolers (except for formula and meds), large camera bags, and pets. Food will be available for sale.

More information is available on Facebook, Twitter and the Andrews' website.

Look what's coming up:

• John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Tours, Sept. 12, 19 and 26. Call the Surratt House Mu-

seum, 301-868-1121, for availability and fees. It's an all-day tour. I've taken it three times and highly recommend it. If registration is full, ask to be put on the list for future tours.

• Prince George's County Fair, Sept. 10-13, at Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington.

• Military Concert Series: Celebrating Air Force Heritage, Sept. 11-12 at National Harbor. Friday: Airmen of Note, 7 p.m. Saturday: Celtic Aire, noon, 1:00, 2 and 3 p.m.

• The next Morningside Town Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

• The Skyline Citizens Association holds its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m. at Skyline School.

Do you remember ...

Suitland Bowling Center at 4811 Silver Hill Road? It's now Dee's Lanes and is the last duckpin bowling alley in Prince George's County (maybe in Maryland). For information about hours, call 301-735-9534.

Changing landscape

Arlington National Cemetery plans to open an "additional 27,282 burial opportunities" in 2016.

I'm back

Did you miss me? I was in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., for three weeks, visiting my son Brian and his wife Carol. Brian is dealing with brain cancer and I was there to celebrate his 58th birthday with him. He is currently doing quite well and is looking forward to spending Sept. 22 in New Orleans in celebration of his and Carol's 25th wedding anniversary.

May they rest in peace

Ruby Lee Haines, 93, of Waldorf and formerly of Morningside where she lived on Morgan and Maple roads, died Aug. 25. She was the daughter of James and Minnie Parnell. She worked for the FBI in 1942 and that's where she met the Army man, Ronald L. Haines, who became her husband. He is deceased. Survivors include her daughters Susan Motherhead (James) and Brenda Mc-

Manus, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She is buried at Cheltenham.

Beverly E. Milligan, a graduate of the old Maryland Park High School, died Aug. 26 at her home in Upper Marlboro. She had retired after 38 years with the National Security Agency. She was a volunteer with the Upper Marlboro Library and part-time vacation relief in the law office of R. Y. Clagett, Esq. Survivors include her husband of 50 years, William "Bill" Milligan, and many other relatives. Burial was at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Cheltenham.

Milestones

I have a lot of Belated Birthdays to catch up on, including: my daughter-in-law Michelle McHale, and both Lavine Callcott and her husband Bill, on Aug. 29; Wanda Payne Simms, Bria Barbour-Ray, Denis Wood, Jai McCune, Caitlin Rose Woods and Tom Anderson, Aug. 30; Mary Berkley and Travis Mullins, Aug. 31; Christine Hoehl, Judy Busky, Earl Simms, Rebecca Capps, and my great-granddaughter Mary McHale, Sept. 1; Suzanne Kenney, Andrelic Howard, Fr. Arnold DePorter, and Selaine Ealey, Sept. 3; Mary Mitchell (her 92nd!) and Loretta Carter, Sept. 4; Frank Howard, Justine Poe, Paul M. Locke, my granddaughter-in-law Nina McHale, and Dan Needham, Sept. 6; Melissa Howell, Sept. 7; and Mike Dawes, Sept. 9.

Happy birthday to Charlie Deegan, twins Robert and John Woods, and Nan Brown, Sept. 10; Carol Lee, Sept. 11; Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; Kenny Clark, Sept. 14; Elnora McCall, Sept. 15; Dolores McDonald, Steven Warren, and Yolanda Dooley, Sept. 16; Kimberly Brewer, Everett Mason, Jr., and Joan Stakem, Sept. 17.

Happy anniversary to former Morningside Fire Chief Les and Kathy Hedrick, their 46th on Sept. 13; and Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj, their 12th on Sept. 14.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on Passing of Former Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel



Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement on the passing of former Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel.

"Today, Maryland mourns the passing of former governor Marvin Mandel. A force in state government throughout his 26-year career, he will be remembered for his efforts to reorganize Maryland state government, build a subway system in Baltimore, and invest \$1 billion on school construction. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time."

Hotel in College Park, Maryland Announces LEED Platinum Certification

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center Is One of First Hotels in U.S. to Achieve Top Certification

College Park, MD—College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center announces that it has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council—LEED's highest level of certification. The designation makes College Park Marriott one of just four LEED Platinum U.S. hotels.

The hotel's Platinum certification follows the completion of an extensive multi-year renovation of meeting and event space, guest rooms and public areas that emphasized green building techniques and enhanced eco-friendly practices in daily operations. This new designation highlights College Park Marriott's longstanding commitment to preserving the environment. In 2004, the hotel was North America's first LEED-certified hotel. It's also a Maryland Green Travel Partner and a 2015 TripAdvisor GreenLeader.

"As the nation's first LEED-certified hotel—and now one of the first to achieve Platinum certification—we're proud to engage in a variety of eco-friendly hospitality practices," says Mike McCarthy, general manager, College Park Marriott.

According to investigators at the Cornell Center for Hospitality Research, hotels embrace LEED certification as a way to inform guests who are concerned about what hotels are doing to limit their carbon footprints, and to improve operational savings and revenues.

To qualify for LEED Platinum certification, the hotel was evaluated for key sustainability features including water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, construction waste management, indoor air quality and close proximity to the College Park Metro Station and other public transportation.

Material selection and energy efficiency were important considerations during the 2012–2015 redesign of 237 guest rooms and suites, public areas and 40,000 square feet of flexible function space in the College Park hotel. Low-flow bathroom fixtures and high-efficiency lighting and HVAC are among the upgrades. More than 90 percent of construction waste from the project was diverted from landfills to recycling options.

College Park Marriott's dramatic transformation also features: The Common, a new

three-meal modern American pub and kitchen offering locally sourced cuisine and artisan drinks; new 6,700 square-foot Potomac Ballroom; renovated 8,200 square-foot Chesapeake Ballroom; new 250-seat conference dining room; 18 redecorated meeting rooms; and reinvented Marriott Hotels Greatroom, business center and fitness center. In 2014, the Maryland green hotel's name was changed from Marriott Inn and Conference Center University of Maryland University College to reflect its new, streamlined décor and technology designed to meet the needs of the modern mobile, social lifestyle.

There are 19 LEED Platinum hotels in the world. College Park Marriott is the only hotel in Maryland to earn this certification. Three other U.S. LEED Platinum hotels are located in California, North Carolina and New York, according to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). For a searchable database of LEED projects, visit the USGBC's Green Building Information Gateway at www.usgbc.org/gbig.

About College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center is located at 3501 University Blvd. East in Hyattsville, Maryland. The University of Maryland hotel is centrally located in College Park, Maryland, adjacent to the UMD campus and near the famous Byrd Stadium. The hotel's location is also convenient to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's White Oak campus and close to the College Park Metro Station with quick access to Washington, D.C. A popular choice with business and leisure travelers, it features complimentary WiFi in all guest rooms and free parking. For reservations and more information, call 301-985-7300 or visit <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasum-college-park-marriott-hotel-and-conference-center/>. Follow College Park Marriott on Facebook and Twitter.

Giant Food Partners with Local Farmers to Bring Fresh Produce to All Giant Stores

Seasonal Fruits and Vegetables from 45 Local Farms Now Available

Landover, MD—Giant Food of Landover, MD is pleased to announce that a diverse assortment of farm fresh local produce, from 45 area farms, is now available at all Giant stores. While customers can find many local products in Giant stores throughout the year, the summer months bring an abundance of "in season" produce items from a

nearby farm. Among the local produce items currently in season and available at Giant are peaches, tomatoes, corn, watermelon, cucumbers, strawberries, kale, string beans, and many varieties of squash.

"Giant is proud to offer our customers a convenient way to purchase farm fresh fruits and vegetables, picked at the peak of freshness and packed by hand nearby," said Al Rivero, Director of Produce for Giant Food. "We embrace our responsibility to support the local economy by offering the widest selection of locally grown products possible."

The source farm name and location will be displayed on in-store signage, allowing customers to learn more about the produce items and the local farmers being supported. For customers who want to know more, additional "Buy Local" features can be found on Giant's website, including videos, recipes and a list of local growers. Back by popular demand, all Giant stores will feature a fun, interactive cutout in the produce department where customers are encouraged to take a "farm fresh selfie."

Giant has been a leader in the buy local movement for many years, supporting local farmers and manufacturers in the states where Giant stores operate. For more summer recipe ideas, including ways to use your local produce, visit Savory, Fast, Fresh & Easy™ on Giant's website.

About Giant Food of Landover, MD

Giant Food LLC, headquartered in Landover, MD, operates 168 supermarkets in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, and employs approximately 20,000 associates. Included within the 168 stores are 159 full-service pharmacies. Giant opened the first supermarket in the nation's capital on February 6, 1936. Giving back to the community is a cornerstone that was instilled by the founders more than 79 years ago. The company's core areas of giving include hunger, education, health and wellness, and supporting service members and military families. In 2014, Giant's monetary and in-kind contributions exceeded \$14.9 million, and the nation's capital grocer helped partners provide more than 88 million meals. For more information on Giant, visit www.giantfood.com.

Edwards Statement on Governor Hogan's Redistricting Plan

Lanham, MD—Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD) released the following statement today on Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's plan regarding redistricting reform.

"I have long supported redistricting reforms to end the damage partisan gerrymandering does to our democracy. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act this week, we should denounce a process that far too often places political interests over ensuring that all Americans have fair representation. I look forward to reviewing Governor Hogan's announcement to see whether it is truly independent of partisan politics."

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION

Everyone is invited to join us at Antioch Baptist Church Sunday September 13, 2015 for a Community Day Celebration. The church is located at 13205 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Morning Worship Service begins at 10:00 AM. Following the service there will be food, games and fun for everyone. Doors open for a Concert at 4:00 PM. The Concert will begin at 5:00 PM with performers Rob Mercer, Lonny Hunter and the Hillian Ensemble. For tickets please contact Carrie Johnson 301-627-7844.

COME TO THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Join us at the Community Table (Transform, Achieve, Build, Learn, Engage) Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM. Carolyn Boston, Board of Education Vice Chairman, District 6 is empowering families to build stronger communities on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 PM. The address is 10666 Campus Way South, Largo, Maryland 20774. Boston is inviting the public to attend a community meeting to discuss school con-

cerns, public safety and how to navigate the school system and county government. Please RSVP by Friday, September 11 by contacting the Board Office at 301-952-6115.

139th HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish will be celebrating their 139th Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, September 20, 2015. The address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine Maryland 20613.

Morning Worship-Holy Eucharist will be held at 9:30 AM with the Reverend Elliott Waters celebrant. Reverend Charles Hofacke, Rector of St. Paul's Parish, Baden and St. Mary's Chapel, Aquasco is speaker of the hour at their 3:00 PM service. Asbury United Methodist Church Choir will render the music. You are invited to attend our services. Lunch will be served from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

SEAFOOD FEAST

Come join us for a Seafood Feast September 12, 2015 from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM (Catered by Thompson's Seafood) at New Hope Fellowship Nottingham Myers Campus. The address is

15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor.

Tickets can be purchased on the Eventbrite website at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/seafood-feast-tickets-18181700957>. Donation is \$40.00. For more information call 301-888-2171.

2015 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Join us for our 2015 Homecoming Celebration at Christ United Methodist Church New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Sunday ("Magnifying the Lord at Home with Family and Friends"), September 27, 2015. The address is 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

Guest preacher will be Reverend Doctor Kwame O. Abayomi (AKA Rev. Dr. Norman A. Handy, Sr.) Retired Minister, United Methodist Church at our 11:00 AM worship service. Come fellowship with us during a luncheon after the morning worship service.

Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor, Rev. Dr. Rebecca Iannicelli, Washington East District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Money Prep for Prospective Parents

It costs parents an average of \$245,340 to raise a child from birth to age 18.

That figure from the U.S. Agriculture Department is just one reason why prospective parents are advised to consider parallel financial planning for child-based expenses and retirement. The key is to start doing it as early as possible — in a December 2012 article in *The New Republic*, adults are starting families later than previous generations. In short, savings needs for childcare, college and retirement seem on a tighter collision course than ever.

For prospective couples or single parents, any discussion of family should begin with the pros and cons of starting a family in terms of personal, lifestyle and career success. In short, the question “Do we want kids?” should come before “Can we afford kids?”

Once family goals are settled, it's wise to evaluate where current finances stand. While many couples have a thorough money talk (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/moneyquestions>) before they wed, it works for family planning, too. Couples and single parents will benefit from complete financial transparency before pregnancy, adoption proceedings or fertility treatment starts.

Utilize qualified financial and tax advice to fit specific circumstances. Consult trusted family and friends for referrals to qualified financial planning and tax experts. Also check current tax rules for how to handle and potentially deduct certain costs related to adoption or fertility treatments.

Research thoroughly and bookmark resources online. The IRS website (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Parents>) continually updates its summary of tax issues for parents which can guide overall planning. New authors and bloggers emerge daily on virtually every aspect of parenting; friends, relatives and colleagues can also provide resources.

For prospective parents who are employed, it is a good idea to evaluate benefits well ahead of a pregnancy, fertilization procedures or adoption. Depending on specific circumstances, employees should review health and general benefits for routine and emergency medical coverage, medical leave policy and extras like child care benefits. Couples should compare their coverage to determine who has the best family coverage overall.

Start planning for childcare expenses as soon as possible. Full- or part-time childcare services for working parents can be surprisingly expensive and difficult to obtain depending on location. In 2015, the White House reported that the average cost of full-time care for an infant was about \$10,000 a year, and a 2014 *Boston Globe* (<https://www.bostonglobe.com>) report noted state-by-state estimates that were significantly higher. For peace of mind and affordability, it is advisable to tackle the childcare issue as early as possible. Prospective parents might also speak with a qualified tax advisor about whether it is more advantageous to claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit on their taxes or pay childcare expenses from a Flexible Spending Account at work.

Loved ones can also lend financial assistance to a new family in a variety of ways. Affordable basics include general parenting advice, as-needed babysitting services and sharing coupons and hand-me-downs like clothing, toys and unneeded child-related equipment in good condition. For those willing to lend financial support, such options might include a Coverdell Education Savings Account, 529 college savings plan or a gift of cash or assets to the child subject to IRS rules. Also, anyone can directly pay medical expenses in full for someone they do not claim as a dependent under certain circumstances. If friends or family members offer financial help, encourage them to evaluate options with qualified financial and tax experts.

Finally, prospective parents should become dedicated bargain hunters and savers with an equal focus on handling childcare expenses and supporting retirement goals. Both financial goals are equally important.

Bottom line: It pays to plan early for a family. Evaluate your finances, reach out to friends and family for advice and get help from qualified experts if you need it.

CEO from A1

director of Rye Public Library in Rye, New Hampshire.

In addition, Teaze serves on the Commission for Education Excellence, which advises the Prince George's County executive on education-related matters, as well as the Early Childhood/Project LAUNCH Advisory Council, which works to help young children and their families in Prince George's County.

Teaze earned her master's degree in library and information science from Simmons College in Boston and her bachelor's degree in history and women's studies from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

The Maryland Library Association was founded in 1923 to promote library service in Mary-



Nathaniel Sillin

land. Members include libraries, library staff and trustees, library school students and friends of libraries. The association is a member of the American Library Association. (www.mdlib.org)

Prince George's County Memorial Library System provides materials and information for study and personal enrichment, offering strategies for lifelong learning through access to varied media and professional guidance. The library system consists of branches in 19 communities including Accokeek, Baden, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, South Bowie, Spaldings, Surratts-Clinton and Upper Marlboro. (www.pgmls.info)

with thousands of big yellow school buses, and with pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists, something they haven't done in nearly three months since the summer break," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Of great concern, many area drivers still speed in school zones, the very areas where children most frequently walk to school, cross the road, and enter and exit the school bus, and where parents drop their kids off at school. This is intolerable and it's unsafe."

Nationwide, "about 50.1 million students will attend public elementary and secondary schools" this fall, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. "Of these, 35.2 million will be in prekindergarten through grade 8 and 14.9 million will be in grades 9 through 12. An additional 4.9 million students are expected to attend private schools." "When children are present." Posted beneath the speed limit sign, it is one of the most familiar warnings to drivers to slow down and obey the speed limit to save the lives and limbs of children in school zones, where fines for speeding are doubled. If the past is any index, most drivers will ignore the signs and speed through school zones—often with reckless abandon and with little regard for children and their safety, forewarn area law enforcement officials, AAA, and the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education. In the District, the Executive Office of the Mayor organized the "First Day of School" Slow Down Campaign.

Thousands of students across the Washington metro area will walk or bike to school each school day. For example, 16.5 percent of elementary school students in the region walk to school, compared to 14.3 percent of the region's middle school students, according to regional school travel data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Transportation Planning Board. The family car is the primary mode of transportation for 42 percent of elementary school students in the metro area and 25 percent of middle school students. In com-

parison, the school bus is the usual mode of transportation for 39.2 percent of the area's elementary school students and 56.1 percent of students in middle school across the region.

In contrast, 27 percent of elementary students in the District walk to school, as well as 22 percent of middle school students. Even so, 52.3 percent of elementary students arrive at school by private autos in the District, compared to 39.5 percent of middle school students in the city, notes COG. Across the nation, "the most common mode of travel to school was the family car (46%), followed by school bus (40%), and walking (14%). Among those who did not usually walk to school, distance (70.7%) was the most common barrier, followed by traffic danger (9%)," according to a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Children in the South were less likely to walk to school than children in other regions (Northeast, North Central, West)," explains the CDC.

A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster. AAA's "School's Open—Drive Carefully" awareness campaign was crafted seven decades ago (in 1946) to increase awareness of school children and school buses during the beginning of the school year and to help reduce child pedestrian fatalities. To this end, AAA Mid-Atlantic offers these seven ways to keep kids safe this school year:

1. SLOW DOWN. Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to someone hit by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

2. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS. Children often cross the road unexpectedly and may appear suddenly between two parked cars. Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing.

3. REVERSE RESPONSIBILITY. Every vehicle has

blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles—even those that are parked.

4. COME TO A COMPLETE STOP. Research shows that more than one third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones and neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.

5. WATCH FOR BICYCLES. Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and the bicycle. If your child rides a bike to school, require that they wear a properly-fitted helmet on every ride.

6. STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES. All motorists are required by law to stop when the red lights on buses are flashing. Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing is the biggest threat to student safety.

7. TALK TO YOUR TEEN. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and more than one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 to 7 p.m. Get evidence-based guidance and tips at: TeenDriving.AAA.com.

Local drivers should also be aware of the presence of traffic crossing guards and AAA School Safety Patrol in area school zones. The Mid-Atlantic region has over 93,000 patrolers who help safeguard the lives of many boys and girls each school year. Schools utilize Patrols, administered locally by The Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education, in many different ways, including positioning them at street corners that lead into the school, on school buses, at parent pick-up/drop-off areas, and helping coordinate arrival and dismissal.

Traffic safety experts credit the AAA School Safety Patrol with playing an important role in reducing the rate of pedestrian deaths for children in the United States from the second highest to the lowest of any group today.

“School’s Open—Drive Carefully” is More Than a Motto, It Can Be a Matter of Life or Death, Warns AAA Mid-Atlantic

School Bells Are Already Ringing Across The Washington Metro Area As More Schools Open

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Backpacks, notebooks, and school buses are back. They are telltale signs that the new academic year is dawning in school systems across the Washington metro area. It is perhaps the most dangerous time of the year on area roads for local children, and the onset of the busiest time of the year on metro area roadways for area motorists, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic. Schools open today in the nation's capital and in eight countywide public school systems in Maryland. Tuesday is the first day of school in neighboring Prince George's County.

It all began during the summer doldrums when students in Culpeper County and Rappahannock County were the first pupils in the metro area to return to school. Each week for five consecutive weeks, from Monday, August 10 to “Terrible Traffic Tuesday,” the day after Labor Day, which falls on September 8, area pupils by the hundreds of thousands, are flocking to area school districts, charter schools, and private schools in successive waves from the outer suburbs to the inner suburbs and in the District itself, signaling a return to chronic traffic congestion. Typically, “back-to-school” travel delays on the region's freeways jump 26%, from 20.4 minutes to 25.8 minutes per traveler, underscoring the urgency to drive with utmost caution.

Consider this: four of the top 25 largest school districts in the nation are located from circumferential Beltway to Beltway—the iconic Capital Beltway (Interstate 495) in the Washington metro area and the Baltimore Beltway (Interstate 695). By the time all area school districts open their school house doors for the first time during the 2015–2016 academic year, over a million area students will be in the mix and they can easily find themselves in harm's way. To keep students safe, all highway users must practice the ABC's of driving, walking and biking with care.

“It is also a reminder to local drivers to get back into the habit of sharing the road with students,

Commission from A1

that affect Prince George's County's revenue structure and the strength of its tax base; the structure and fiscal dynamics of Prince George's County's government; and feedback from community stakeholders concerning the County's budget and tax structure.

Prince George's County Council Chairman Mel Franklin (D) — District 9, says the Blue Ribbon Commission was established to directly address the County's longstanding structural deficit and related fiscal challenges.

“Our residents have made it clear that they want a greater level of confidence and accountability about how their tax dollars are being spent, and the establishment of the Blue Ribbon Commission brings us one step closer to that goal. After careful consideration, we have assem-

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bled a group of talented Prince George's County residents and experts with considerable expertise in the areas of budget, finance and public policy and look forward to the reports of the Commission and their recommendations in the coming year.”

The Blue Ribbon Commission consists of 15 voting members appointed by the County Council in consultation with the County Executive.

The Blue Ribbon Commission members are David C. Harrington representing the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce; James R. Estep representing the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable; Desiree Callender representing the Prince George's County Association of Realtors; Jamal I. Miller (MSEA UNISERV Director/Prince George's County Educators' Association) and Gino Renne (UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO) representing af-

filates of organized labor; David Van Dyke (County Auditor) and Turkessa Green (Audit Manager) representing the County's Office of Audits and Investigations; and Terri Baccote-Charles (Director) and Amber Hendricks (OMB staff and Special Assistant to DCAO for Budget, Finance and Administration) representing the County's Office of Management and Budget. The County Council has appointed the following 6 citizens to serve on the Commission: Earl Adams, Jr., Esq.; Henry W. Mosley, CPA; John Rogard Tabori; Ron L. Watson, Ph.D.; Sherman L. Ragland, II; and Mark E. Tomassoni, Ph.D. Earl Adams, Jr. will serve as Chair of the Blue Ribbon Commission. Council Vice-Chair Derrick Leon Davis (D) — District 6 will serve as the Council's non-voting ex-officio member, and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Budget,

Finance & Administration, Thomas Himler will serve as the County Executive's non-voting ex-officio member.

Commission Chair Adams says the commission has critical work ahead.

“Working with my fellow commissioners, we will study the issues causing the County's budget challenges and identify strategies that will protect its future fiscal health. Ensuring that the County adopts sustainable fiscal policies must be a priority of every resident of the County if we want to ensure our economic success and protect our quality of life. I am pleased to Chair this commission and work closely with committed and experienced individuals who want to help the County get on a strong fiscal footing in order to position it for a brighter, stronger future.”

Blue Ribbon Commission members will serve a term of one year.

COMMENTARY

Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



Statement of Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina

Upper Marlboro, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III released the following statement regarding the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina:

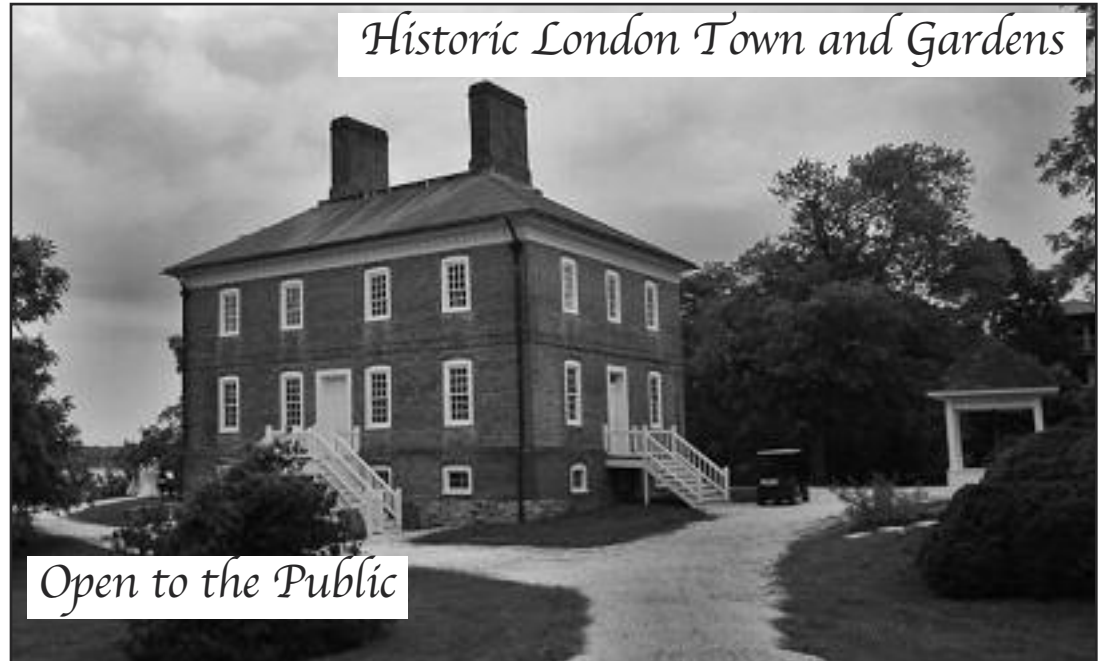
"This week marks the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. An event that will forever be a part of American History. We watched this unbelievable tragedy unfold right before our eyes as people from the City of New Orleans, the Gulf Coast and surrounding areas saw their hopes and dreams get swept away by the raging waters and floods. It tugged at our hearts and we rallied to help families through donations of time, money and other resources as they rebuilt and relocated. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends, and communities that are still recovering from arguably the worst natural disaster in American history.

Hurricane Katrina was a transformative event that changed the way we address emer-

gency management at the local, state and national levels. It is why we continue to encourage Prince George's County residents to sign up for emergency text alerts that will notify them about pending natural and man-made emergencies, because preparedness saves lives.

As we remember the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, I urge all Prince Georgians to never forget this event and realize that the quest to rebuild the neighborhoods of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast is still going on 10 years later. They still need our help as they reclaim their homes and their communities.

I also encourage our residents to sign up for text alerts by visiting <https://member.everbridge.net/index/1332612387832015#/signup>. As we have learned from different disasters, ranging from hurricanes and floods to earthquakes and snow storms, preparation and notification are the keys to survival."



Historic London Town and Gardens

Open to the Public

HISTORIC LONDON TOWN AND GARDENS

23-acre museum and park features history, archaeology, and horticulture. Explore the Historic Area, which includes the circa 1760 William Brown House, a National Historic Landmark, reconstructed colonial buildings, and an ongoing archaeological investigation in search of the "lost town" of London. Wander the eight-acre Woodland Garden of native plants and exotic species arranged along a one-mile trail before enjoying the seasonal Ornamental Gardens overlooking the South River. Our modern Visitor Center and Pavilion support weddings, business meetings, family events, as well as school and group tours. Museum hours are every Wednesday through Saturday, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday hours are 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Admission is free to members, \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors and \$5.00 for children ages 7 to 17. There is no charge to explore the gardens.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Wise Lessons in Servant-Leadership from Howard University's President

When I was growing up my parents constantly tried to be and to expose us to good role models. Daddy would pile us children into our old Dodge and drive us to hear and meet great Black achievers whenever they came near our small hometown of Bennettsville, South Carolina. I remember he drove us children about 100 miles to hear Dr. Mordecai Johnson, the first Black president of Howard University, when he came to speak in Columbia, S.C.'s auditorium. Today Howard University's president Dr. Wayne Frederick is carrying on the tradition of inspiring college leadership set by Dr. Johnson, by our beloved Morehouse College president Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, who mentored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many civil rights activists in my generation, and by Dr. Howard Thurman and other great visionaries who graced Howard's campus and school of religion and set a high example of excellence, integrity, commitment to service, love, and hopefulness for a new generation.

Howard's new president reflects these crucial values. Dr. Frederick grew up in Trinidad and Tobago dreaming of being a doctor so he could find a cure for sickle cell anemia, the disease that kept him hospitalized for three to four months every year. His grandmother and mother always affirmed that he could do anything he wanted, and he recently told a group of college students, educators, and juvenile justice personnel preparing to conduct Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® programs that they must do the same for the children in their care. "[My mother] gave me one of the things that has a currency like no other, which is hope ... I would encourage you [to] give that in abundance, to always encourage the young minds that you are trying to influence that the next thing that they attempt to do is the next thing they will be successful at. Do not allow them to believe that they are not good enough, because they are."

He added: "We often tell ourselves that there are things that we cannot do because of limitations others put on [us]—and I'm here to tell you today that I

am living proof that if you pour love and hope, determination, and dedication into anything you do, you will succeed. But more importantly, if you do it into a child, who has limitless boundaries, they will rock the world."

Dr. Frederick enrolled at Howard at age 16—"I was 5'6", 88 pounds when I entered Howard, and I remember how excited I was and how much I thought about that day that I would be able to call myself Dr. Wayne Frederick." By age 22 he achieved his dream with a dual B.S./M.D. degree. He became a cancer surgeon and eventually earned an M.B.A. before becoming Howard's president last July at age 43. But Dr. Frederick also told his audience of young teachers he quickly realized his degrees were not fulfilling all by themselves. "I tell my Howard grads that your degree will not come alive until you go out and change the world. You must think of what will you frame your degree with? Will you frame it with fame and fortune ... or with the willingness to go and serve others, to make the community around you better? ... I will assure you that if you believe in

what it is you're doing, and you do it with a passion, and you keep the right motivations in front of you, which is that of servant-leaders, to serve others, you will be successful."

He shared a personal proof. "My sickle cell reminds me every day. I have stood in an operating room for 22 hours in a painful crisis while operating on another patient, not experiencing that pain completely until my operation was finished. And I was amazed at how ill I was after doing that operation. But the fact was that while I was focused on serving someone else, on trying to heal and cure someone else, I did not experience that pain. And that is what you will experience in your own way."

Dr. Frederick also noted servant-leadership is often a quiet power. "We live in a society that focuses on the big things ... [but] the things that you will do outside of the spotlight of the cameras and the notoriety are the things that will make a difference. The one child that you will talk to who will walk away and think that he or she wants to be

See WATCH, Page A12

The Prince George's Post Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Hurricane Katrina: A Decade of Recovery and Rebuilding

"So let us restore all that we have cherished from yesterday, and let us rise above the legacy of inequality. When the streets are rebuilt, there should be many new businesses, including minority-owned businesses, along those streets. When the houses are rebuilt, more families should own, not rent, those houses."

—President George W. Bush, National Address from New Orleans, September 15, 2005.

Ten years ago this week, Hurricane Katrina slammed its Category 3, 125 mph fury into the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. A decade later, much of my beloved hometown of New Orleans continues to bear the scars of one of our nation's deadliest hurricanes, and its costliest natural (and man-made) disaster to date. The devastating combination of Katrina, the failure of the levees to hold back the surging storm water from the Gulf of Mexico, and the catastrophic failure of our government's response to the storm, led to a record-breaking loss of life and property. Ultimately, 80% of New Orleans would flood under water up to 20 feet high, Katrina would claim some 2,000 American lives, and property damage would eventually be estimated at more than \$100 billion.

Katrina did not discriminate in its devastation and made victims of most New Orleanians, but many of the most heart-rending images from the storm were those of the desperation of its mostly African-American victims clinging to the roofs of flooded cars and houses waiting for help, or squashed together inside the Superdome seeking refuge from the storm. New Orleans' Black residents—who mostly lived in the city's poor, low-lying areas, which suffered massive flooding—were disproportionately affected by the flooding and the seemingly non-existent rescue and recovery plans of the local, state and federal government.

For many in our nation, the storm swept away any illusions about inequality and its devastating impact on communities of color in New Orleans—both before and after the storm. During his national address, President Bush acknowledged the "deep, persistent poverty in this region," adding that, "that poverty has roots in a history of racial discrimination, which cut off generations from the opportunity of America." As a senator touring Katrina's destruction in the region, Barack Obama shed a bright light on

the city's historic racial and economic injustices and the role it played in Katrina's racially disparate impact:

"I hope we realize that the people of New Orleans weren't just abandoned during the Hurricane. They were abandoned long ago - to murder and mayhem in their streets; to substandard schools; to dilapidated housing; to inadequate health care; to a pervasive sense of hopelessness. That is the deeper shame of this past week - that it has taken a crisis like this one to awaken us to the great divide that continues to fester in our midst."

Despite the unprecedented pain, waste and loss, New Orleans has made great strides. There are bustling businesses where there were once ravaged storefronts. There are homes where there were once empty, neglected lots. High schools are even graduating students at a higher rate than before the storm. But according to a recent survey conducted by the Public Policy Research Lab at Louisiana State University, African-Americans and whites have vastly different views of the ongoing recovery. Nearly four out of five white residents say the city has mostly recovered, while nearly three out of five blacks say it has not. The recovery, seen through a lop-sided racial lens, highlights the need to ensure that any recovery in New Orleans must include African-Americans and all communities of color. To recover and lose the ethnic flavors and cultural influences that have made New Orleans the iconic city it is would mean losing the city's heart and soul.

New Orleans remains a work in progress and the hardest work lies ahead. To assist on the road to recovery, the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, in partnership with the National Urban League, will host "RISE: Katrina 10." The commemorative conference will evaluate the city's progress over the last decade and make recommendations for continued improvements. The events will bring together a cross-section of community members, civic, industry and national leaders to discuss topics ranging from housing to environmental justice and disaster preparedness in post-Katrina New Orleans. The entire conference will be informed by the data released in the "State of Black New Orleans: 10 Years Post Katrina" report, because we understand that armed with the facts, we can rebuild a New Orleans that is stronger than the city before.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

What To Do If Anxiety Is Taking Over Your Life

It's perfectly normal to feel anxious or nervous at various times. It could be a new work situation, a big test at school, or an important decision to be made. Such events, for any of us, normally bring some degree of stress and anxiety.

In fact, it's usually a healthy response. That anxiety will make us focus more on what we're about to face and think harder about the outcomes in front of us.

But when anxiety becomes an ongoing situation that is affecting a person's ability to lead a productive and satisfying life, that's much more serious and may indicate an anxiety disorder. Someone suffering from an anxiety disorder faces constant worry and fear. These emotions can be so overwhelming that they interfere with everything else in the person's life.

Anxiety disorders can strike in a variety of forms. A panic disorder will bring a person feelings of terror that can come on very quickly and with no warning. In some cases a panic disorder will trigger physical reactions, such as sweating, chest pain, and irregular heartbeats, making the person feel like he's having a heart attack.

People suffering from a social anxiety disorder may find themselves constantly overcome with worry and feelings of self-consciousness about common, everyday social situations.

While no one knows exactly what causes these or other types of anxiety disorders, the symptoms are easy to recognize. If someone's life is being disrupted because he or she is constantly fearful or panicky, has shortness of breath, feels dizzy, has trouble sleeping and finds it difficult to be still and calm, chances are high that some form of anxiety disorder is the issue.

While suffering from an anxiety disorder, of whatever type, clearly can derail what should be a happy and productive life, the good news is that an anxiety disorder can most likely be successfully diagnosed and treated once it is recognized and action is taken.

Anxiety is not a problem to be ignored. Not only does it severely interfere with a normal, happy life, but the stress it brings can lead to serious health issues.

If you or someone close to you seems to be constantly anxious and worried to the point that they are unable to cope with everyday life, a visit to your family doctor, or to a professional counselor specializing in this field, is an action that should not be put off.

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

Awards from A1

creased business partners at the school. She recently published a book entitled *The Fourth Child: Five Decades of Hope*. It's a self-help book with 44 short stories of lessons learned with a few chapters devoted to education.

Landis, Strategic Business Partnerships Specialist, was honored for her dedication to developing and retaining

strong and supporting partnerships between schools and local businesses, non-profits, and individuals. Landis has worked in the Business Partnerships Office since 2010 and has helped to establish nearly 30 partnerships with a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding.

The purpose of the Bootsy Collins Foundation is to allow kids of all backgrounds to be able to work together.

E-ZPass Phishing Scam Resurfaces, Targeting Unsuspecting Motorists With Transponders Used to Pay Tolls in 15 States

28 Million E-ZPass Devices In Circulation, Don't Fall Prey To Malware From Cybercriminals

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Caveat Emptor. It's Latin for "Let the buyer beware." Latin may be a dead language, but fraudsters specialize in the extant linguistics of deceit and their favorite technique is e-mail spoofing. An estimated 28.2 million vehicles in 15 states, including 2.1 million vehicles in Maryland and Virginia, have the telltale E-ZPass transponders mounted inside vehicle windshields. For the second year in a row some E-ZPass account holders in the Washington metro area are receiving bogus emails warning they are "indebted for driving on toll roads." It's a high-tech phishing expedition, a scam really, perpetrated once more by unscrupulous cybercriminals, warns AAA Mid-Atlantic.

It is a federal case. During 2014, there were 2,738,181,258 E-ZPass transactions at toll plazas in the United States. The appropriate toll is electronically debited from the driver's prepaid E-ZPass® account. It is too tempting a target for international villains. Once again, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the E-ZPass Group, and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) are warning motorists to not be caught unawares by the suspicious email messages. The emails aren't sent by the Maryland Transportation Authority or the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), cautions AAA Mid-Atlantic. Instead, it is a phishing scam or impersonation scam generated by crooks attempting to gain access to your credit card information or your personal information, advises AAA Mid-Atlantic.

The E-ZPass network collects \$10 billion in toll revenues annually: \$7.8 billion of it is collected electronically. E-ZPass customers are the targets of one of the largest forms of fraud: phishing. Victims receive an

email that directs to a phony website that is an exact copy of a real website and requests users to enter personal and financial data, supposedly to verify accounts. If you click on to the email link you could inadvertently infect your computer or phone with malicious software known as malware. Once that happens, the scammers can steal personal information off your computer. The brazen cybercriminals behind the international phishing scheme even had the audacity to send their bogus email to AAA Mid-Atlantic.

"Everyone must be on guard for these fraudsters attempting to con you out of your hard-earned funds and account information, compromise your security, and wreak havoc on your computer system," cautioned John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Be wary. Be wise. Don't fall prey to any attempt to steal your personal information. Be skeptical of all e-mail that directs the user to a website in which credit card or personal information is entered."

They might be masterminds, but "cybercriminals are not known for their grammar and spelling," cybersecurity experts forewarn. As proof, AAA Mid-Atlantic received this grammatically incorrect email with a string of cryptic numbers that warns: "Indebted for driving on toll road #000923942. Notice to appear. You have a (sic) unpaid for using toll road. You are kindly asked to service your debt in the shortest time possible. You can review the invoice in the attachment. Regards, Brent Larsen, E-Z Pass Manager."

Your first clue it is a phishing scam is the numbers "000923942." Microsoft warns, "The string of cryptic numbers looks nothing like the company's web address." Like the popular arcade game, Whac-A-Mole, these scams keep popping up every up and then, as it has for the last five years. The crooks

hope you have a short attention span. In some cases, "scammers are attempting contact with E-ZPass customers via an official looking email: complete with color logo and appropriate font," law enforcement agencies advise.

The E-ZPass Group, an association of 26 toll agencies in 15 states, including Maryland and Virginia, is informing motorists the CyberCrimes Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating the E-ZPass phishing scam as is the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). "This E-Z Pass email is the latest in a long line of phishing scams," the FTC warns, "where fraudsters pretend to be legitimate businesses as a way to get access to people's personal information."

To get to work and play or to indulge their wanderlust via toll facilities, including toll lanes, bridges and tunnels, motorists in America have 16,937,622 prepaid E-ZPass accounts. "More than 1,250,400 E-ZPass Maryland transponders are on the move and 75% of all traffic at MDTA facilities uses E-ZPass to pay tolls electronically," according to the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA). Additionally, "For FY14 there were 99,151,723 total Maryland E-ZPass transactions."

The MDTA also posted an alert regarding the phishing emails on its website noting that it "will never send an unsolicited email demanding payment or requesting sensitive personal information such as credit card information, social security numbers, user names, passwords, etc." E-ZPass® Maryland account holders can check their account balances using MDTA's automated telephone system by calling 1-888-321-6824. "In addition, a toll fare display at the lane will display messages, such as 'low balance,' when your account reaches a pre-set threshold," advises the MDTA.

In Virginia, "there are more than 900,000 active E-ZPass transponders," according to the Virginia Department of Trans-

portation (VDOT), which runs the E-ZPass program in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Each month, there are "11 million electronic toll transactions" at toll plazas across Virginia, including the 495 and 95 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia, notes VDOT. To register their On-the-Go transponders, Virginia residents with a Virginia E-ZPass account can call Customer Service Center at 1-877-762-7824 or drop in at any walk-in centers. Virginia E-ZPass account holders can also call the same number to check their available balances and recent transactions make a payment, and update their credit card number, expiration date, telephone number and change their PIN number through the automated system.

Long story short: scammers have gone "phishing" and E-ZPass account holders are the "catch of the day." Don't take the bait. Victims of phishing can take steps to reduce the risk of becoming victims of identity theft by visiting the FTC's Identity Theft website. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has issued these tips:

- Never click on links in emails unless you're sure who sent you the message.
 - Don't respond to any emails that ask for personal or financial information. Email isn't a secure way to send that information.
 - Type an organization's URL yourself, and don't submit personal or financial information at a website unless the URL begins with https (the "s" stands for secure).
 - If an email looks like it is from E-ZPass, contact E-Z Pass customer service to confirm that it is really from the agency.
 - Keep your computer security software current.
- If you have been tricked by a phishing email, simply forward it to spam@uce.gov and to the company impersonated in the email. Plus, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at ftc.gov/complaint.

Apps from A1

square attachment, any person can turn their Smartphone into a business tool.

The company is also known for selling a stand for iPad users to convert their Apple product into a simple, lightweight, point-of-sale system.

"Buying and selling sound like simple things — and they should be. Somewhere along the way, they got complicated. We're working hard to make commerce easy for everyone," Square proclaims on its website.

The owners of food trucks DC Ballers and Carnivore BBQ were advocates for Square, citing its easy-to-use interface and fast deposits.

Saté food truck owner Martin Setiantoko has run his business for three years and although he uses a traditional wireless credit card reader, he admits that Square has made mobile credit card readers for the food truck community more mainstream because there is no longer a need to purchase a specific device for credit card processing.

Despite the popularity of Square among his fellow vendors, Setiantoko prefers to continue using his wireless credit



Martin Setiantoko, owner and operator of the food truck Saté, sits in his truck before the lunch rush on 12th Street near Metro Center

card reader because the credit card processing fee is lower than the rate Square charges.

"Square is expensive ... the rate [credit card processing fee] is up there," said Setiantoko.

Traditional credit card readers charge users anywhere between 1-2.5 percent per swipe

depending on the type of credit card and business. Square users pay a standard 2.75 percent for

every swipe and 3.5 percent plus 15 cents for every manually entered transaction.

Michael Havtemariam, the DC Ballers food truck owner, said he would definitely switch to Apple Pay once more customers are familiar with the virtual wallet and show interest in using it.

Apple Pay charges a processing fee of 1.9 percent, which is .85 percentage points less than what Square charges.

Social Media

Along with the usage of Square, social media has made a large impact on the food truck community. Washington truck owners commonly cited Twitter and Facebook as marketing platforms to advertise their food and location for the week.

"At least 40 to 50 percent [of customers] come from social media," said Havtemariam.

Il-Horn Hann, co-founder of the Robert H. Smith School of Business Center for Digital Innovation, Technology and Strategy at the University of Maryland College Park, believes the potential for social media to affect small businesses is "very large." But, he

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Trainwreck"

Trainwreck
Grade: B-

Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity, sexual dialogue, some nudity and sexuality
2 hrs., 5 min

Amy Schumer, our current favorite potty-mouthed comedienne, is striking while the iron is hot with "Trainwreck," a ram-bunctious, hard-R-rated romantic comedy that showcases her sweetly poisonous manner. Schumer wrote the screenplay, which is rambling and overlong, and Judd Apatow directed it, which explains why it didn't get tightened up.

Schumer plays Amy, a 30-something writer at a men's magazine whose life is a series of commitment-free one-night stands, drinking, and weed-smoking—in other words, the sort of movie lifestyle normally reserved for male characters. (The film doesn't really do anything with this gender reversal, by the way.) It befalls a sports doctor (Bill Hader) she's profiling for a story to tame her wild ways and help her grow up.

Schumer stays disappointingly close to the rom-com formula, with its contrived complications, and the film is burdened



ROTTENTOMATOES

Since she was a little girl, it's been drilled into Amy's (Schumer) head by her rascal of a dad (Colin Quinn) that monogamy isn't realistic. Now a magazine writer, Amy lives by that credo-enjoying what she feels is an uninhibited life free from stifling, boring romantic commitment-but in actuality, she's kind of in a rut. When she finds herself starting to fall for the subject of the new article she's writing, a charming and successful sports doctor named Aaron Connors (Bill Hader), Amy starts to wonder if other grown-ups, including this guy who really seems to like her, might be on to something.

by unnecessary cameos and meandering tangents (e.g. everything with her dad, played by Colin Quinn). But the laughs outnumber the groans by a wide

margin, thanks to Schumer and Hader's virtuosity and funny supporting performances by such unlikely suspects as John Cena, LeBron James, and Tilda

Swinton. Schumer is a fresh, bold new voice in comedy, and while this film doesn't fully reflect that, it's a reasonably mirthful foundation to build on.

Apps from A1

said there has yet to be any research that proves this.

Although social media is a useful tool for advertising and marketing, Hann said small businesses might not be using it to its fullest potential.

"The problem small businesses have is that they might not have the background to engage in social media in a consistent level that would make a difference in the long run," he explained.

When asked whether Google Wallet and Apple Pay are the future of consumer spending transactions, Hann said, "We're clearly marching in that direction."

"People can now pay with their Smartwatches and that seems to be more convenient," he added. "[However] it might take a long time before we adopt all that."

Carnivore BBQ truck owner Steve Adelson said his food truck started as a restaurant in Owings Mills, Maryland but eventually left its brick and mortar restaurant for a food truck due to the lack of demand for BBQ in that location.

He said, "I liked what I created so I decided to bring it where people would appreciate it—in Washington, D.C."

Carnivore BBQ sees an average of a 100 customers a day,

depending on the location and weather, he said.

Adelson uses Twitter and a website to market his food truck. However, unlike the location in Owings Mills, D.C. food truck stops are well-known areas with heavy pedestrian traffic, according to the Carnivore BBQ owner. Adelson said, "Unless you're trying to create a new location, it has become less social media oriented."

Starbucks

The Starbucks app was the first successful widespread mobile payment app. According to a Starbucks media relations representative, there are over 14 million active users and over 8 million

transactions processed using the app per week in the United States.

"Eighteen percent of all in-store transactions in the nation are made using the Starbucks Mobile App," said a Starbucks media relations representative.

But what about Starbucks' small, local competitors?

Michael Haft and Harrison Suarez, co-founders of Compass Coffee in Northwest Washington, said technology is a key factor for small businesses like theirs.

"We definitely need to stay on the cutting edge of technology," said Haft, adding that small businesses have an advantage in keeping up with changing technology.

"We're more flexible," he said. "We don't have a long bureaucratic chain of decision makers."

Compass Coffee will begin accepting Apple Pay and Google Wallet transactions in the fall when most major credit cards are accepted through the mobile payment apps.

Google Wallet v. Apple Pay

Google Wallet took mobile payment to the next level when it was released for initial use in May 2011.

Instead of the QR code the Starbucks mobile app is centered around, which is similar to scanning the numeric bar code on an item purchased at a grocery store, Google Wallet makes use of near field communication (NFC), which allows users to simply tap their phones on any accepted NFC terminal to process payment.

Three years after Google Wallet was released, Apple initiated the release of its version of a virtual wallet, which expanded its previous Passbook app to a mobile payment app allowing users to add certain debit and credit cards.

Apple announced April 27 that Discover will support Apple Pay beginning in the fall. Visa, Mastercard and American Express were on board when the mobile payment app was introduced last October. Apple Pay also makes use of NFC terminals to process payments.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Sports as Political Money Laundering is Nothing New



Sports as political money laundering—the process of billionaire owners taking public funds for stadiums and then donating their newfound lucre to the very politicians who facilitated their stadium grab—is nothing new. But it's difficult to think of an example as brazen—and brazenly hypocritical—as the heist going down in Wisconsin. Governor, presidential candidate and Koch brothers lickspittle Scott Walker is a man who has staked his reputation on the merciless slashing of public spending, with schools and state worker pensions the normal targets. He takes these actions while bellowing about the near-religious merits of free enterprise and "small government." Well, Walker actually does have a cause that he believes deserves hundreds of millions in public spending. Not schools or hospitals, but a new stadium for the Milwaukee Bucks. The team's owners are a collection of billionaires who bought a majority interest in the franchise for \$550 million, with the last owner, former Wisconsin senator Herb Kohl, retaining a minority stake. They even recently released a new logo shaped like the state of Wisconsin. Yet these good-hearted local folk also let the media run wild with the idea that they would leave the state without a new arena.

As local teachers union leader Mike Rosen said to me, "The billionaire owners and the NBA are blackmailing city and county leaders into bankrolling an arena in one of the nation's poorest and most segregated cities. The arena and related real estate deals do not address Milwaukee's good jobs crisis and will do nothing for the unemployed and underemployed in the areas near the north side and south side neighborhoods. The county's contribution of \$80 million which is to be generated through collecting unpaid debts and fines, mainly from our poorest citizens is unconscionable and irresponsible. This is a bad deal and should be rejected."

It wasn't. But even more revoltingly, Bucks co-owner and real estate tycoon Jon Hammes—just days before this deal was pushed through—signed up to become the co-finance chair of ... wait for it ... Scott Walker's 2016 presidential campaign. Hammes, along with Cubs co-owner Todd Ricketts will be putting their deep-pocketed, highly connected influence to work toward the goal of raising up to \$3 billion for what has been described repeatedly as potentially the most expensive presidential campaign in history.

This absence of shame—coupled with an adolescent's ardor for Ayn Rand—has long been Scott Walker's defining characteristic and we are witnessing it again in his slavish pursuit of Bucks-bucks. Take a step back, and the man's cheeky chutzpah provokes a near awe: Walker has—amidst a highly scrutinized presidential campaign—chosen to bankroll a billionaire backer with corporate welfare who in return will head his presidential financial operation. The optics of this are patently corrosive enough as is, but it's even worse than that. Walker and the Wisconsin state legislature will pay for it by slashing roughly the same amount of the cost of the stadium from the state's higher education budget. Over a quarter-billion for the arena and a quarter-billion siphoned from higher ed, and the giving of absolutely no f_cks in how it all looks.

This isn't politics. This isn't differing economic philosophies. This isn't even simple hypocrisy. This is trolling-as-governance, and Scott Walker is an expert in this art. This is what compels him to compare trade unionists to ISIS or stand up for the Confederate flag before the Charleston dead had even been put to rest (and then flip on the issue again), or rail against marriage equality while his own children cringe in shame, or stand up for the sanctity of Native American mascots. These qualities undoubtedly make him attractive to a section of the Republican base, the ones currently waving Confederate flags north of the Mason-Dixon Line and hosting Muhammad-drawing contests. He is attempting something audacious: trying to win the Republican nomination solely by relying on a coalition of the "jackass" wing of the party. One can already see his finance team approaching all egg avatars to join the Walker team.

As for Jon Hammes, he has reportedly bought an acre and a half of property around the area where the new Milwaukee Bucks stadium is to be built. They were purchased in advance of the deal being sealed on this stadium in the Wisconsin state legislature. At least we know why Hammes sees a kindred spirit in Scott Walker: They both share an absence of shame and an utter absence of fear that anyone will hold them to account.

City of New Carrollton

Community Day

Saturday, September 12th
Noon to 6pm

Beckett Field
8511 Legation Road
New Carrollton, MD 20784

Rain or Shine

CRAFTS & GAMES
for ALL AGES

SAGE YOGA
&
SENIORS

PETTING ZOO

ALPINE DANCERS

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD... EVEN LOCAL RESTAURANTS

POLICE DEPT. & FIRE DEPT.

CRAFTS

MANDY the CLOWN

Volunteers Needed!

A great day out for the family

COMMUNITY SERVICE INFO BOOTHS

For more information call New Carrollton Municipal Center at 301-459-6100
Email: City@newcarrolltonmd.gov
(or) visit the City's website at: www.newcarrolltonmd.gov

Calendar of Events

September 10 — September 16, 2015

Ripped from the Headlines: Reporting on the Integration of Laurel's Schools

Date and Time: Thursday, September 10, 2015, 7 pm
Description: Join the Laurel Historical Society and facilitator Lindsey Baker to discuss integration at Laurel's schools.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Public Reception: Chaotic Attractors: Fractal Art of Abdi Darai

Date and Time: Friday, September 11, 7-9 pm
Description: Abdi Darai's art combines worlds of geometric constructions, art, and multi-layered structures of nature. An associate professor of mathematics at the University of the District of Columbia, he designs fractals both as a passion and a scientific pursuit. Celebrate his work at this public reception!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Un-Wine With Us

Date and Time: Saturday, September 12, 2015 12 noon-6 pm
Description: Un-Wine with Us at Cosca Regional Park and savor the tastes of various Maryland wines, brews, and food! Featuring talented musicians from the DMV area and vendors, we're sure you'll enjoy this relaxing afternoon. Don't forget your lawn chairs, blankets and coolers. Please note:

- You MUST be 21 years old to taste/drink alcoholic beverages; Identification is required.
- Participation in wine tasting and drinking is PROHIBITED by patrons under 21
- Alcoholic beverages may not be brought onto the premises.
- You can purchase your desired wines and brews for enjoyment in the park.
- Only UNOPENED wine and brew purchases can be taken off the premises.

Cost: Wine Taster: \$25 (Resident); \$30 (Non-Resident); \$30 at the gate; Designated Driver: \$15; Youth (ages 5-20): \$10; Under 5: FREE
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Cosca Regional Park
11000 Thrift Road, Clinton 20735
Contact: 301-203-6000; TTY 301-203-6030

Opening Reception for Project America's Next Top Master Artist

Date & Time: Saturday, September 12, 2015 5-8 pm
Description: Ellen Cornett, the winner of Project America's Next Top Master Artist exhibition—the Art of the Tale—features the *Juniper Tree*, a 44"x90" charcoal on paper triptych. Ellen's drawings and paintings are inspired by the comic humor and serious, sometimes tragic undertone of certain poems, short stories and fairytales. She strives to make something intriguing and meaningful from well-recognized sources, manipulating characters into odd vignettes of conflict, misunderstanding, and relationships gone awry.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue
Brentwood, MD 20722
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: Grandparents' Day

Date and Time: Sunday, September 17, 2015, 12 noon-3:30 pm
Description: Stop by to watch the Kitchen Guild demonstrate 19th century foodways using seasonal produce from the gardens and orchard. Today's recipes will feature recipes of Belgian cuisine to honor the Stiers.
Cost: FREE; regular fee for house tours
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Fairwood Arts Festival

Date & Time: Sunday, September 13, 2015, 3-8 pm
Description: Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and enjoy performances, art and food vendors at the Fairwood Arts Festival! Featured performers include Rob White, Lorenzo Miller, Akua All-rich and Upton Blues Band.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Fairwood Community Park
12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD 20720
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

Homeschool Family Day

Date and Time: Thursday, September 17, 2015, 10 am
Description: Riversdale invites homeschoolers, ages 5 & up, and their families to Riversdale for a day of hands-on learning! Join us for open hearth cooking, interactive tours, and more. Registration required by September 9.
Cost: \$8/child; FREE/chaperone
Ages: Ages 5 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Let's Drum! Workshop for Tiny Tots

Date & Time: Thursday, September 17, 2015 9:30-10:15 am
Description: Children will learn to play a variety of drums and get an introduction to rhythm, dynamics, and how to play in a group. All instruments are provided. Space is limited, please reserve your spots early.
Cost: \$5/person
Ages: Pre-K-Grade 1
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center
5445 Landover Road, Landover 20784
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Is Off-Shore Drilling Actually Safer Now Than Ever?

Dear EarthTalk:

Is off-shore drilling any safer for the environment today given lessons learned from the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico?

— Leslie Jackson,
Bern, NC

The Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in 2010 resulted in 11 lost lives and hundreds of millions of gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. Various failures resulted in the loss of well control, an explosion, fire and an ongoing spill. Five years later, the U.S. Department of the Interior reports that there are more floating deepwater drilling rigs working in the Gulf of Mexico today than prior to that devastating spill, and drilling activity is only expected to steadily grow.

In light of this, and in response to the findings of investigations into the tragedy, the Interior Department announced a proposal earlier this year that will encompass "the most ambitious reform agenda in the Department's history to strengthen, update and modernize offshore energy regulations."

Proposed regulations include enhanced industry standards for blowout prevention technologies and reforms in well design, well control, casing, cementing and subsea containment. U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Direc-

tor Brian Salerno noted that new regulations would also provide oversight of equipment performance and operations through third party verification and real-time monitoring viewed on-shore. "Both industry and government have taken important strides to better protect human lives and the environment from oil spills, and these proposed measures are designed to further build on critical lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy and to ensure that off-shore operations are safe," said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

While the Interior Department has yet to finalize its proposed regulations, this month the BSEE gave Shell Oil approval for two Applications for Permits to Drill (APD) to conduct limited exploratory drilling in the untouched waters of the Chukchi Sea off of Alaska's northwest coast. The Chukchi provides nutrients and pristine habitat for a multitude of organisms, says the U.S. Audubon Society, ranging from walruses, ice seals and whales to millions of seabirds and the top predator mammal, the polar bear.

"Without question, activities conducted offshore Alaska must be held to the highest safety, environmental protection and emergency response standards," Salerno said. "Without the required well-control system in place, Shell will not be allowed to drill into oil-bearing zones."

Shell will be limited to drilling only the top sections of



CREDIT: TWELVISM, FLICKRCC

Greenpeace activists formed a human net below Portland's St. Johns Bridge to stop the Shell Oil icebreaker Fennica from leaving to support drilling operations in the Arctic.

wells and barred from drilling into oil-bearing zones until they have their capping stack, equipment placed over a well in the event of a blowout, on site. Shell's capping stack is currently on the M/V Fennica icebreaker ship in Portland, Oregon, where it had to stopover for repairs to its hull after an underwater collision. If and when the vessel is capable of being deployed in the Chukchi Sea and Shell is able to satisfy the capping stack requirement, the company may submit an Application for Permit to Modify the APDs and request to drill into oil-bearing zones.

Just recently, Greenpeace activists suspended themselves from St. John's Bridge in Portland to create a "human barricade" to prevent the M/V Fen-

nica from departing to Alaskan waters. While Greenpeace's executive director Annie Leonard said that the activists are prepared to stay suspended from St. John's Bridge for as long as it takes to save the Arctic, most environmentalists aren't holding their breath.

CONTACTS: U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, www.bsee.gov; Shell Oil, www.shell.us; Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Maryland Poised to Meet Clean Air Standards

EPA Proposal Notes Improvements in State's Air Quality

By PRESS OFFICER
MDE

BALTIMORE, MD—A new federal proposal rewards Maryland for continued improvements in air quality—gains that position Maryland to meet standards for the pollutant ground level ozone throughout the state for the first time.

The proposal, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is based on recent air quality monitoring data for the metropolitan Washington area of Maryland and the northeast portion of the state. It would extend the deadline to meet the current health-based standard for ground-level ozone to those areas and others across the country showing significant progress toward meeting that standard.

The EPA determined earlier this year that the Baltimore metropolitan area is meeting the standard, and other parts of the state have previously been determined to have met the standard. A preliminary MDE analysis shows the entire state is on pace to meet the ozone standard for this summer's air quality.

All of the determinations for ozone are based on the current standard, set in 2008, of 75 parts per billion. A new, more stringent ozone standard is expected to be announced this fall. All of Maryland has met the standards for soot, or fine particle, air pollution since 2012.

"The hard work, strong controls and steady investments

made for clean air are paying off with remarkable progress that has us poised to meet air quality standards across the state for the first time ever," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. "But this will be a short celebration if we do not continue to make improvements needed to meet a more stringent ozone standard. Much more needs to be done, within the state and beyond, to consistently improve and maintain Maryland's air quality."

Ground level ozone is the main ingredient in urban and regional smog. Common air pollutants, such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), are released from fuel-burning sources such as vehicles and electric utilities and from consumer products such as paint and aerosol products. These pollutants react with heat and sunlight, producing ground level ozone. Unhealthy levels of ground level ozone occur during the summer months, typically May through September.

High concentrations of ozone can cause shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, fatigue, headaches, nausea, chest pain and eye and throat irritation. The most common symptom that people have when exposed to ozone while exercising is pain when taking a deep breath. Ozone is also linked to premature death.

Maryland's air quality has improved significantly in recent years. Reductions in emissions from utilities, motor vehicles and

other sources as diverse as manufacturing and consumer products have reduced the number of days on which Marylanders breathe unhealthy air. Thus far in 2015, Maryland has experienced three days in which the ozone standard was exceeded. The previous record low was five days, set last year.

In recent years Maryland has implemented the Maryland Healthy Air Act, the toughest power plant emissions law on the East Coast, and the Maryland Clean Cars Program. Maryland power plants have invested \$2.6 billion in technology to comply with the Maryland Healthy Air Act. The Act has helped to drive down ozone levels and allow Maryland to meet standards for fine particle pollution.

The EPA has found that the metropolitan Baltimore area is for the first time in more than three decades meeting the ozone standard. The EPA's "Clean Data Determination," proposed in the March 18 Federal Register, reflects air monitoring data for the past three years for the area that includes Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford and Carroll counties. That data shows that the area did not exceed the current ozone standard for the first time since measurements began in 1980.

The EPA's current proposal would allow eight areas of the country to qualify for a one-year extension of the July 20, 2015, deadline to meet the current ozone standard. The proposal is

based on 2014 air monitoring data. The proposal applies to the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City area, which for air quality monitoring purposes includes Cecil County, Maryland, and the Washington area, which includes Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

The EPA is expected to announce in October a new standard for ozone in the range of 65- to 70 parts per billion. Maryland continues to work to reduce ozone levels through new efforts to reduce emissions from industry, mobile sources such as cars and trucks and an increased emphasis on reducing emissions in states that are upwind of Maryland.

Research shows that pollution from upwind states accounts for up to 70 percent of the ozone levels recorded in Maryland. This air pollution that floats from state to state affects almost every state east of the Mississippi River. Over the past few years, Maryland has played a critical role in bringing together approximately 25 states to see where progress could be made in addressing this issue. This collaborative effort with Air Directors and Commissioners in many states is looking at new regional control efforts for power plants, vehicles and other sources of air pollution.

The Maryland Department of the Environment adopted regulations to reduce air pollution from the state's coal-fired power plants starting in the summer of 2015 and ensure the immediate public health benefits of protecting Marylanders from breathing unhealthy levels of ozone air pollution. The reductions expected from the implementation of the regulations for nitrogen oxides emissions from the state's coal-fired power plants are expected to be significant and to be part of a series of initiatives that will allow Maryland to attain and maintain compliance with the current standard for ozone pollution. MDE has submitted for a legislative committee's review a proposal for regulations that would provide longer term reductions in air pollution from the state's coal-fired power plants.

DONATE IT

We all know that it is better to reuse items before we recycle them, but we don't always know where to take them. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment welcomes donations of your used towels, dog beds, stuffed animals, sheets and bath/shower mats to the County's Animal Management Division, located at 3750 Brown Station Road in Upper Marlboro. Call 301-780-7200 or contact CountyClick 3-1-1 for more information.

Donations are accepted Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.