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First Ever County Council Appreciation Day Yields Partnership on Youth Career Preparation

EDC Programs Great Choice for Providing a 'Head Start' to Career Readiness



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
From R. to L.—CM Andrea Harrison, EDC Pres. Jim Coleman, Council Chair Mel Franklin, CM Obie Patterson, CM Dannielle Glaros, CM Todd Turner, CM Mary Lehman, EDC COS Britta Vander Linden, Comm. Dir. Lori Valentine, Council staff Tomeka Bumbry.

By Press Officer
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On Monday, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation hosted its first ever County Council Appreciation Day at its headquarters in Largo, Maryland. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman invited his investors—the members of the County Council and their staff to see firsthand how the Economic Development Corporation responds to the needs of the business community in Prince George's County. The EDC team was extremely delighted to have the Council members attend and was eager to share an overview of the Corporation, its key initiatives and programs supporting job placement and youth career development.

"This is an incredible day," said EDC President Jim Coleman. "We invited our investors in to hear about the return on their investment in the EDC. We were pleased that they agreed to stop by and I think they were thrilled. Today I learned that our County Council is very committed to economic development, but most of all, they are committed to job creation and our residents getting jobs as quickly as possible. And with the programs we provide at the EDC, we are working every day to do just that."

After breaking bread with the County Council with a country style breakfast, Mr. Coleman told the Council about the recent success with

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Van Hollen and Edwards Battle for Endorsements as Senate Race Heats Up

By DYLAN REFFE
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Maryland's race for the U.S. Senate in 2016 is intensifying, and the two main Democratic contenders are using competing endorsements from local and national leaders in an effort to showcase their political strengths.

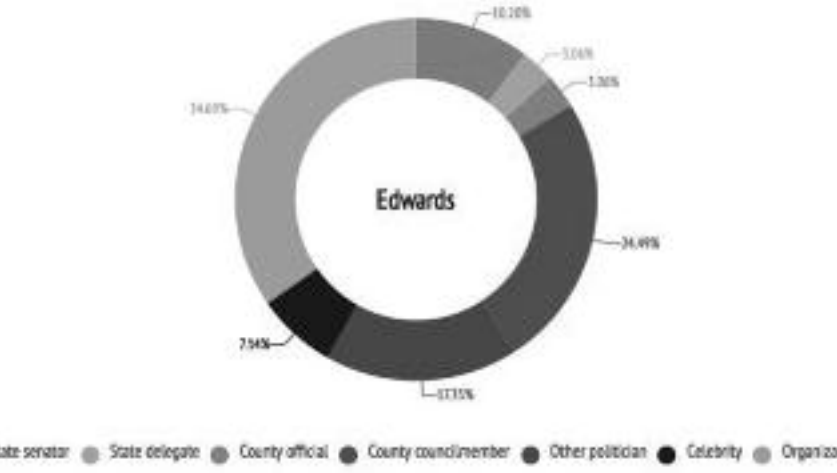
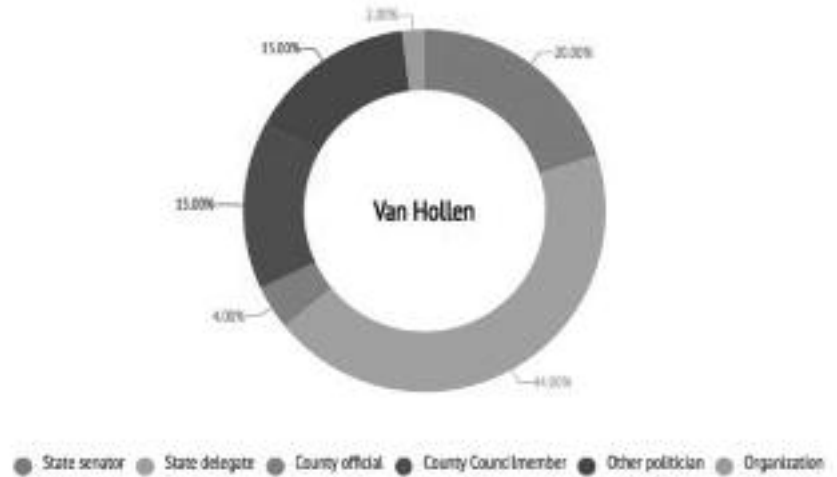
Reps. Chris Van Hollen and Donna Edwards have been campaigning for months. Both entered the race in March, just days after incumbent Barbara Mikulski announced she would not run for re-election to a sixth term.

According to a poll commissioned by her campaign, Edwards, who represents Maryland's 4th District, including portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, leads Van Hollen by five points.

The details of the telephone poll, conducted by the Global Strategy Group of 600 likely Democratic primary voters, has not been released by the Edwards campaign, and it is the only poll on record that has been commissioned by either campaign so far.

"You have to take the poll with a grain of salt. The campaign would only release things that are strategically beneficial to them," said Stella Rouse, a University of Maryland government and politics professor and director of the university's Center for American Politics and Citizenship.

Maryland Senate Candidates Compete for Endorsements



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY MOLLY PODLESNY AND SISSI CAO

Rep. Chris Van Hollen has more endorsements from other Maryland politicians, but Rep. Donna Edwards has two big-name celebrities—Barbra Streisand and J. J. Abrams—backing her.

Source: Chris Van Hollen campaign, Donna Edwards campaign and CNS staff research

"That being said, Larry Hogan (the Republican elected Maryland governor in an upset last year) released a similar campaign-commissioned poll, and that turned out to be true," Rouse added.

While the Edwards campaign may have its poll, the Van Hollen campaign points to its endorsements as an indicator of the direction of the race.

Van Hollen represents Maryland's 8th District, including the majority of Montgomery

See RACE Page A5

Office of the Sheriff's "Purple Light Nights" Lighting Ceremony Shines

By PRESS OFFICER
PG COUNTY SHERIFF

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff and its Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) hosted the "Purple Light Nights" Lighting Ceremony on October 1st, to mark the start of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, in a crowd of citizens and partners undeterred by the weather. The "Purple Light Nights" ceremony has become an annual event since the Office of the Sheriff launched the project in Maryland in 2014, adding Prince George's County and the state of Maryland to the national project as a partner with other cities and counties in 30 states, and in Canada and 18 villages in Guam. Guests were given a purple light bulb to shine on their porch or in their window during the month of October to signify the county's unified voice against domestic violence.

Introduced by Mistress of Ceremony Lt. Col. Regina Taylor, Sheriff's Office Bureau Chief Field Operations who



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Prince George's County Sheriff, Melvin High gives opening remarks at the Purple Light Nights Ceremony.

leads the Domestic Violence Intervention Division, Sheriff High began his remarks by saying, "Those of us who work to rid our community of domestic violence know one thing for sure—that domestic violence has no place in our community." That theme resonated throughout the program as domestic violence partners from agencies and organizations throughout the county spoke to guests.

This year's "Purple Light Nights" Guest Partner, the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center at Dimensions Healthcare at Prince George's Hospital Center, was represented by the Center's Coordinator Karalyn Mulligan—the evening's keynote speaker—who spoke about the Center's work and about her experi-

See LIGHTS Page A3

American Indian Village Grand Opening at Patuxent River Park

By Press Officer
PGCDPR

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Join the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation on Saturday, October 24, 2015, as we celebrate the opening of our American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park.

Built largely by local teenage volunteers, the village replicates eastern woodland villages, bringing visitors back in time to experience the history of the indigenous people of Prince

George's County. Different items at the village, which was built over 18 months, include a 40-foot long longhouse, a wigwam, archaeological exhibits, a garden, and stations showing the processes for hide tanning, net weaving and mat making.

Members of the Piscataway Tribe will lead the opening ceremonies, starting with a traditional welcoming ceremony. After the welcoming, tribe members will be at different stations throughout the village teaching what each station meant to the tribe.

This is a free event.

When: Saturday, October 24, 2015 – 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro

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.

County Council Presents Proposed Legislation Requiring Mandatory Paid Sick Leave in PG County

By Press Officer
Weiss PR

The Prince George's County Council, presented Council Bill 65-2015, proposed legislation requiring mandatory paid sick leave in Prince George's County.

The measure, if passed, would require employers in Prince George's County to provide employees with one hour of paid sick leave for every 30

hours worked, capped at a maximum of seven days (56 hours) per year.

Council Member Mary Lehman (D) – District 1, Council Member Deni Taveras (D) – District 2, and Council Member Karen R. Toles (D) – District 7, are sponsoring the measure to address the large population of employees in Prince George's County who do not receive earned sick and safe leave, and

as a result, often come to work ill, or send a sick child to school or day care.

"No one should have to risk their job or paycheck to care for their health or the health of a family member," said Council Member Lehman. "Low and middle income workers are much less likely to be offered

See SICK LEAVE Page A6

INSIDE

Tougher Impaired Driving Law and Higher Speed Limit Law in Maryland Now in Effect

The tougher new law was passed nearly four years after the Maryland General Assembly passed the 2011 Drunk Driving Reduction Act, which expanded the number of drivers required to participate in Maryland's ignition interlock program.
Community, Page A3

Progress for Children's Health

Although progress was made for large numbers of children, some lag behind. Hispanic children were more likely to be uninsured than children of other races and ethnicities and the uninsured rate for noncitizen children in 2014 was 20.8 percent—about 3.5 times greater than the uninsured rate for native-born citizen children.
Commentary, Page A4

Hogan to Eliminate, Cut Fees Across Agencies, Saving \$10.2 Million Annually

Some proposed fee changes included the transportation department reducing the cost of homeless identification cards to \$1. Under current fee structures, homeless adults and minors have to pay \$24 and \$15, respectively, for a homeless identification card.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review:

"Hotel Transylvania 2
It's harmless, pleasant fun—why, Mel Brooks even turns up as Dracula's elderly father!—and a far cry from the aggressive, grating live-action turds Sandler has been plopping out. Whaddaya know, childish jokes play a lot better when they're actually aimed at children.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is biophilic design in architecture and where can I see it implemented?

—Winston Black
Newark, NJ

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Darnall's Chance hosts The Great Jack O'Lantern Campfire

Darnall's Chance House Museum invites you to come Saturday, Oct. 24, 7 to 8:30 p.m., to see a dazzling display of 50 hand-carved illuminated jack-o'-lanterns, and bask in the warmth of a fall campfire, roast marshmallows and listen to haunted Halloween tales.

Kids can win a prize on a hunt for glowing jack-o'-lanterns and everyone can enjoy popcorn and hot cider. Guests may bring their own chocolate bars and graham crackers to make s'mores.

Admission is \$4 per person (cash only). No reservations required. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m. For information: 301-952-8010.

Jeff Karberg discusses Identity theft

Identity Theft Administrator Jeff Karberg will give a free presentation, on how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, on Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 to 8 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus in Forestville. He'll tell you what to do if you think you've been victimized and will explain common ID theft scams and recent developments in Maryland's ID theft laws.

Mr. Karberg is with the Consumer Protection Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, previously worked for the Federal Trade Commission, and is an attorney.

The K of C hall is at 3611 Stewart Road in Forestville. Doors open at 6:30. All are welcome and there is no charge.

Stan Holmes named to VFD Board of Directors

Stanley Holmes, president of the Skyline Citizens Association, now holds yet another local office—this time with the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department. The MVFD recently amended their by-laws to allow

for the appointment of civilian board members.

At the Skyline general meeting on Sept. 16, Morningside Chief Michael Poetker announced that Stan has been named to the Fire Department's Board of Directors. Their website states: "We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Stan Holmes to our Board of Directors. Stan is a fixture in the community and has always been an advocate of the MVFD and the service we provide. He is a Prince George's County resident, a graduate of Crossland High School (Class of 1977), a veteran of the United States Military, a family man and a wonderful individual. We are honored that Stan accepted our appointment."

Coming up

Morningside's October town meeting will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m.

A Halloweenie Roast Campfire, for ages two and up, will be held at the Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Park in Clinton on Oct. 31, from noon to 3 p.m. Sit around the campfire, enjoy nature tales, see live animals and do a craft. The fee is \$4.

It's Homecoming Weekend at McNamara, Oct. 23-24. Go to www.bmhs.org for information.

Changing landscape

County Executive Baker recently visited Suitland High School with Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot to talk about School Construction Funding for Prince George's County Schools.

A clothing drop-box appeared on the 7-Eleven parking lot on Suitland Road recently. Before long, all sorts of junk was deposited—outside the box. Skyline Vice President Kenia Spivey went into action, finding out if such boxes were legal. She learned most aren't. They have to get a permit from the County. The box is gone, and good riddance!

May they rest in peace

Melvin Ross Rogers Jr., 69, a 1964 graduate of Suitland High where he was a track star, died unexpectedly while working in his boatyard on Aug. 6. Ross (as he was known) lived in San Leon, Texas. He attended the University of Houston, and held a number of jobs, describing himself as a jack-of-all-trades. His obit states that he could fix anything and that he loved to sail. He's survived by his wife Becky, three children, six grandchildren, and his sisters. His brother Roy predeceased him. Thank you to Sue Mason for emailing me about Ross.

James Patrick "Jim" Collins, Sr., 79, a life member of the Oxon Hill Fire Department and an Army veteran, died Sept 28 in Luray. He used to live in Oxon Hill and was a 1964 graduate of Oxon Hill High School. Survivors include his wife Sandy, sons James Jr. and Danny, daughter Katie Mills, and five grandchildren. His Memorial Mass was at St. Columba Church, in Oxon Hill.

Milestones

Happy birthday Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16; Frank McCrone, Oct. 17; Paul Long, Andrew Nicholas Smith, Carol (Kline) DeGraba and Nola Cook, Oct. 18; Clyde Miller, Catherine Alvis, Jody Nyers and Christina Ramsey Eckloff, Oct. 22.

Happy 35th anniversary to Michael and Anita (Fulton) Freeman, on Oct. 18.

And special congratulations to Danny Fluhart, president of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House Museum in Waldorf, and his wife Elizabeth on their 50th wedding anniversary, Sept. 18. They met when they both worked at the FBI in Washington and were married at St. John's Church in Hollywood. They live in Waldorf, have seven children and 14 grandchildren.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

HALLOWEEN ON THE FARM

You are invited to come and join us at Old Maryland Farm for an autumn celebration Sunday October 18, 2015 from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM. You will be able to enjoy games, hayrides, cider, a costume contest, crafts and other activities. All ages are welcome. Fee is \$4/person. Activities will take place at Old Maryland Farm. For more information call 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544.

MEN'S DAY 2015

The Men of Clinton United Methodist Church will be featuring "Men's Day, Sunday, October 18, 2015 with a special service of music at 3:00 PM. This year's theme is "Where Could I Go But to the Lord?" There will be an 8:00 AM Service, 10:30 AM Service and a 3:00 PM Music Service. Dinner will be served after the service.

The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Rev. Dorothea Stroman is the Pastor. Church office telephone number is 301-868-1281. E-mail address is cumcmd@verizon.net.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

CSS will have a Big Sale (Yard Sale/Flea Market) Saturday, October 17 at the Chapel of the Incarnation from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM. The address is 14070 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Spaces for rent are \$15. There will be refreshments on sale. For more information call 301-372-1491. The Big Sale is to benefit Community Support Systems (CSS), a private, non-profit social service agency serving Southern Prince George's and North Charles Counties. If you need additional information visit www.CommunitySupportSystems.org.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to James Dorsett, III, John Tyree, Camden Seven Brooks, Jefferson Vitale, Madison Rae Stroman, Mark Hayes, Kaylee Davis, Dwayne Wood, Khia Knight, William Stammer, Devin Panda-Wellington, David Samuel, Leslie Slaybaugh, Ulric Thomas, Erica Barron, Denise Bouyer Carter, Barbara Washington, Iheanyi (Junior) Mbakwe and George Taylor who are Clinton United Methodist Church members

celebrating their birthdays in October.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversary to Jeffrey & Mia Kerrick, Dwayne & Melva Wood, Lawrence & Roseline Omoregb, Clarkie & Georgia Kinard who are Clinton United Methodist members celebrating their wedding anniversaries in October.

BODY RECALL

Body Recall at Clinton United Methodist Church resumed and will meet two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM in the CUMC multipurpose room. If you are interested in becoming an exercise instructor, please call Betty King (301) 868 5732.

TRASH TO TREASURE

Join us Saturday November 7, 2015 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM for the 7th annual green craft fair featuring vendors selling items made from organic, recycled, or sustainable materials. The indoor craft fair will feature local artists, non-profit environmental crafts and crafts for children. All ages are free. Watkins Nature Center 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Campaign Announces Endorsement of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

LANHAM, MD—The Donna Edwards for Senate Campaign announced the endorsement of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Based in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the Machinists represent thousands of workers across Maryland and 720,000 members across North America while currently administering 5,000 collective bargaining agreements for its members working in government, as well as the aerospace and transportation industries, from NASA Goddard to the NSA at Fort Meade.

Congresswoman
Donna Edwards

"I am grateful for the support of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in my campaign to become Maryland's next United States Senator. In Congress, I've fought for good jobs, collective bargaining, job training, and against bad trade deals that harm Maryland workers and ship jobs overseas. As Maryland's next United States Senator, I will never waver in the fight against special interests bent on rigging our economy at the expense of working families."

R. Thomas Buffenbarger,
International President,
International Association
of Machinist and
Aerospace Workers

"Rep. Edwards has a well-deserved reputation for fighting for the issues that matter most to Machinists in Maryland: good jobs; secure retirement and a decent standard of living that can be passed from one generation to the next. She won our endorsement the old-fashioned way: she earned it."

In her fight to become Maryland's next United States Senator, Donna Edwards has already secured the support of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, IBEW Local 26, and Teamsters 639.

Financial Peace University Provides Hope to Families in Upper Marlboro

NASHVILLE, TENN.—More than 2.5 million families have positively changed their financial future through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU). The nine-week course provides families and individuals with practical tools to gain control of their finances and set themselves up for long-term financial success. The course meets once a week where a different lesson is taught by Dave on DVD followed by a small-group discussion. Lessons include budgeting, relationships and money, getting out of debt, saving for emergencies and investing. FPU will be held in Upper Marlboro at Greater St. John Church located at 11425 Old Marlboro Pike in Upper Marlboro. The classes will begin Monday, October 05, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Contact Jermaine Bailey at (202) 431-4739 for more information or to register.

Through common-sense principles and small-group accountability, FPU gives people the tools they need to change their behavior and succeed financially. On average families who complete FPU pay off \$5,300 and save \$2,700 in the first 90 days. Following the



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

class nearly 94 percent of those families budget regularly.

"FPU will not only transform the way you handle money, but also your marriage and other areas of your life," says Ramsey. "This isn't a boring financial class. We make learning about money fun and easy to understand so people in every situation can benefit from the information."

Ramsey knows first-hand the pain that financial stress can cause. After creating a net worth of more than a million dollars by age 26, he quickly lost it all. Since then Ramsey has helped families and individuals across the country learn how to get control of their finances and avoid debt so they don't have to experience the same pain he did.

FPU lessons also include guest speakers Rachel Cruze, speaker and daughter of Dave Ramsey, and Chris Hogan, counselor and speaker for the Dave Ramsey organization.

After purchasing a membership each participant receives a workbook, Dave Ramsey's Complete Guide to Money, an envelope system and an audio CD library. Participants will also have access to budgeting forms and MP3s of all the lessons. For more information or to purchase a membership, go to www.daveramsey.com.

About Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He's authored five New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, Entrepreneurship and Smart Money Smart Kids. "The Dave Ramsey Show" is heard by more than 8.5 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations, "The Dave Ramsey Show" channel on iHeartRadio and a 24-hour online streaming video channel. Ramsey Solutions offers a suite of products and services to help people get control of their finances and other aspects of their lives. Follow Ramsey on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

M-NCPPC Wins 2015 Public Building of the Year Award

RIVERDALE, MD—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation for Prince George's County, was awarded Public Building of the Year by the American Institute of Architects Maryland for architecture used while building Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex in Fort Washington, Md.

The 37,000-square-foot building, designed by Suman

Sorg, FAIA and Sorg Architects, opened in 2013. The jury selected the building's design, with blue and green hues to function as a catalyst to bring a community together."

A colored-glass front highlights the building's design, with blue and green hues to connect the building to the surrounding natural landscape. Sorg said she chose white metal for the structure to give it a lighter feel, and kept the building's height minimal so it didn't overpower the surrounding community.

Sustainability was another focal point in the design, Sorg said, installing a green roof, and items for water and energy conservation.

This LEED Silver certified building has unique amenities, including a rock climbing wall, a recording studio, an environmental science lab, a computer lab, a double gymnasium, a dance studio, seminar rooms, teen and adult cafés, fitness rooms and a multi-purpose room with warming kitchen.

The jury finished by saying that Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex "is a model for architecture in the public realm."

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.pgparcs.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.

Celebrate Halloween at Old Maryland Farm

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Start your Halloween celebrations early with us at Old Maryland Farm during Halloween on the Farm on Sunday, October 18, 2015.

Enjoy a costume contest, hayrides, games, crafts, cider and creepy-crawly animals. Pumpkins will be available for purchase. Admission is \$4.

The costume contest has phenomenal prizes: First-place: Free Old Maryland Farm Birthday Party. Second: Holiday Hayride Gift Certificate for 4 people. Third: Free car admission for Festival of Lights.

When: Sunday, October 18, 2015, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Old Maryland Farm 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.

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COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

From Strip to Chip: Everything You Need to Know About the New Generation of Payment Cards

If you've received a replacement for your credit or debit cards in the mail lately, take a closer look. That little gold chip on the front is going to make it tougher for thieves to steal your data.

By year-end 2015, Visa estimates that 63 percent of cards in American wallets will feature this new technology (www.VisaChip.com) aimed at derailing counterfeit fraud. The new chip adds a unique, one-time code that changes every time you use your card to make an in-store payment. That automatic security code change makes your data nearly impossible to use to create a counterfeit card.

Counterfeit or "cloned" cards account for about two-thirds of in-store fraud to the tune of \$3 billion, according to Boston-based research firm Aite Group. The transition to chip cards is expected to be nearly complete by year-end 2017.

You'll see very slight differences in using these cards. First, you'll need to insert a chip card into a new slot on built for chip cards and keep it there until your purchase is complete. You won't have to swipe traditional magnetic strip on the back anymore. You will still be able to sign, enter a PIN or just pay-and-go for everyday transactions as before. Just remember to take your card with you when the transaction is complete.

However, if you are currently using an old but unexpired card or if the business where you're doing a transaction doesn't have the upgraded chip card equipment, don't panic. The strip on the back of your card will continue to work with all card terminals for the foreseeable future.

For merchants—the collective name for the stores, restaurants and other businesses where you use credit and debit cards every day—the transition to chip cards is moving along as well. According to a recent survey by Visa, approximately 90 percent of business owners are aware of chip technology and about 70 percent have already upgraded their equipment or have plans to do so. Current estimates show that 47 percent of U.S. terminals will be able to read chip cards by the end of the year.

There's one more incentive for all businesses to get on board with chip card technology: Starting October 1, liability for some counterfeit fraud may shift from the card-issuing financial institutions to retailers unless they are able to accept and process chip card transactions.

For merchants, processing chip transactions will likely involve a hardware or software upgrade somewhat similar to upgrading a cellphone contract. In many cases, the terminal will be included in the cost of the service. About a third of merchant terminals are already chip card-capable and just need a software update to fully function.

For the smallest businesses, some low-cost options for upgrading card acceptance terminals can cost \$100 or less. Square <https://squareup.com/contactless-chip-reader>, for example, recently announced a new \$49 card reader that accepts chip cards as well as mobile payments and they're giving away 250,000 of them to small business customers at no cost.

If you travel overseas regularly, you've probably already seen chip card technology in action. It's based on a global standard called EMV and is already at work in countries moving to cashless options for private and public goods and services.

One final note. While you're waiting for your new chip cards, you'll still be able to use your current strip-based credit cards in new machines under their zero liability fraud protection rules. However, debit card security rules are different, so it is best to check with your bank on their guidelines so you know your funds are secure.

Bottom line: The move from strip to chip cards will create a more secure environment for credit and debit card users. However, consumers will still need to keep their cards safe and confirm the accuracy of all their spending data.



Tougher Impaired Driving Law and Higher Speed Limit Law in Maryland Now in Effect

The New Law Strengthens Maryland's Drunk Driving Laws

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, DC— On October 1, 2015, a new Maryland law went into effect, which strengthens penalties for certain fatal drunk driving crashes and a second law may give drivers with a suppressed desire to travel at the 85th percentile speed of free-flowing traffic on state highways the opportunity to do so.

The much tougher new drunk driving law increases the administrative per se sanctions that must be imposed on a person who is stopped or detained on suspicion of committing an alcohol-related driving offense if test results indicate a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or greater and the person was involved in a motor vehicle accident that resulted in the death of another person. AAA Mid-Atlantic supported HB 430 – Drunk Driving – Accidents Resulting in Death – Sanctions for Administrative Per Se Offenses, which strengthens Maryland's drunk driving laws.

For drivers with a BAC of 0.08 or higher involved in a crash that resulted in the death of another person, the new law imposes a minimum six-month driver's license suspension for first offense and one-year driver's license suspension for second or subsequent offenses. For drivers with a BAC of 0.15 or higher involved in a crash that resulted in the death of another person the

new law imposes a one-year driver's license suspension for a first offense and revocation for second or subsequent offenses.

"The reality is that first-time offenders aren't really first-time offenders at all. It is simply the first time these drivers have been caught for something they have most likely done countless times," said Tom Calcagni, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Director of Public and Government Affairs. "In spite of all we have done, drunk driving continues to plague our nation and the state of Maryland. The fact is, drunk drivers who put the lives of others in jeopardy do not deserve the privilege of driving."

The tougher new law was passed nearly four years after the Maryland General Assembly passed the 2011 Drunk Driving Reduction Act, which expanded the number of drivers required to participate in Maryland's ignition interlock program. At that time Maryland had the "highest per-capita participation in ignition interlock on the East Coast with numbers that have nearly double in the past few years," according to the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

Got the need for speed? Maryland is joining the rank of states allowing drivers to "put the pedal to the metal." The new law allows state highway officials to authorize a maximum speed limit from 65 miles per hour to 70 miles per hour on certain state highways in Maryland starting

today. Lawmakers passed the higher speed limits during the 2015 legislative Session.

The measure (Senate Bill 44/ House Bill 194 – Vehicle Laws – Maximum Speeds on Highways) contains an important caveat aimed at ensuring the safety of all highway users, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic. The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has to conduct highway speed engineering studies "regarding the effect of increasing the speed limit," explains the Maryland General Assembly Department of Legislative Services.

The first Maryland highway to implement the speed limit increase is a section of I-68 in Western Maryland. According to a State Highway Administration press release: SHA engineers carefully evaluated the I-68 corridor and determined that the majority of the interstate could be changed to 70 mph. I-68 is an east-west highway stretching 80 miles from its western border at the Garrett County/West Virginia Line to its connection with I-70 in Washington County. SHA will keep the current speed limit, ranging from 40 mph to 65 mph, on a 7-mile segment between LaVale and Cumberland. This segment has hills and curves that preclude a higher speed limit.

Year-in and year-out, speeding is a factor in nearly a third of all fatal roadway crashes in the United States, cautions AAA Mid-Atlantic. For example, in

2013 "speeding was a factor in 29 percent of all traffic fatalities, killing an average of 26 persons per day for a total of 9,613 speeding-related fatalities," according to the National Safety Council.

AAA Mid-Atlantic did not take a position on the bill during the 2015 Maryland General Assembly session. Yet officials at the auto club trust state engineers will be able to best determine if a major highway can safely accommodate a 70 mph speed limit. All told, Maryland recorded 148 speeding-related fatalities in 2013, compared to 202 such fatalities in 2012, and 142 during 2011, according to Traffic Safety Performance (Core Outcome) Measures for Maryland, as tabulated by NHTSA. "While AAA consistently advocates for ways to decrease traffic congestion and motorist mobility, obviously we will be concerned if there is an increase in crashes on any roadway because of an increase in the speed limit," Calcagni commented.

Although the United States doesn't have the autobahn, we are no longer a nation of slow-pokes. The speed limit has increased across the country in the past twenty years. "Congress repealed the National Maximum Speed Limit in 1995," observes the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA). "Since then, 34 states have raised speed limits to 70 mph or higher on some portion of their roadway systems."

Lights from A1

ences working with victims. Other speakers included Betty Hagar Francis, DCAO for Health & Human Services, and Education, who outlined the progress and collaboration between agencies on domestic violence, Judge Cathy Serrette who provided an update on the opening of the Family Justice Center – a one-stop center to assist victims of domestic violence, and Judge Lisa Hall Johnson, chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Congresswoman Donna Edwards, who founded the National Network to End Domestic Violence long before she became a member of Congress, spoke about the lack of services available to victims when she began her work, specifically noting, the progress that has been made in Prince George's County due to strong leadership and cooperation.

Jerry Pasternak, Region Vice President from Pepco, this year's "Purple Light Nights" presenting sponsor said that safety is a core value and top priority for Pepco. On supporting "Purple Light Nights", Mr. Pasternak said, "... we train our employees about not only the hazards of working on an electric grid but also the impacts of Intimate Partner Violence on women,



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Jerry Pasternak, Region Vice President from Pepco, this year's "Purple Light Nights" presenting sponsor said that safety is a core value and top priority for Pepco..

children, and families—both at home and in the workplace. That training includes awareness of the problem, recognizing behaviors of concern, and responding appropriately." Pepco's support as presenting sponsor enabled the Office of the Sheriff to provide hundreds of light bulbs to citizens.

"I want 'Purple Light Nights' to be a model for change like 'Mothers Against Drunk Driving' and the 'Brady Campaign against gun violence,'" said Sheriff High. "We have to be bold in our initiatives if we're going to make a difference in the lives of victims and persons at risk of domestic violence and the healing of families."

Early in the program, Lt. Col. Taylor recognized other partners who have joined the "Purple Light Nights" community campaign by lighting up their facilities, including twelve municipalities that included: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Colmar Manor, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park and Upper Marlboro. Other partners include the Prince George's County Police Department, Fire/EMS, Bowie State University, Prince George's Community College and University of Maryland, Dimensions Healthcare System and Carrollton Enterprises. "We look forward to our partnership growing even

more this month and next year," said Lt. Col. Taylor.

The Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) is hosting a series of information exchanges throughout the county in October and participating in events with other partners and closing the month with a partnership luncheon on October 28th at the Newton White Mansion. Look for the weekly schedule of events. They will continue to distribute light bulbs while supplies last.

DVID October Schedule of Events:

- Tue. October 16**—Addison Road Metro Information Exchange 7:30 am–9:00 am
- Sat. October 17**—Family Strong Experience (State's Attorney Office)- First Baptist Church of Glenarden 5:00pm–8:00pm
- Tue. October 20**—Silver Hill Shopping Center (Giant) 5:00pm–6:00pm
- Thu. October 22**—Maryland Network Annual Domestic Violence Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner
- Fri. October 23**—Branch Avenue Metro 7:00 am–9:00am
- Tue. October 27**—Penn Station Shopping Center 5:00pm–6:00pm
- Wed. October 28**—Sheriff DVID Partnership Luncheon, Newton White Mansion 11:00 am–3:00 pm

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

Career from A1

the EDC's 'We Care' initiative in which he and the Economic Development Directors have visited 176 companies located in Prince George's County to let them know how much they are appreciated and to find out whether they are in need of any assistance to help sustain their businesses in the County. As a result of the 'We Care' visits, the EDC discovered that more than 4,700 jobs will be created

by these companies within the next 12 months. Mr. Coleman also talked about the launching of his latest initiative, 'Operation 535', which began this week and is focused on attracting businesses that are within 48 months of lease expiration in the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia.

"This has been a tremendous day," said Council Chair Mel Franklin. "This is only the beginning... we will continue this relationship and strengthen it."

The County Council was particularly pleased in the programs and results that the EDC Workforce Development Division presented such as: the One-Stop Career Center that provides job training skills and job placements to County residents; the Hire Prince George's initiative that provides financial assistance to County employers hiring County residents; and the Youth CareerConnect Program—the prestigious \$7 million grant that President Barack

Obama presented in Prince George's County last year focused on students in three of Prince George's County Public Schools career academies in the fields of health and bio-science and information technology.

"The Economic Development Corporation is working diligently in Prince George's County and the creative pipeline for businesses to come in," said County Council Vice Chair Derrick L. Davis (Dist. 6). "The County Council is firmly com-

mitted to that opportunity. I think we are well on our way and in the next 4 or 5 years, you are really going to see the benefits and the fruits of the labor that we have put in."

The Council charged the EDC to work with the public school counselors, libraries, churches, community centers and even unions to build students awareness of a wider diversity of career options to best utilize their skills and natural gifts. Collectively, the Council and EDC

believe that sustainable economic development comes through youth being prepared completely for their first jobs. Just as a Head Start program promote school readiness, the EDC's workforce development programs and youth career consultant programs are also promoting job readiness.

"I am encouraged by the information EDC shared with

COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Announces More Than \$4 Million in Federal Funding to Increase Access to Maryland Community Health Centers and Keep Families Healthy

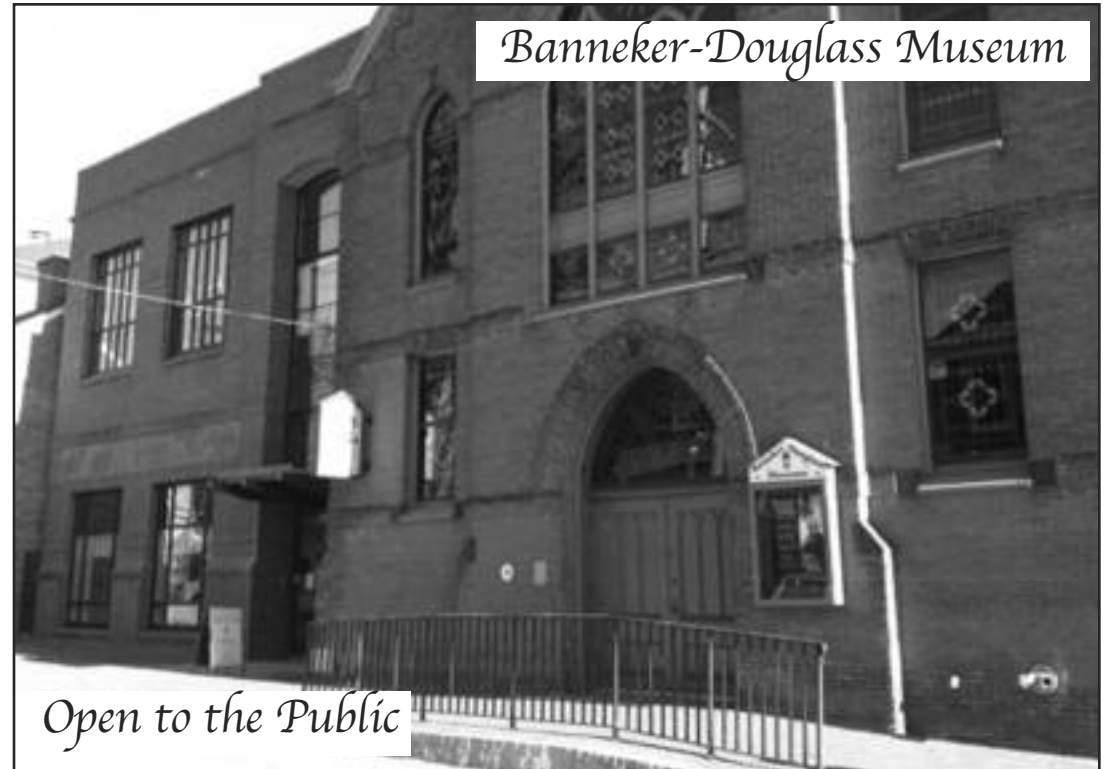
WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today announced that, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 14 community health centers across Maryland have been awarded a combined total of \$4,161,916 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to increase access to health care services in Maryland. Community health centers provide comprehensive, high quality primary and preventive care to Americans in rural and urban communities, who otherwise may face hurdles in accessing basic health care services.

"Community health centers provide an important safety net for the people who need it most," Senator Mikulski said. "During the debate over health reform, I fought to end the punitive practices of health insurance companies, but I also fought

to expand access to needed health care services. These funds, which we included in the Affordable Care Act, will help families in under-served neighborhoods have access to quality, reliable care in their own communities. I will continue to fight for the health and well-being of Maryland families with a government on their side."

The funds will be used to increase access to health care services as well as for construction and renovation projects that increase patient capacity or provide additional comprehensive primary and preventative health services. The funding is part of a larger announcement of \$500 million awarded nationwide through HHS' Health Center Program.

Since the beginning of 2009, health centers have expanded access to care to an additional six million patients, serving nearly 23 million people each year. Today, more than 1,300 health center grantees operate approximately 9,000 sites in every state and U.S. territory.



Banneker-Douglass Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ANONYMOUS

BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, located in Annapolis, maintains the state's official collection of African-American history and culture. Named for Benjamin Banneker and Frederick Douglass, this former AME church-now museum hosts lectures, workshops, performances, and multiple exhibits. The museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10am through 4pm. Admission to the museum is free. Scheduled guided tours and site rentals are available for a fee. Contact the museum at 410.216.6180 or at bannekerdouglassmuseum@gmail.com for further information.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Stand Your Ground Laws: A License to Kill

"Racial stereotypes are still part of American culture, and, by default, part of the American criminal justice system. Instead of being color-blind, an impossible exercise, the impact of race must be addressed head-on and become openly part of the legal critique. It must be discussed where necessary to amend laws that enable race, or the fear of race, to be a guise to harm the disfavored race. This is our task if we choose to accept it."

—Professor Tamara Lawson,

A Fresh Cut in an Old Wound—A Critical Analysis of the Trayvon Martin Killing, August 2012

Trayvon Martin's unjust death at the hands of a trigger-happy, self-described neighborhood watchman continues to shock and live on in our nation's collective consciousness. And with the release of a recent study commissioned by the American Bar Association, it may also become the impetus behind the movement to abolish or scale back Stand Your Ground protections—protections that influenced the ultimate acquittal of Trayvon's murderer and focused our attention on the dangerous confluence of race and criminal justice in America.

On the evening of February 26, 2012, Trayvon became a tragic illustration of the glaring defects in Florida's Stand Your Ground law. The 17-year-old, with no criminal record, was walking home from a store armed only with a bag of candy and a can of iced tea when he was confronted and then shot to death by George Zimmerman. Because of Florida's Stand Your Ground law, Zimmerman was taken in for questioning but was later released on the grounds of self-defense. He would not be charged with murder by the police—that night.

According to the law, which Florida became the first state to adopt in 2005, people are authorized to use deadly force in cases of self-defense without the duty to retreat in the face of any perceived threat to their life or property. As long as you can claim that you are in fear for your life at any given point, the law hands you a license to kill at will. Rather than lower homicide or crime rates, this essentially free pass to criminal behavior has only served to further endanger public safety—particularly the lives of people of color—and exploit the mistrust, animosity and racial injustice that color our daily interactions and justice at every level.

Trayvon's murder served as the genesis of the ABA's National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws. The task force has researched the impact of Stand Your Ground laws in the 33 states that carry some variation of the law, and their discoveries should give pause to all Americans committed to

fair and balanced treatment within our criminal justice system. In a previous study by the Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition in collaboration with the National Urban League and VoteVets, our data showed that in the 22 states that had enacted Stand Your Ground Laws between 2005 and 2007, the justifiable homicide rate by private citizens was 53 percent higher after the passage of the law. The study also found that in Florida alone, justifiable homicides jumped to 200 percent. A 2012 ABA report cited statistics compiled by researchers at Texas A&M that found that states with Stand Your Ground laws have more homicides than states without the statute. When you take into consideration the history of race in this country, the disproportionate impact of the law on African Americans should come as no surprise. The task force's research has also found that a white shooter who uses deadly force against a Black victim is 350 percent more likely to be found justified than a Black shooter who kills a white victim.

Because of the racial bias inherent in Stand Your Ground laws, and the danger to the general public caused by this "shoot first, ask later" mentality, we need to do more than review the laws, we need to repeal them. Stand Your Ground has not proven itself to be a common sense law that keeps our communities—and our neighbors—safe. According to one of the task force's researchers, "if we are to use science and data and logic and analysis to drive sensible public policy, then there is no reliable and credible evidence to support laws that encourage stand your ground and shoot your neighbor."

No matter who you are, or what ethnic community you claim as your own, we all want the same thing: to be safe. Stand Your Ground laws have proven that rather than curb violence, the laws increase violence. The explosive combination of Stand Your Ground laws and pre-existing racial stereotypes and tensions have worked disproportionately against communities of color, making them victims in far larger numbers and depriving them of justice in our criminal justice system. Repealing Stand Your Ground laws would seem like common sense, but unfortunately, common sense is not so common. Just weeks ago a bill was introduced by a Florida legislator that would effectively provide more protection for people who claim self-defense, placing the burden on prosecutors to prove that the defendant was wrong to use deadly force. Stand Your Ground laws do not protect us—they hurt, divide and kill—and we must work together to enact public policy and gun laws that will ensure the safety of the American public.

Progress for Children's Health

Recently released data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey show the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is working and helping get people health coverage. This is a welcome stark contrast to new census data showing children remain our poorest age group and the younger they are the poorer they are. Clearly the ACA has had positive effects on the uninsured. There were 8.8 million more people insured in 2014 than in 2013 and the percentage of people without health insurance coverage decreased from 13.3 percent to 10.4 percent. In 2014 nearly 1 million more children gained health coverage and 93.8 percent had health insurance coverage although they were covered at a lower rate than seniors. Adult gains in coverage mean extra gains for children because when parents are covered children are more likely to be covered and receive needed preventive care too. The high rate of coverage for children is also evidence that Medicaid and CHIP are working for children and should be preserved as we work to expand protections for children in private coverage.

Although progress was made for large numbers of children, some lag behind. Hispanic children were more likely to be uninsured than children of other races and ethnicities and the uninsured rate for noncitizen children in 2014 was 20.8 percent—about 3.5 times greater than the uninsured rate for native-born citizen children. Assuring universal coverage for children requires providing coverage to undocumented children and to citizen children of undocumented parents who fear deportation if they seek health coverage for their children.

This summer, California took an historic leap towards providing health coverage to every child—the culmination of more than a decade of relentless advocacy by the Children's Defense Fund's California office and other child health and immigrant advocates. Led by state Senator Ricardo Lara, the legislature and Governor expanded Medicaid coverage to all income eligible children regardless of immigration status. Starting

May 1, 2016, more than 170,000 undocumented children will gain access to health coverage they need to survive and thrive and grow up ready to contribute fully to California's workforce and economy. The progress in California reflects a bipartisan recognition that the state is stronger when everyone has access to health care including immigrant children and families. California child advocates know the fight is not over and are continuing the "Health for All" effort to ensure all Californians—adults and children—health coverage. With its recent advances California joins Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Washington State, and Washington, D.C. in covering undocumented children. Every state should do so.

States that have taken the Affordable Care Act's option to expand Medicaid to more low- and middle-income adults also saw important strides in 2014. Although all 50 states and Washington, D.C. had a decreasing number of uninsured people between 2013 and 2014, the greatest gains were in the states that took the ACA's option to expand Medicaid. The uninsured rate in Medicaid expansion states was lower than in states that did not expand

Medicaid. The largest drop in the uninsured rate was in a Medicaid expansion state, Kentucky (5.8 percent). Massachusetts had the lowest rate of uninsured people (3.3 percent); Texas, a non-Medicaid expansion state, had the highest (19.1 percent).

We can increase this good news for all who need health coverage. We need to push hard for Medicaid expansion in all 50 states and push all states to follow California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Washington State, and Washington, D.C. in covering undocumented children. The progress made on reducing the number of uninsured people should inspire us to keep going until every child and adult has needed health coverage.

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

Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Is There A Link Between Diet And Your Mental Health?

Say the word "diet" and the usual reaction is that we're talking about losing weight. Today, let's talk about "diet" as simply our daily food choices, the ones we often make without giving them much thought.

While our food choices certainly affect our weight, they also play an important role in our emotional well-being and overall mental health. Numerous studies have found that the foods we consume play a large role in how we feel and act.

Most parents, for example, have seen how a sugar high affects their kids. Although numerous studies have failed to find a link between sugar and hyperactivity, just about any mom will tell you that her son or daughter seems more excited or active after eating a sugary snack.

The reason may not be so much a physiological link as a psychological one. Eating foods we like makes us feel better, and most of us are genetically programmed to like sweet-tasting things. Our love of sweet tastes comes from our ancient ancestors who learned that sweet fruits and veggies were ripe and ready to eat.

Recent studies have found even more direct links between our food choices and mental health. A 2014 study of over 3,500 people reported that long-term exposure to an unhealthy diet, one high in sugar and processed foods, appeared to increase the risk for depression.

Foods high in sugar and fat have also been cited as a risk factor leading to addictive eating. Sugar and fat trigger the same pleasure centers in the brain that addictive drugs do. The pleasurable feelings that come from eating such foods help relieve stress and cause people to overeat or even to binge eat.

Being more aware of your food choices and how they affect your moods and overall mental health can help lead to a healthier and happier you.

If you think your food choices are affecting your moods or well being, try keeping a food diary for several days of what you eat and how you feel afterwards. You may find that you are turning to unhealthy choices and overeating simply to feel better.

That information can help lead you to making healthier choices. Or, if extra help is needed, talk to your family physician, a local nutritionist or a professional counselor to help steer your diet back on track for better physical and mental health.

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

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Hogan to Eliminate, Cut Fees Across Agencies, Saving \$10.2 Million Annually

By NAOMI EIDE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Gov. Larry Hogan on Tuesday announced reductions and eliminations to state agency fees, saving Maryland taxpayers approximately \$51 million over the next five years.

Each state agency was asked to conduct a top to bottom review to determine which fees they could reduce or eliminate through administrative means by the end of 2015, Hogan said.

Agencies found 100 fees—and an additional 115 animal health diagnostic fees—to either eliminate or cut, saving taxpayers \$10.2 million per year over the next five years, including \$5.9 million from the elimination earlier this year of an EZPass maintenance fee, according to a statement from the governor's office.

Changing fees falls under state regulation and does not re-

quire new legislation, according to the statement.

"These fee reductions will not impact the operations of any agency or department. In many agencies we saw that departments were simply collecting more than was needed, or in other words, overcharging taxpayers," Hogan said.

Some proposed fee changes included the transportation department reducing the cost of homeless identification cards to \$1. Under current fee structures, homeless adults and minors have to pay \$24 and \$15, respectively, for a homeless identification card.

Senator Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, vice chair of the senate's budget and taxation committee, said that the amount of revenue Hogan is cutting is negligible and overwhelmingly cuts business licensing fees.

"When it comes to these proposals, (they're) almost entirely to benefit the corporate interests

that are the base of his support," Madaleno said.

The Maryland Department of Human Resources has also proposed eliminating a \$725 adoption application fee.

Madaleno, an adoptive parent himself, said eliminating the application fee, "depends on what that money was going to pay for," and which services might be hampered without it. In this case, it's a fee for adult adoptees who want to find their birth parents through state records, according to Madaleno.

The process of making agency fee cuts and eliminations began Tuesday, though the schedule for individual fee changes is not yet known, according to Erin Montgomery, a spokeswoman for the governor.

Hogan said that with the assistance of the legislature, there are many more fees to cut.

Senator Stephen Hershey, R-Kent, Queen Anne's, Cecil and Caroline, wants to work on re-

ducing taxes and review the licensing and employment fees for certain trades, such as in salons with stylists and manicurists.

Earlier Tuesday, Senate President Thomas V. "Mike" Miller Jr., D-Calvert, Charles and Prince George's, along with House of Delegates Speaker Michael Busch, D-Anne Arundel, announced the members of the Commission on Retirement and Security.

U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez was part of the commission announcement and emphasized that there is a retirement crisis looming. According to Perez, Americans are more afraid of running out of retirement savings than they are of their own death.

The commission will focus on helping working Marylanders have a secure retirement. According to Busch, more than 1 million Marylanders will turn 60 years old with no real retirement savings, save for Social Security.

Race from A1

County, Maryland's most populous county, and portions of Frederick and Carroll Counties. He has dwarfed Edwards not only in endorsements, but also in fundraising.

As of June 30, the end of the last reporting period, Van Hollen had \$3.75 million in cash on hand, while Edwards has almost \$419,000. New fundraising numbers are expected within the next two weeks.

Just like his fundraising, where Van Hollen has drawn most of his money from within the state of Maryland, he has been endorsed by a large number of Maryland political leaders.

Van Hollen has backing from notable Maryland state lawmakers as well as notable state politicians, including Attorney General Brian Frosh, and Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

"Anyone watching this race knows that Chris is building a huge amount of momentum and doing everything right to secure a clear path to victory," said Van

Hollen campaign spokesman Erik Dorey.

"Chris is winning key endorsements from community activists and elected officials everywhere in the state, and he's raising contributions from fellow Marylanders who are engaged and excited by his campaign," Dorey added.

The Edwards campaign argues that the kind of endorsements Van Hollen is getting aren't helping him with Democratic Maryland voters.

"Congressman Van Hollen is trying to shore up his faltering campaign with insider endorsements and special interest money," said Ben Gerdes, communications director for the Edwards campaign. "Donna is winning in the polls because she's the only progressive fighter in this race willing to take on the special interests that stand in the way of progress for Maryland's middle class families."

Van Hollen has done well at securing local politicians, including many of those from Prince George's County, Edwards' home turf, including Prince

George's County Executive Rushern Baker, and Sen. Joanne Benson, D-Prince George's.

"It's not about race, creed or color; it's about a person. We are looking for somebody who has the fire in their belly to serve, and that's Chris Van Hollen," Benson said in June when she first endorsed Van Hollen.

"Certain endorsements certainly have more meaning than others," Rouse said. "But it's about quality over quantity."

Rouse does believe that Benson's endorsement of Van Hollen is significant. "An African American woman endorsing a white candidate, that's important," she said.

Much like with her campaign's fundraising, which has more financial backing from outside Maryland, Edwards has found greater success with endorsements by national groups. Edwards has the support of Emily's List, a group whose mission is to elect pro-choice Democratic women to office, and JStreet, a popular pro-Israel and pro-peace group.

While Edwards does not have the number of local endorse-

ments that Van Hollen does, she has received the backing of multiple state senators such as Karen Montgomery, D-Montgomery, and Anthony Muse, D-Prince George's, and Ulysses Currie, D-Prince George's.

Edwards has also secured the endorsement of multiple celebrities, including actor/singer Barbara Streisand and "Star Wars" director J.J. Abrams.

"We're proud of our endorsements," Gerdes said. "They show that we have strong support of women, working families, and progressives in this race."

Within the last week, Edwards has added two more endorsements: the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and the Maryland State Council of Machinists. Edwards already had the support of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Teamsters Local 639.

Van Hollen has also received support from multiple union groups, including the Teamsters Joint Council No. 55 and Teamsters Joint Council No. 62.

The Capital Wheel at National Harbor to Display Purple Lights for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By NAOMI EIDE
Capital News Service

CAMP SPRINGS, MD—Every Monday and Thursday evening during the month of October the Capital Wheel at the National Harbor will use its 1.6 million, fully programmable LED lights to display the color purple in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Beginning October 1st, neighborhoods and communities in Prince George's County will also participate in the Purple Light Nights Campaign to highlight the prevention and intervention of domestic violence around the world.

"Through an amazing partnership with Icon Attraction, LLC, I hope our many commuters will take notice of the purple wheel and begin real conversations," said Theresa M. Grant, Acting Director of the Department of Family Services. "1 in 4 women and 1 out of every 7 men experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Prince George's County ranks 3rd in the state of Maryland for the number of domestic violence cases reported in 2014 and

has the 3rd highest domestic violence fatality rate in the state. We're encouraging everyone to participate in a Purple Light Nights Campaign by hanging a purple light, in front of their home or business to show domestic violence has no place in our community."

"I applaud the National Harbor and Capital Wheel for partnering with our Department of Family Services to bring attention to domestic violence awareness," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "The problem of domestic violence affects both men and women while also impacting millions of families across the country, and thousands here in Prince George's County. We must do all we can to make sure victims, as well as family and friends of victims, know that confidential help is available by calling 2-1-1 in Prince George's County."

The Prince George's County, Department of Family Services, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Supportive Services Division, in partnership with Icon Attractions, LLC, which manages day-to-day operations of the Capital Wheel, will dis-



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Family Services Partners with the Capital Wheel to Raise Awareness for #DVAwarenessMonth.

tribute domestic violence resource information cards to riders of the observation wheel at the National Harbor. The 17-story wheel averages 2,500 riders daily from all over the world. Officials hope to reach the multitude of people in the DC Metro area and have a significant impact on raising domestic violence awareness. Riders of the

Capital Wheel are asked to show their support of the Purple Light Nights campaign by using the hashtag #DVAwarenessMonth on social media.

"Through this partnership with social media we should be able to touch the subject globally," said Jackie Rhone, Associate Director of the Domestic Violence and Human Traffick-

ing Supportive Services Division. "Partnerships intensify the message and build successful teams. Communities everywhere must take a stand and break the silence to support survivors everywhere."

The Capital Wheel features 42 climate-controlled gondolas, including two VIP gondolas with leather seats and wine

chillers. The wheel is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. year-round. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$11.25 for children ages 3-11. Panoramic views from the top of the wheel include the White House, U.S. Capitol, National Mall, Arlington Cemetery, Washington Monument, City of Alexandria, plus beautiful views of Prince George's County.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Hotel Transylvania 2”

Hotel Transylvania 2
Grade: B-
Rated PG, mild scariness
and rude humor
1 hr., 29min

Hotel Transylvania 2 confirms what its predecessor gave us reason to believe: that Adam Sandler can still be funny and likable; he just has to be a cartoon.

Sandler, who co-wrote the screenplay with old pal Robert Smigel, returns as the voice of hotel-for-monsters owner Dracula, whose daughter, Mavis (Selena Gomez), has just married a human named Jonathan (Andy Samberg) and produced a son, Dennis. Grandpa Drac loves the tyke either way, of course, but hopes Dennis has inherited the vampire DNA, not the human stuff, and sets out to show him how great being a monster is. (“Just wait, this kid’ll be guzzling goat’s blood in no time!”) His efforts are amusingly undercut by the fact that monsters are cute and fangless nowadays—a cuddly TV



The hit CG-animated family comedy *Hotel Transylvania* gets a follow-up with this Sony Pictures Animation production.

puppet called Cake Monster is especially galling—and instead of being frightened by Frankenstein (Kevin James), the Mummy (Keegan-Michael Key), and their friends,

passersby ask for selfies and tell Dracula, “Love your chocolate cereal!” It’s harmless, pleasant fun—why, Mel Brooks even turns up as Dracula’s elderly father!—and a far cry from

the aggressive, grating live-action turds Sandler has been plopping out. Whaddaya know, childish jokes play a lot better when they’re actually aimed at children.

Career from A3

the Council today,” said Council member Andrea Harrison (Dist. 5). “Such programs aimed at preparing our young people for today’s job market offer an exciting path for their futures and the future of Prince George’s County. Our charge is to call for an even

greater commitment to our youth from all stakeholders, including parents and guardians; teachers and guidance counselors; and extended family members. Realizing that everyone’s path will not lead to college, we must also build excitement for the County’s young people who choose vocational careers.”

The Council also took a tour of the One-Stop Career Center as well as the Accelerator Program where 17 Chinese entrepreneurs will enter the U.S. market with the assistance of the Economic Development Corporation. Council members commented that the Accelerator was an outstanding opportunity for businesses to come into the

County and allow those that already exist in the County to grow. It also represents an opportunity to get the skills they need in order to expand and stay in the County.

For more information

To learn more about EDC programs and services, go to www.pgcedc.com.

Sick Leave from A1

paid sick leave than higher paid workers. By providing paid sick leave, we not only create healthier work and school environments, but we can also improve employee retention, increase job safety and reduce training costs.”

“Paid sick leave is a win-win for employers and employees,” said Council Member Taveras. “Our research shows that jurisdictions around the country adopting paid sick leave policies

have consistently experienced significant job and business growth. Paid sick leave policies result in positive benefits for small businesses and their workers, including reduced turnover, higher productivity and healthier work environments.”

Council Bill 65-2015 also includes “safe time” leave, for employees requiring time to take advantage of victim’s services, counseling, relocation or legal services occurring as a result of domestic violence, sexual assaults or stalking.

“Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, along with their family members, deal with enough traumas without having to worry about potentially losing their jobs,” said Council Member Toles. “Safe leave is an essential part of how we ensure those who work in Prince George’s County have the benefits they need during critical times.”

According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, 43% of private-sector employees living in Prince George’s

County—approximately 131,000 workers—do not have access to paid sick leave. Additionally, less than half of full-time Prince George’s workers earning less than \$35,000 annually have paid sick days. Similar legislation recently enacted in Montgomery County becomes effective in October 2016.

CB-65-2015 has been referred to the Council’s Planning, Zoning and Economic Development (PZED) Committee for consideration.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Saints Did Not Save New Orleans



In 2009, Dashiell Bennett at *Deadspin* compiled four years of clichés about how the New Orleans Saints were somehow central to the “recovery” of New Orleans. The eerie part of these articles is how similar they are year after year, almost like the start of the football season meant that the leading publications needed to have one “Saints are Saving New Orleans” article “in the can” by Labor Day. This is how media organizations also handle obituaries: written in advance to avoid the slightest delay when announcing death.

As the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees is discussed this week, the well-worn narrative that “the Saints saved New Orleans” has continued endlessly, far more magnified than the pressing issues of poverty, racism, charter school failures, and displacement that still plague the city. The Saints narrative is like a game of video-friendly connect-the-dots: the Steve Gleason blocked punt, the U2 concert, the ascension of Drew Brees from mid-level quarterback with a bad shoulder to sure-fire Hall of Famer, the big Super Bowl win led by savior coach Sean Payton and an amazing defense. Each of these touchpoints has an ugly underside: Steve Gleason now bravely endures ALS, which the league refuses to admit was exacerbated by football. The Saints defensive MVP for that Super Bowl team, Darren Sharper, is now a convicted serial rapist in one of the more horrific crime sprees of gender violence in sports history. Sean Payton has struggled with Vicodin addiction and personal issues that are an open secret throughout the city. There was “Bountygate,” the scandal that wasn’t, which took away a year of this team’s prime window to become a double Super Bowl champion, and was, in retrospect, the first sign before Ray Rice and Deflategate that Roger Goodell was simply in over his head. There is Drew Brees, in that awkward twilight of his career where he still throws for a ton of yards but also too many picks, yet whose icon-status makes it impossible to let him go. And then there is U2, who at the time seemed to be an embarrassing choice to play during halftime at the Superdome when it reopened: about as representative of New Orleans as a gluten-free po’ boy. Yet in retrospect, they were a sign of things to come. U2 by 2005 was less of a band than a global brand, and New Orleans had already decided they would rebuild as a global city, open for business and closed to the poor who had been displaced.

More than all the Saints-themed retrospectives one could conjure, a simple poll tells the story of New Orleans today far more effectively. The best polls have the power to paint pictures, to transport a theory from the realm of opinion to fact. The Public Policy Research Lab at Louisiana State University produced such a poll. They found that “nearly four out of five white residents believe the city has mostly recovered, while nearly three out of five blacks say it has not, a division sustained over a variety of issues, including the local economy, the state of schools and the quality of life.”

The fact of the matter is, as *The New York Times* wrote, “African-Americans were far more likely to have lived in a flooded part of the city, and places that were worse-hit by the flooding, such as the Lower Ninth Ward, have taken much longer to recover.”

As for the New Orleans Saints, they have not so much saved the city as reflected the ways in which the city has changed. This was a team whose owner, Tom Benson, was looking to move out of the city before Hurricane Katrina, in search of public funding for a new stadium. He received that cash to stay in New Orleans, but only after the Superdome was ripped apart. That the Superdome was a FEMA funding priority was a slap in the face to the people who were waiting endlessly for federal funds to rebuild. It was a sign of how business was going to be done.

And yet ... like Drew Brees, despite how erratic it’s all been, New Orleans is still one of the great cities on earth. It’s almost unexplainable how something so beautiful can still exist amidst so much mismanagement, so much vulture capitalism, and so much personal pain. The flaws are as thick as the humidity, yet in an era of carbon-copy cities, New Orleans is still all its own place. This is not a post-Katrina phenomenon but a function of its history: Its singularity has always been there in the architecture, the above-ground cemeteries, the food, the music, and above all else, the people. As much as they try to commodify this city, it is still a place apart. Similarly, in an era of carbon-copy football, there is Drew Brees, balding, pushing 40, barely six feet tall, and slinging the ball around like he’s still in it for the thrill. But that unique spark, while more durable than Brees, still needs to be defended. The vultures won’t be sated until it is consumed. The Saints players that love New Orleans should stand with the people in that fight, even if it means standing against whatever the NFL and their corporate partners have planned for the city’s future.

You Can Be an Everyday Hero in the Fight Against Suicide.

Partner with us as an event sponsor for the
2015 Prince George’s County **FIRST Out of the Darkness Walk**
October 17, 2015
at Rosaryville State Park Upper Marlboro, Maryland
7805 W. Marlton Avenue in Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Why support the FIRST Prince George’s County Out of the Darkness Walk?

Every year suicide claims more lives than war, murder, and natural disasters combined. It is estimated that 85% of people in the United States alone will know someone who has died by suicide, and that one out of every five of those losses will be a close friend or relative.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention leads the fight against suicide.

Funds raised from The Out of the Darkness Walks allows to fully achieve its mission.

We have several 2015 sponsorship opportunities and benefits. You can also consider giving a monetary donation, creating a team, or being a virtual walker. We also have several volunteer opportunities to set-up: registration, breakdown, and cheerleader team to encourage the walker.

For more information, please contact:

Alnicia Gibson at 240-424-7123 or email us at: blessed2begifted@gmail.com

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!



in *The Prince George’s Post*

Call Brenda Boice at 301 627 0900

Calendar of Events

October 15 — October 21, 2015

Xtreme Teens: Monster Mini Golf

Date and Time: Friday, October 16, 2015, 6:30-10 pm
 Description: Join us for an exciting trip to Monster Mini-Golf in Jessup, MD. Departure is at 6:30 pm with a return time of 9:30 pm. Please bring extra money for games and food.
 Cost: \$8/person
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Kentland Community Center
 2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover 20785
 Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Autumn Arts & Craft Workshop

Date and Time: Friday, October 16, 2015, 7-10 pm
 Description: Tonight teens will use their creativity to create art projects for display representing the autumn season.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
 6900 Pontiac St., Berwyn Heights, 20740
 Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

David Boothman and CAJE

Date and Time: Friday, October 16, 2015, 8 pm
 Description: As one of the catalysts for the Caribbean Jazz Renaissance in America, CAJE (Caribbean Art Jazz Ensemble) is an eloquent blend of international musicians whose World-Beat Jazz fuses calypso, salsa, and reggae in a smooth, sensuous, but fiery expression.
 Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Masquerade Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, October 17, 2015, 1:30 pm
 Description: Enjoy a prix fixe menu of fine finger sandwiches, scrumptious cakes and pastries, buttery scones, and your choice of two quality loose leaf teas, all served on china and tiered stands. Costumes optional. However, if you decide to dress up, prizes will be awarded for best costume in several categories. Cost of tea includes gratuity and self-guided tour of the mansion. Reservations and advance payment are required.
 Cost: \$29/person (non-members)
 \$25/person (Friends of Montpelier members)
 Ages: 18 & up
 Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site
 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544
 montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

Xtreme Teens: Trunk & Treat

Date and Time: Saturday, October 17, 2015, 7-10 pm
 Description: Join in on the Halloween fun by dressing up in your wackiest costumes.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Berwyn Height Community Center
 6900 Pontiac St., Berwyn Heights, 20740
 Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, October 18, 2015, 2:30 pm
 Description: Enjoy music in the mansion, then meet the artists at a reception after the performance.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park 20737
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Classical Recital Series: Mary Bowden, Trumpet

Date and Time: Sunday, October 18, 2015, 3 pm
 Description: Classical trumpeter and Yamaha Performing Artist, Mary Elizabeth Bowden has emerged as a brilliant, young soloist. In her burgeoning career, she has been highly regarded for her artistry and virtuosity, as well as the clarity, purity and power of her sound.
 Cost: Free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Halloween on the Farm

Date & Time: Sunday, October 18, 2015, 4-7 pm
 Description: Join Old Maryland Farm for a Halloween and fall-themed event! Enjoy hayrides, games, crafts, cider, live creepy-crawley animals, and a costume contest. Costume contest categories include best animal, most creative, and family participation. Winners will be announced at 6 pm.
 Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$5
 Ages: all ages
 Location: Old Maryland Farm
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
 Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544

Dine & Learn: "Skinny Up" Your Fast Food Choices

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 6-8 pm
 Description: On this session of "Dine & Learn," participants will learn how to choose healthy choices while eating on the go. Call Michelle at 301-896-2494 to RSVP and/or for more information. This program is brought to you by PG Parks and Recreation, PG County Health Department and the NIH Heart Center at Suburban Hospital.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Suitland Community Center
 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville 20447
 Contact: 301-736-3518; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ...

What is Biophilic Design in Architecture?

Growing Movement Puts Nature Back Into Buildings

Dear EarthTalk:

What is biophilic design in architecture and where can I see it implemented?

—Winston Black
 Newark, NJ

Biophilia is defined as the inherent human inclination to affiliate with nature. The moral imperative of biophilia is that we cannot flourish as individuals or as a species without a compassionate and considerate relationship to the world beyond ourselves of which we are a part. Biophilic design, an extension of biophilia, incorporates natural materials, natural light, vegetation, nature views and other experiences of the natural world into the modern built environment.

According to Stephen R. Kellert, author of *Birthingright: People and Nature in the Modern World*, humans may have evolved in the natural world, but the habitat of contemporary people has largely become the indoor built environment where we now spend 90 percent of our time. The result has been an increasing disconnect between us and nature. However, the emerging concept of biophilic design recognizes how much human physical and mental well-being relies on the quality of our relationships to the natural world.

"We put people in windowless offices and give them a

computer and a desk and think they should be able to work just fine because they've got all the obvious things they need, like air to breathe, artificial light to see by and access to all kinds of information," Kellert says. "But we find that they don't actually work all that well in those kinds of environments. They are more likely to experience fatigue, lack of motivation and higher rates of absenteeism. If you just put certain aspects of nature into these environments, it actually results in improved well-being and productivity."

Current low-impact design, like the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) system, emphasizes avoiding pollution, eliminating chemical toxins, minimizing waste, increasing energy efficiency and decreasing water use. However, due to rapidly evolving technological advances, energy-efficient solar collectors and other low-impact design features quickly become outdated. Biophilic design's aesthetic, sensory-rich fusion with nature, along with its health benefits, make it the missing link in most sustainable design, Kellert says, and only development which incorporates both biophilic and low-impact design can achieve true and lasting sustainability.

Furthermore, Kellert says. "... you need to create a sense of affiliation or attachment to



CREDIT: EARTHTALK

Cook+Fox Architects' office in New York City incorporates many of the attributes of biophilic design referenced by Stephen R. Kellert.

these structures that motivates people to want to sustain them over time, which is just as important as reducing harmful impacts. We've done ourselves in the environmental field a disservice [by] only focusing on the negative impacts and forgetting the root of the environmental movement, which, whether it's Henry David Thoreau or Ralph Waldo Emerson or Aldo Leopold, was very much a celebration of our connection to the natural world and how it's fundamental to who we are as individuals and as a species."

Recent biophilic design can be seen in structures like Yale University's Kroon Hall, the Bank of America Tower and the Cook+Fox Architects office in New York City, Dell Children's Hospital in Austin, Texas, and

more. Kellert says one of the most satisfying projects he worked on last year was an elderly health care complex in Indiana. By incorporating biophilic design into the complex, it created a less alienating, more positive, therapeutic environment for people with memory loss.

CONTACTS: Stephen R. Kellert, www.stephenkellert.net; USGBC LEED Program, www.usgbc.org/leed/; Cook+Fox Architects, www.cookfox.com.

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Send questions to:
earthtalk@emagazine.com.

USDA Commits \$4 Million to Improve Chesapeake Bay Water Quality

Federal-State Partnerships will Accelerate Stream and Riverside Tree Plantings

By PRESS OFFICER
 USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that in a first round of funding, USDA will commit \$4 million to several states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to help agricultural landowners with accelerating stream and riverbank tree plantings that can reduce soil sedimentation, field and animal waste runoff, improving water quality.

The states of Delaware, New York, Virginia, and West Virginia have each been approved for an additional \$1 million under the USDA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to increase or maintain acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer conservation. USDA challenged the states to craft a proposal during a Chesapeake Bay summit in Washington, D.C. last summer. In addition to the increased incentives for landowners, Farm Service Agency offices in Maryland and Pennsylvania will receive sup-

port to partner with stakeholders for improved outreach and technical assistance.

"By joining federal funds with state resources, the Obama Administration continues its partnership with the Chesapeake Bay stakeholders who are working to make the health of the watershed better than ever," said Michael Scuse, USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

"The 2014 Farm Bill has enabled USDA to support expanded conservation practices on crop, pasture and private forestland in the bay," said Robert Bonnie, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. "Working with our partners, including farmers, nonprofit and private organizations, local and state governments, and individuals, we are leveraging federal dollars to reduce nutrient and sediment losses. This would not be possible without the voluntary efforts of land owners and widespread public support."

State awardees will combine the federal funds with a state match of 20 percent to conduct

more environmental studies to expand eligible counties, improve outreach and educational efforts, and provide higher financial incentives to encourage more agricultural landowners to participate in the tree restoration efforts.

Since 1996, USDA has worked with the six bay states (Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia) to establish more than 7,000 miles of stream and riverside trees, known as riparian forest buffers. To date, about \$500 million in USDA funds have been provided to farmers enrolling land in CREP projects. In 2013, the CREP projects prevented an estimated eight million tons of sediment, 16 million pounds of nitrogen, and four million pounds of phosphorus from entering the waters of the watershed.

This year marks the 30th year of USDA's Conservation Reserve Program, a federally-funded voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is not farmed or ranched, but instead used for conservation

benefits. Program participants establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat. In return, USDA provides participants with cost-share assistance for establishing the covers with annual payments for land in the conservation contract. With CREP, high-priority regional conservation goals are identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organizations, and the federal funds and resources of the Conservation Reserve Program are supplemented with the non-federal funds and resources to achieve those goals. To learn more about the 30th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/CRPis30 or follow on Twitter using #CRPis30.

To learn more about participating in CREP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or consult with the local Farm Service Agency county office. To locate a nearby Farm Service Agency office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

BE SUSTAINABLE WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT

When thinking of places where one can be more sustainable, the bathroom doesn't usually come to mind. Here are a few tips to be more sustainable in the "loo":

- ▶ Install a low flow toilet and shower head;
- ▶ Switch to energy efficient bulbs;
- ▶ Recycle empty shampoo and hand soap bottles;
- ▶ Buy eco-friendly bath cleaning products;
- ▶ Install a motion sensor faucet; and
- ▶ Unplug hair dryers, electric shavers and curling irons when not in use.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Prince Georges County Section 508 is an initiative of the Maryland Department of the Environment, Rehabilitation Agency, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and reduce the use of our everyday resources.