

The Prince George's Post



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Edmonston Earns Top Honors for Its Outer Beauty

Wins National Award for Environmental Achievements and Public Art Spaces

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Town of Edmonston was recently honored with the prestigious 2015 America in Bloom (AIB) Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Effort. The annual program honored 39 towns and cities across the nation for their beautification and environmental im-

County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Edmonston is a prime example of what happens when government and residents work together to improve our environment and make our County a better place to live, work and play. Edmonston is also home to the Green Street project which has received national recognition for the retrofit of Decatur Street with best sustainability prac-



PHOTO COUTESY OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Mural on the fence surrounding ECO City Farms.

provements in 2015 and is the only national awards program that sends trained judges to personally visit participants entered in the awards program.

"Green spaces are an important element of what makes the Edmonston community such a special and unique place with a tremendous amount of character," said Prince George's

County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Edmonston is a prime example of what happens when government and residents work together to improve our environment and make our County a better place to live, work and play. Edmonston is also home to the Green Street project which has received national recognition for the retrofit of Decatur Street with best sustainability prac-

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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRITTANY BRITTO

Chris Haley, the nephew of "Roots" author Alex Haley, finds himself in a career path similar to his uncle's. As the director of the study of the legacy of slavery in Maryland at the Maryland State Archives in Annapolis, Maryland, Chris Haley oversees the Underground Railroad Project.

'Roots' Revived: Alex Haley's Nephew Talks Records and Remake

By BRITTANY BRITTO
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Sitting in his office at the Maryland State Archive, Christopher Haley scans through a series of runaway slave ads, a compilation of archives that he's been working on for the past 14 years.

His desk is sprawled with books about African-American history and genealogy, an interest that began as a child when his grandmother gave him an African-American pictorial book.

But the archive's director of the study of the legacy of slavery in Maryland would be remiss to say that his uncle Alex

Haley didn't have something to do with where he is now.

Best known as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the 1976 novel "Roots: The Saga of an American Family," Alex Haley told a riveting story about Kunta Kinte, a Gambian man who first landed at the City Dock in Annapolis, Maryland, as a slave in September 1767.

The controversial novel, said to be based on Haley's family ancestry, was transformed into a popular television miniseries in 1977, and depicted a jolting narrative of African-American history, winning nine out of more than 30 Emmy nominations.

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Prince George's Fire Department Strategic Apparatus Replacement Program

By NATE RABNER
PG Fire/EMS

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department continues to receive deliveries, implementing a strategic apparatus replacement program. The most recent arrivals include 12 ambulance/paramedic transport units to be distributed to various stations around the County. These transport units are part of the 3rd year receipts, out of the overall ten year strategic plan for all county-owned apparatus replacement.

Since 2011, the Department has now added 36 ambulances, with an additional 13 ambulances now on order, programmed for calendar year 2016 delivery. The replacement of these 49 units amounts to approximately 1/2 of the existing County's ambulance fleet. The strategic plan seeks to continue replacing ambulances at the rate of 15 per year. The cost of a new ambulance/medic transport unit is approximately \$230,000 each.



PHOTO COUTESY OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

One of 12 new ambulances for the Prince George's County Fire/EMS.

In addition to the 36 ambulances received, the PGFD has added/replaced nine engines, three ladder trucks, one heavy-duty rescue squad, and has replaced the majority of the command vehicle fleet. In addition to the 13 ambulances on order, there is one tower-

ladder, one hazardous materials squad, one rehabilitation unit, and one rehabilitation support unit on order with delivery expected on all units in calendar year 2016. In addition to the County apparatus, Volunteer Fire Company Corporations continue to replace

volunteer-owned apparatus through fundraising and with State funds administered through the Fire Commission. During the same time frame Volunteer Corporations have

See APPARATUS Page A5

Artomatic Moves Into Hyattsville for 2015

Free and Open to Everyone:
October 30th—December 12th

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

HYATTSVILLE, MD—Artomatic returns for its signature free-art event to be held this year in Hyattsville, Maryland. Artomatic draws more than 1,000 artists and performers throughout the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area to showcase their talents for a six-week-long free exhibition that rou-

tinely attracts more than 75,000 visitors.

This year, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation welcomes Artomatic to Prince George's County in a 90,000-square-foot space, located at 8100 Corporate Center Drive.

See ARTOMATIC Page A3

Free Halloween Cab Rides in Prince George's County to Thwart Drunk Driving

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, MD, October 14—As a means of making the Washington-metropolitan area's roadways a little less frightening this Halloween, free cab rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County,

Maryland on the evening of Saturday, October 31st.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation at 10:00 pm on Saturday, October 31st (Hal-

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INSIDE

Deer in the Headlights Could Mean Danger For Drivers on Area Roads During Deer Mating Season

Watch for leaping stags. Earlier this year, a 67-year-old retired teacher and librarian was killed when a deer struck by another vehicle near Salisbury went airborne and crashed through her windshield, Maryland State Troopers said.

Community, Page A3

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Raising Awareness and Saving Lives

To save thousands more lives, we must continue to make strides and improvements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, while comprehensively addressing the stunning health disparities that consign so many women of color to preventable deaths.

Commentary, Page A4

Comptroller Franchot Reminds Marylanders Tax Amnesty Program Deadline is Oct. 30th

Taxpayers who failed to file a required return or pay a tax imposed on or before December 31, 2014 may file an application with the Comptroller requesting a waiver of all civil penalties (except for previously assessed fraud penalties) and one-half interest due.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Knock Knock"

Knock Knock takes a titillating setup and turns it into hot, wet garbage that doesn't even work as exploitation, much less as psychological horror or social commentary. The man, Evan, is played by Keanu Reeves, whose limitations as an actor are only evident when he's required to do big, intense emotions, which unfortunately this film is full of.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

My company talks the talk when it comes to the environment but could do so much more to reduce paper use. Do you have any tips to help get the higher-ups on board to reduce paper use company-wide?

—Elena Sepulveda,
White Plains, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Annual Gingerbread House Contest coming up at Darnall's Chance Museum

Darnall's Chance House Museum is hosting its 16th annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show, Nov. 27 thru Dec. 13 at Darnall's Chance in Upper Marlboro. If you want to participate for prizes, however, you should start planning your gingerbread house (or ark or castle or shop or fort) now.

Each entry must be original—no kits allowed. Must have a roof and walls constructed of gingerbread, and all components must be edible. You can get a copy of the rules by contacting the House. Entries will be judged on originality, overall appearance, choice and use of materials, and difficulty of design.

Prizes in the adult division are \$100, \$75 and \$50; family division, \$75, \$50 and \$25; and child division (age 8-16), \$75, \$50 and \$25. Visa \$200 gift cards will be given for the Choice awards. I'll later post days and hours for the show, during which you can view the entries and vote for the winners.

Participants must register by Friday, Nov. 13. A registration fee of \$5 is required for each entry. You can get more information at 301-952-8010.

Darnall's Chance House Museum is in Upper Marlboro at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, overlooking School House Pond. In case you didn't know it, the House dates back to 1741.

Uncle Ricci Lee dies at 48

Charles Ricci Lee Jr., of Morningside, died Sept. 1. He was 48. He grew up in Brandywine, graduated from Gwynn Park High School in 1985, and continued his education at Prince George's Community College and the University of Baltimore. In recent years he lived in Morningside.

He was a quadriplegic but refused a wheelchair; he used a walker.

He worked as free-lance tech support and was a popular DJ. His mom, Sharon Simms-Locke of Morningside, told me "he was an uncle to everybody" and was known to all the kids as Uncle Ricci or Uncle Ric.

In addition to his mother, survivors include his son Charles Ricci "Tre" Lee III; grandchildren Aiden and Zoe; sister Tyonda Simms-Taylor, of Morningside; and brother John Barbour. Services were at Union Bethel Church in Brandywine.

Changing landscape

The site that once was Murry's Steaks has now been leveled, as well as the undeveloped lot behind it. I checked—the area is almost half-a-mile long. And is being turned into a commercial center. Probably several industrial shops.

Bills that State Senator C. Anthony Muse has been able to bring back funding for include: \$75,000 for a mobile computer lab at Crossland High School and \$100,00 for a community center in Temple Hills, which will provide programs such as feeding and nutrition, healthcare clinic and free legal services open to the community. This will be affiliated with the Susan D. Mona Center.

For the kids—a Haunted House and more

The Knights of Columbus invite the kids to a Children's Halloween Party on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 to 4 p.m., They will enjoy the Haunted House, hotdogs, candy, crafts and lots of fun. All are welcome and there is no charge.

The St. Pius X Knights of Columbus hall is at 3611 Stewart Road in Forestville.

Morningside memories

How many of you Morningsiders remember the annual Morningside bonfire?

Come Halloween, Morningside children went trick-or-treating. But they did it on Oct. 30, one day ahead of the rest of the County. And (unlike today) every child was out there knocking on doors, wearing costumes (mostly homemade). Then, on Oct. 31, a stage was set up outdoors, and we held the Annual Costume Contest, replete with awards and hot cider (or was it hot chocolate?).

On one of those two evenings, a huge bonfire was lit. It was in an empty lot on Suitland Road and many came to watch—and to toss more stuff

into the blaze. Some years later such burnings were banned.

Saying goodbye to two County Police Officers

James "Jim" Ross, 78, who served with the Prince George's County Police from 1959 until he retired as a major in 1992, died Sept. 30. He used to live in Bowie but recently in Annapolis. He was born in Washington, graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School, served in the Navy for 8 years and later in the Army Reserve as chief warrant Officer 4. He had a degree from American University and from the FBI Academy in Quantico. Jim was a member of the Knights of Columbus, American Legion and FOP Lodge #89. He completed the Marine Corps Marathon in 1995. He is survived by his wife, of 57 years, Barbara Ross; daughters Victoria Dugan and Kimberly Ross; and three grandsons. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. John Neumann Church in Annapolis with burial at Crownsville.

Robert Francis "Bob" Duncan Jr., 85, of Emmitsburg, died Oct. 6 in Gettysburg, Pa. He served with the Prince George's Police Department from 1952 to 1978, and retired as a captain. He was a member of FOP Lodge #89. His wife of 67 years, Anna, predeceased him. Survivors include his daughter Dana Cornett and son Alan Xavier Duncan; six grandchildren and a sister. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church in Emmitsburg.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Flood Dawes, Oct. 23; Daniel John Fitzgerald and Anna Norris, Oct. 24; my granddaughter Kathryn French and Donna Anderson, Oct. 25; Orva Heisenbuttel, Juanita Starke and Christopher Flaherty, Oct. 27; Diane Cvitko, Oct. 28; and my grandson Isaac Gallegos, Oct. 29.



Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

SKC EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

SKC creates an environment that fosters opportunities for the development of the child in the areas of spirituality, curiosity, social skills, skill development, sensory-motor skills, inner security, initiative and self-confidence.

The Pre-K Program, Toddlers, Infants, Before and After Care Program is offered at Watkins Park located at 70 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. The center offers transportation, snacks, homework help and recreation. Center hours are Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM-6:30 PM. Call 301-249-5431 for additional information.

CELEBRATING RIDGLEY

A celebration of Ridgley, an African American Community founded 143 years ago, and the unveiling of a Maryland Roadside Historical Marker took place on Saturday, October 1, 2015. Mildred Ridgley Gray Charitable Trust Inc. celebrated at 10:00 AM in the Historic Ridgley Methodist Episcopal Church 8900 Central Avenue, Landover, Maryland.

REVIVAL WEEK

Join us for our Revival at Westphalia United Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor, beginning Monday, October 26, 2015 thru Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:30 PM each night. Monday, October 26, 2015 Rev. Dr. Jerry Carter from Calvary Baptist Church, Morris-town, New Jersey will be the speaker. Tuesday, October 27, 2015 Rev. B. Kevin Smalls from Queens Chapel United Methodist Church Beltsville, Maryland and Ebenezer United Methodist Church, Washington, DC. Wednesday, October 28, 2015 Rev. Daryl Williams from St. Paul United Methodist Church, Oxon Hill, Maryland will be the speaker. Thursday, October 29, 2015 Rev. Dr. William H. Curtis from Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA.

NEW STUDENT BOE MEMBER

Ava Perry, a senior in the Science and Technology Program at Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, Maryland was elected to serve as the 2015-16 Student Member of the Board of Education for Prince George's County Public Schools.

TRASH TO TREASURE

Join us Saturday November 7:00 AM-4:00 PM for the 7th Green Craft Fair at Watkins Nature Center. The indoor craft fair will feature non-profit environmental groups and crafts for kids, and local artists. There will be vendors selling items made from organic, recycled or sustainable materials. All ages are free. Call 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

ROCK 2016

"ROCK 2016" is an exciting Christian weekend retreat, which will be held February 5-7, 2016 at the Ocean City Convention Center in Ocean City, Maryland. The conference is sponsored by the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church for youth in grades 6-12. Register early in October at your church.

JUG BAY RUN/WALK FOR WILDLIFE

Run/walk along the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Driving Tour in Patuxent River Park Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 AM. For registration details, 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544, or visit www.pgpparks.com/jugbayrun.htm

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Campaign Announces Constituent Group Chairs

LANHAM, MD—Today, the Donna Edwards for Senate Campaign announced Constituent Group Chairs for Women, Veterans and Seniors for Donna. These grassroots supporters will lead some of the critical constituent groups across the state of Maryland. For more information, please see below.

Karren Pope, *Chair, Women for Donna*

Karren Pope-Onwukwe is a prominent elder law and disability rights attorney, bar leader and community activist. In 2013, Karren was appointed Vice-chair of the National Bar Association's Elder Law Task Force. She is past president of the Elder Law and Disability Rights Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association, co-founder and past co-chair of the Elder Law Section of the Prince George's County Bar Association. Ms. Pope-Onwukwe was chair of the Prince George's County Executive's Aging Advisory Committee from 2003-2012. Karren is also past president of the Prince George's chapter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland and has served numerous positions on the Board of J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association and is an active member of Psi Epsilon Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority.

Ebony Johnson, *Co-Chair, Veterans for Donna*

Ebony Johnson is an United States Air Force veteran. She was recently awarded the 2015 Innovator Award for the NextGen of Government Public Service Awards and the 2015 Young Democrats of Maryland Women's Caucus Rising Star Award. Ebony is the founder and CEO of The Next Chapter Corporation. The Next Chapter is a non-profit organization committed to empowering veterans and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Along with her notable achievements she serves as a leader in several nonprofit organizations: Vice-President, Widening Opportunities for Women Chapter of Federally Employed Women, Regional Council Member, United Way of the National Capital Area.

Kenric Brooks Sr., *Co-Chair, Veterans for Donna*

Kenric Brooks Sr. retired from the United States Army in May 2015 after 20 years of dedicated service in leadership roles during peacetime, military operations and combat. During his years of dedication to our nation, Ken served in roles of increasing responsibility, including Director of the Army's only Communications Management Support Team charged with providing protective communications support to the Joint Director of Military Support and the United States Secret Service for Presidential Campaign support and special missions. As he transitions into retirement, Ken continues to build a legacy that is devoted to leadership and community service. He serves as an Executive Committee Member for the Rockville Science Center, a Committee Member on the Montgomery County Community Development Advisory Committee and serves the Rockville Housing Enterprise Commission.



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

Carolyn J.B. Howard,
Chair, Seniors for Donna

Carolyn J. B. Howard is an American politician in the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 24 in Prince George's County. She is the Deputy Speaker Pro Tem of the Maryland House and a former chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland.

Edwards Statement Opposing Budget Gimmicks in the National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement opposing the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2016, which passed 270-156. Rep. Edwards was appointed as a conferee and worked for a bipartisan and bicameral compromise that President Obama could sign and that supports our defense and cyber communities in Maryland.

"When will the Republican majority put an end to the gimmicks and lack of serious governing? After they did the bare minimum to avoid a federal government shutdown only by ensuring another crisis in just two and a half months, today we faced a severely flawed and partisan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report. The final report includes \$89.2 billion in discretionary budget authority for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), which is \$38.3 billion over the Administration's request. Adding this additional funding through the OCO is a tactic by Republicans to increase Department of Defense (DoD) spending above sequester levels, while keeping non-defense discretionary spending under the sequester cap. It is shameful that House Republicans made what has been historically a bipartisan bill for the past 53 years into a partisan issue that Democrats opposed and President Obama promises to veto.

"As a conferee appointed by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA-12), it is unfortunate that I was unable to support this legislation. In addition to the glaring error above, Republicans also rejected provisions I advocated for, including resources to improve transportation infrastructure around installations impacted by the BRAC process and to allow military service members involved in national defense information networks to obtain industry-recognized credentials related to cyber security, both of which are vitally important to Maryland.

"Instead of this partisan and flawed conference report, Republicans should join with De-

mocrats to remove the arbitrary and harmful sequester on both defense and non-defense spending through a fair and thoughtful approach. Our military service members, their families, and the American people deserve better."

WSSC Receives National Award for Innovative, Strategic Management

WSSC received the prestigious Sustainable Water Utility Management Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) at its 2015 Executive Management Conference today in Savannah, Ga. WSSC was among 12 water utilities across the country receiving this award.

AMWA, a member organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water suppliers in the United States, issues the award to water utilities committed to management that achieves a balance of innovative and successful efforts in areas of economic, social and environmental endeavors.

"At WSSC, our goal is to be a world-class organization in every way possible," stated Jerry Johnson, WSSC's General Manager and CEO. "This award is a testament to the innovative, hardworking employees of WSSC, and the strategic vision of our leadership team and Commissioners. I'm extremely proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to seeing the how our numerous programs and initiatives underway further our vital, life-sustaining mission."

"AMWA awards recognize the extraordinary performance of water agencies where management vision and employee commitment create a sustainable utility producing ample supplies of clean, safe drinking water," said AMWA President Chuck M. Murray, General Manager of Fairfax Water in Virginia. "The communities served by these award winners should be proud of the accomplishments of their forward-thinking, exceptionally well-managed public utilities."

In describing WSSC, AMWA stated: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) replaces its water mains at a rate of 55-plus miles per year and mitigates the potential damage of large-diameter pre-stressed, concrete cylinder pipe by using breakthrough acoustic fiber optics technology. The utility obtains 28 percent of its electric power needs from wind power and has solar power projects at two wastewater treatment plants. Its budget includes a ratepayer-supported Customer Assistance Program. A restructured debt program and transformed supply chain management saves WSSC tens of millions of dollars.

Others receiving the award include: Austin Water (Texas), City of Bellevue Utilities (Washington), Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham (Alabama), Central Arkansas Water, Charlotte Water (North Carolina), Chesterfield County Utilities Department (Virginia), Contra Costa Water District (California), Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (Florida), Prince William County Service Authority (Virginia), Riverside Public Utilities (California) and Santa Rosa Water (California).

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Building a Fraud-Free Family

A generation ago, most families didn't think about financial fraud. Today, it can come in many forms—over the phone, through the mail and increasingly, online. It's an equal opportunity crime that affects consumers of all ages.

For the 15th straight year, the Federal Trade Commission tapped identity theft as the number one source of consumer complaints in its 2014 Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book (<https://www.ftc.gov>) released in February. The agency also noted a "large increase" in so-called "imposter" scams—phone calls and emails from thieves purporting to represent the government as a way to steal data and money from unsuspecting adults.

Young people—particularly students—may be the fastest-growing group of fraud targets. Due to their dependence and sometimes unwitting use of computers and mobile devices, young people may be the greatest potential victims of financial fraud, according to a 2015 study (<https://www.javelinstrategy.com>) by Javelin Strategy & Research. More than 64 percent of respondents said they were not "very concerned" about identity fraud, but were far more likely to find out they were fraud victims long after the damage occurred, such as through a call from a debt collector or a rejection letter from a lender.

Most consumers under the age of 18 shouldn't have a credit record at all. But as digital thieves become more sophisticated and federal agencies become occasionally vulnerable to hackers, critical privacy data like Social Security numbers—which many parents obtain for their children in infancy to save or invest money or buy insurance on their behalf—could be at risk years before a child ever opens a bank account or applies for a loan.

For all of these reasons, it may be time to think about a family fraud plan. Here are some steps to consider.

- Check the accuracy of all family credit data. Parents should begin by checking their own credit reports (<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>) to make sure creditor data and loan balances are accurate and no inaccuracies or unfamiliar lenders have crept into their information. Once clear, adult children can make sure senior relatives are taking similar steps. As for minors, the three major credit agencies—TransUnion, Equifax and Experian—have their own website guidelines for confirming and evaluating a minor's credit data.
- Make sure mailboxes are safe from thieves and any document with an account number or identifying data is destroyed before it is placed in the trash. The same goes for tax returns that are no longer needed.
- Learn how to protect all mobile computer and handheld data and have a plan in place in case any family member loses a smartphone, tablet or laptop/desktop computer. Tips are available online, from smartphone service providers and device manufacturers.
- Online, by phone and in person, be wary of collection demands or requests for Social Security numbers or other specific account data unless the identity of the caller can be verified. Fraudulent calls are called "vishing" scams, similar to "phishing" scams that involve fraudulent emails, texts and websites used to illegally collect personal data.
- Install all software security updates immediately on mobile devices and computers and ensure passwords are unique and frequently updated.
- Sign up for fraud alerts from banks, credit card issuers or investment companies to receive immediate word of unusual or potentially illegal activity on accounts.

Bottom line: Identity thieves and other financial fraudsters watch consumer behavior closely and are equally adept at stealing money and data in person, over the phone and online. Have a plan in place to protect the entire family.



Artomatic from A1

rate Drive in Hyattsville, with a Halloween-themed opening weekend celebration.

Artomatic is well-known for transforming empty spaces into vibrant arts communities that create unique and exciting events for tens of thousands of visitors - all free to visit. Anyone can show art at Artomatic - it is non-juried and art is selected on a first-come, first-served basis - so it's a great way to discover new art.

In addition to creative art, Artomatic also features a plethora of performing art forms throughout the exhibition: live music, dance, spoken word, comedy as well as

professional development series and special events showcases. Every night of the event, thousands of people visit Artomatic to discover new art, grab a drink, listen to music, go on dates and mingle with the creative community. No matter what kind of creative events you like, you'll find something to like at Artomatic.

"We're excited to be working with the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation who, like Artomatic, understand the importance of art to help foster community," said George Koch, Founder and Chair Emeritus. "Our diversity

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Deer in the Headlights Could Mean Danger For Drivers on Area Roads During Deer Mating Season

Motorcyclists Should Also Be Extremely Alert During Deer Migration Season

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.— "Let me tell you about the birds and the bees." It's a fact of life: deer are "in the mood" during the rutting or breeding season which begins in October and ends in December. As a result, amorous white-tailed deer are on the move more during these months, which is also the peak deer migration season, than at any other time of the year. That means your odds of hitting a deer, or other animals, while driving are higher at this time of the year than during any other season, cautions AAA Mid-Atlantic. In addition to motorists, motorcyclists and pedestrians, as well as joggers and cyclists should watch out for ardent deer. As you drive, stay alert and slow down.

Watch for leaping stags. Earlier this year, a 67-year-old retired teacher and librarian was killed when a deer struck by another vehicle near Salisbury went airborne and crashed through her windshield, Maryland State Troopers said. The price tag for vehicle-deer crashes was more than \$4 billion in 2013 alone. In fact, motorcyclists should be especially alert for deer. That's because motorcycle riders involved in motorcycle-deer collisions have a higher fatality rate than drivers involved in deer-vehicle crashes, explains AAA Insurance. Since 1975, the nation has witnessed a general upward trend in the number of deaths that occur in collisions with animals, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) reported.

"In recent years these deaths have occurred most frequently during July–September," the IIHS notes. Unfortunately, 193 persons perished in such crashes during 2013, compared to 223 persons in 2007 and only 89 people in 1975. Nationwide, collisions with animals resulted in

2,083 fatal crashes and 2,194 fatalities between 2001 and 2011, explains AAA. Most of those crashes involved deer.

"Be careful at dawn and dusk, when driver visibility is poor. Drivers who are out during those hours should keep their eyes wide open to spot the telltale signs of animal activity," noted John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Oddly enough, most vehicle-animal crashes this time of year mainly occur in the two hours before sunrise and after sunset each day, which coincide with the peak rush hours in the Washington metro area. Even so, white-tailed deer tend to be more active early in the morning and at dusk. Deer are unpredictable creatures, and their actions and movements can be erratic and motorcyclists can easily find themselves in harm's way."

As many Washington area motorists and motorcyclists alike have discovered to their chagrin, deer "are not just found on rural roads near wooded areas; many deer crashes occur on busy highway near cities, notes the insurance industry. That's especially true in the Washington metro area, where urban habitats continue to encroach upon rural environments, explains AAA Insurance. "Don't veer for deer" is the watchword this time of year and in the early spring, when deer are searching for food.

"All creatures great and small" can pose highway hazards. During 2013 four persons in Maryland lost their lives in collisions with animals, compared to four people in such crashes a year earlier in 2012 and two persons in 2011, the IIHS reports. Similarly, four persons in Virginia lost their lives in collisions with animals in 2013, compared to four persons in such crashes in 2012, and eight persons in 2011. On average, "vehicle accidents involving deer are responsible for less than two percent of all motor vehicle casual-

ties in Virginia," cautions the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. "An average of three fatalities and over 450 injuries are attributed to deer-vehicle accidents annually," says the agency.

Where has Bambi gone? Curiously, the sheer number of deer is declining across the United States. Rock Creek Park had a deer population density of 67 deer per square mile in 2009, compared to 82 deer per square mile in the park in 2007, according to the National Park Service. During 2014, the deer population in the United States was about 32.2 million, down from 33.5 million in 2013, according to estimates by various state agencies. Within its borders, Maryland has an estimated 227,000 deer roaming the landscape. The deer population in the state "peaked in 2002," and has "declined for the past decade," notes the 2014 Deer Population Management Report by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Deer populations are on the decline across the Commonwealth of Virginia too. The outbreak of viral Hemorrhagic Disease (HD) in white-tailed deer laid waste to deer in at least 28 counties in eastern Virginia. Deer hunters in Virginia reportedly killed 190,745 deer during the 2014-2015 deer hunting season, explains the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Speaking of the birds and the bees, during deer mating season, as well as during deer hunting season, it is important for drivers to stay alert, limit distractions, and expect the unexpected, cautions AAA Insurance. Here are other defensive driving tips:

- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Drive with caution when moving through deer-crossing zones, in areas known to have a

large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland.

- Deer seldom run alone. If you see one deer, others may be nearby.

- When driving at night, use high beam headlights when there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.

- Slow down and blow your horn with one long blast to frighten the deer away.

- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane.

- Don't swerve. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.

- Always wear your seat belt. Most people injured in car/deer crashes were not wearing their seat belt.

- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer. These devices have not been proven to reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

Oh deer. The average cost per insurance claim for collision damage is \$2,800, with costs varying depending on the type of vehicle and severity of damage. When you factor in auto claims involving bodily injury, the average rises to \$10,000. Here is the upshot. If you strike a deer or a large animal on the roadway, call the police and contact your insurance agent or company representative to report any damage to your car, advises AAA Insurance. A collision with an animal is covered under the comprehensive portion of your auto insurance policy. If your vehicle strikes a deer, do not touch the animal, advises AAA Insurance. A frightened and wounded deer can hurt you or further injure itself. The best procedure is to get your car off the road, if possible, and call the police.

Cab Rides from A1

loween) and operate until 4:00 am on Sunday, November 1st, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide® phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service.

Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington metropolitan area provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may attempt to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide® is offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

"The scary fact is that nearly half (43%) of all U.S. traffic deaths occurring during Halloween are caused by drunk drivers," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween SoberRide® offering include: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, Miller-

Coors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Last Halloween's (2014) SoberRide® program provided nearly 300 (278) free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 62,773 free cab rides home to

would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the non-profit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (www.wrap.org) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

For More Information

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

Make Sure You're Ready When Severe Weather Strikes

By PRESS OFFICER
TRICARE

Months into hurricane season without any major activity can make you forget how important it is to properly plan for storms. Make sure you stay aware of current and potential weather conditions so that you and your loved ones aren't caught in a storm.

Many young ones walk to and from school. Be sure your child knows what to do when the weather prohibits their

daily walk. Should they wait in the school or ride home with a friend? Involve them in your disaster planning and make sure they have answers to all of their questions.

There are many resources available to help you plan for severe weather. Ready.gov has information on different disaster types, a comprehensive guide on making and communicating an emergency plan, how to care for pets and much more. You can also download the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) mobile app. The app contains disaster safety tips, an interactive emergency kit list, storable meeting locations and a map to open shelters and FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs). The app also has a Disaster Reporter feature, allowing you to take and submit GPS photo reports of disasters so they can be displayed on a public map for others to view. Visit the Mobile App page on the FEMA website for more information.

TRICARE can help you stay informed about your benefit in

times of severe weather. When a state of emergency is issued, TRICARE may authorize early prescription refills, blanket waivers for referrals or other emergency benefits. When authorized, any emergency benefits are announced in email disaster alerts along with their effective dates.

You can sign up for email and text disaster alerts to get the latest information. Go to the Disaster Information page on the TRICARE website for more information.

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COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin Bill to Electrify Africa Passes Senate Foreign Relations Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), and Chris Coons (D-Del.), all members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today praised committee passage of the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (S.2152), which was also cosponsored by Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). With nearly 600 million Africans without electricity, this legislation will leverage private sector resources through loan guarantees to extend electricity access throughout Africa to help 50 million Africans with first-time access to electricity and to add 20,000 megawatts of electricity to the grid by 2020. Providing access to electricity will stimulate economic growth while also improving access to education and public health.

"Access to electricity remains one of the fundamental development challenges in Africa, with direct impacts on public health, education, and economic growth," said Senator Cardin. "That's why this bipartisan legislation passed today draws upon American leadership and ingenuity to provide first-time access to clean, affordable, sustainable energy, and consultation with local African communities. By working with African governments to attract private sector investment and partnering with American firms that are on the cutting edge of the power solutions Africa seeks, we can make great strides in addressing African energy poverty and promote inclusive economic growth for communities in Africa and at home."

"With limited foreign aid resources, we need to focus on innovative ways to tackle big challenges that can be self-sustaining and have a transformative impact on millions of lives," said Senator Corker,

chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "Creating a favorable environment for private investment to bring reliable, affordable electricity to millions of people in Africa for the first time can be a real game changer in development throughout the region. By establishing an-all-of-the-above approach for expanding power generation in Africa through private capital, we can help reduce poverty and fuel economic growth."

"I am pleased that this committee is coming together in a strong, bipartisan way to help the people of sub-Saharan Africa gain greater access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable power to reduce poverty and drive economic growth," said Senator Coons. "I have seen some of these Power Africa projects firsthand, from solar farms in Rwanda to off-the-grid power solutions in Ethiopia. These projects are unlocking opportunities in medicine and education and removing a binding constraint to economic development and growth in Africa. I'd like to thank my fellow members of the committee, especially Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Cardin, for their work on this bill. I hope we can see it pass the Senate floor by unanimous consent."

The legislation requires the president to create a comprehensive strategy for United States' engagement with sub-Saharan Africa in developing a broad mix of power solutions to increase electricity access and reliability. It encourages the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), USAID, the U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, World Bank, and African Development Bank to prioritize loans, grants, and technical support that promote private investment in projects designed to increase electricity access and reliability.

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Raising Awareness and Saving Lives

"Too often, precious lives are interrupted or cut short by cancer. Breast cancer, one of the most common cancers among American women, affects roughly 230,000 women as well as 2,300 men each year and is responsible for more than 40,000 deaths annually in the United States. Breast cancer does not discriminate—it strikes people of all races, ages, and income levels—and we must raise awareness of this disease and its symptoms so we can more easily identify it and more effectively treat it."

—President Barack Obama,
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Proclamation, October 2015.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. It strikes blindly, touching women of all racial and ethnic groups. But while race is not a risk factor for breast cancer, Black and Hispanic women—who are less likely to get breast cancer than white women—are dying from the devastating disease at higher rates. To save thousands more lives, we must continue to make strides and improvements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, while comprehensively addressing the stunning health disparities that consign so many women of color to preventable deaths.

The wide disparity in deaths and survival rates (Black women have a five-year survival rate of 77 percent in comparison to 90 percent for white women) can be attributed to a variety of factors—ranging from biology to access to quality health care. According to the Black Women's Health Imperative, breast cancer tends to appear in Black women at a younger age and in more advanced forms. Women of color are more likely to be diagnosed with more aggressive cancers and later stage breast cancers. Because, historically, Black women have been less likely to get regular mammograms, their cancers are more likely to be advanced when they are finally diagnosed. This is why screening, and screening early, matters. While screening can neither eliminate nor undo the design of biology, the earlier you can detect and begin to treat breast cancer, the lower your risk of dying.

Women of color—particularly Black women who are 40 percent more likely to die of breast cancer than white women—need access to quality

preventative measures like mammograms to reduce their risk. State and private programs that provide low to no-cost mammograms for women have helped closed the gap between the health insurance haves and have-nots. Through the Affordable Care Act, obstacles to regular screenings have practically been eliminated for all women. Under the ACA, most health insurers are required to cover recommended preventative services—including mammograms—at no out-of-pocket cost.

Despite the increase in access to screening, women of color also tend to get follow-up care later than white women. Black women often experience follow-up times of over 60 days after a receiving an abnormal mammogram result. When time is of the essence, waiting for follow-up care may lead to the cancer becoming more aggressive and it may increase its spread in the body.

Low-income and uninsured women in the 21 states that refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act are less likely to have breast and cervical cancer screenings than other women. Expanding Medicare in those states could mean the difference between finding early stage cancer when it's more easily treatable and finding it after it becomes life threatening.

Treatment is another area where disparities are potentially costing us lives. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 69 percent of Black women start treatment within 30 days of receiving a diagnosis of breast cancer, compared to the 83 percent of white women who begin within 30 days. Black women are also less likely to receive (or are resistant to receiving), certain surgeries, radiation and hormone therapies. While strides are being made in care continuum, women of color must be educated about their options and have access—from care to treatment—to improve their outcomes.

Think about this: nearly 1,800 fewer Black women would die of breast cancer if death rates were the same as white women, according to the CDC. That's 1,800 more birthdays, weddings and graduations we could all be celebrating today. We know what to do, but knowing is only half the battle. Sign up for a mammogram today or encourage all the women you know and love to make that potentially life-saving appointment.

College Park Aviation Museum



Open to the Public

COLLEGE PARK AVIATION MUSEUM

The College Park Aviation Museum houses antique and reproduction aircraft associated with the history of College Park Airport. Artifacts and hands-on activities highlight the aviators, aircraft builders and airplanes that operated at the airport. The museum offers changing exhibits, special events, lectures, workshops and programs for the public, schools and groups. There are also an extensive library and archives which hold materials relating to the airport's history, early aviation history—especially relating to Maryland—and general aeronautics. Opened in 1998, the museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm, except for major holidays. Admission: Adults \$4, Senior \$3, Children \$2, & Children 1 & under free. 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740 • 301-864-6029

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Learning Through Loss to Beat the Odds

"Suffering is inevitable, but how you deal with it is not fixed in stone. That can change. You can develop a way to face it."

You might expect wise words like these to come after a lifetime's worth of experiences, but Elijah Iqbal-Scott has seen a lot of sadness and sorrow in his 17 years. When Elijah was born his mother, a young college student, was chronically ill with often sickle cell anemia. "I don't really have too many memories of her outside of her being sick... One time when I was little, I think we had driven by the hospital and I said something like, 'Oh, look. It's Mommy's second home.'" Though she was in and out of the hospital and frequently unable to take care of Elijah, he knew she loved him and he had the benefit of being surrounded by her close-knit family. "When I was little, there were six of us, myself included: my grandmother, grandpa, my mom, my Auntie Gladys, my Uncle Herbert... We were definitely happy most of the time, and I remember, especially with my uncle, he was always kind of like an older brother to me." Elijah's grandparents were immigrants from Sierra Leone, and their full Maryland home was a warm haven.

But then the family losses began. When Elijah was seven his mother died. His grandmother remembers how the family tried to encircle him even more closely: "When his mom passed away, my son was like a father figure, played with him like big brother-type. My husband was also like a father figure, and Gladys, like a mother. We chipped in to raise him." For Elijah the time with his uncle was especially important: "We would just do regular things, you know, play video games together and eat pizza... I do remember having more good feelings and good memories than bad, and he was definitely a part of that." But before Elijah entered middle school his beloved uncle suffered a brain hemorrhage and was in a coma for 10 months before passing away at age 22. When Elijah was a freshman in high school, his grandfather—who he thought of as the "village elder"—died suddenly too: "It was like the oldest tree in the

world was cut down when he passed away."

These losses might have been unbearable for many children and his grandmother remembers her fears. "There was a time when I was worried that by the time he got to the teenage years it might begin to manifest [as] anger—and there was nothing like that." She adds: "This young man, you cannot understand his tenacity. He doesn't let any obstacles keep him down."

Elijah says he learned from all his losses how to keep moving forward. Throughout it all, the honors student never stopped excelling in school. He is one of the five inspiring high school seniors the Children's Defense Fund will honor at its 25th annual Beat the Odds® celebration in Washington, D.C., November 5. Each will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship, a computer, guidance through the college admissions process, and an invitation to join CDF's servant leadership training programs.

Wise beyond his years, Elijah expresses gratitude for the family he had: "I'm just lucky that I've been able to live in the same home with my family members right there, and all the family members that I had that are no longer with us were wonderful people, and we've never had any

bad experiences as we've been together. So I can't really complain too much because I know that there are a lot of people that experience greater things than what I've gone through... I'm just grateful for the family members that I do have with me, and grateful for all the good times that have happened and are ahead." He hopes his losses make him better able to help other people: "Even if all my family members were still with us, I would still be as empathetic as I could. I guess it just adds a certain depth to it... a connection to be able to say, 'I'm here, and I'll do whatever I can.'" Elijah is an inspiring example to other young people—and all of us—of resilience, grace, and the ability to beat the odds.

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

Helping Your Teenager Deal With Peer Pressure

It would be nice if parents could control everything about their children. You know, just for a little while, say maybe until they're 30. But, of course, that's not the way life works.

Growing up means learning to be more independent, to take responsibility and, sometimes, to even make mistakes. While we want to protect our children, it's also important that we give them room to grow and develop.

One of the hardest places to give kids space is when you sometimes see the effects that peer pressure can have on your son or daughter. During the teen years the opinions and actions of their friends often count more than Mom's or Dad's opinions and advice.

It's easy to understand. The teenage years are a period of uncertainty. Bodies are changing, interests are changing, and they're beginning to see the adult world just over the horizon. Many kids feel insecure and lacking in confidence at these times. There's comfort in being accepted, in "fitting in," and giving in to peer pressure.

Does that mean that we parents are helpless? Not necessarily. The key is to recognize the pressures your teen is facing. A starting point is opening up more communication with your teen. While difficult, it can happen when you show you're genuinely interested in your teen's life. Try questions that give your teen a chance to talk about what he or she is doing and feeling. Be gentle but persistent.

Limit criticism and try to find positive things to praise. Helping build your teen's self-confidence and positive self-image goes a long way in fighting negative peer pressure.

Avoiding absolutes also helps. It almost never works to "forbid" certain friends. But you can try setting limits on the amount of time spent with them and require it be in supervised settings.

Building a stronger family relationship is also important. Curfews should be made and stuck to. Homework and family chores need to be done. Make dinner hours a family activity and find quiet time to sit down and really talk with one another.

Not all peer pressure is negative, but as a parent you want to try and help your child learn how to evaluate friendships and the things that influence him or her as a person. Building a closer, positive relationship goes a long way in making that happen.

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

Edmonston from A1

Scoring a rating of three blooms out of a possible five, Edmonston was honored for their application of public art featured on the Anacostia Bridge and smaller murals located throughout the town. High praise was also given to the mural featured on the fence surrounding ECO City Farms (pictured on page A1), an urban farm located in the tiny community.

Edmonston Green Team leader, Bridget Pooley was also honored as a "Community Champion" for her leadership with the Town's America in Bloom program.

Mayor Tracy Gant praised the community's effort to win this prestigious award in the first year of participation. "It is heartwarming to receive national recognition for what is done every day by all of our residents in the Town of Edmonston. Green is not just the Town's color; it's a way of life!"

Participants are evaluated on six criteria: overall impression, environmental awareness, heritage preservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays. They are also judged on their community involvement across municipal, residential and commercial sectors.

According to its Executive Director Laura Kunkle, America in Bloom helps towns and cities achieve their potential in making their communities some of the best places to live in America.

To date, more than 220 towns and cities from all over the U.S. have participated in the AIB program. Cities, towns, business districts, college campuses and military installations are eligible to participate. Registrations for the 2016 national awards program are currently underway and can be submitted until February 28, 2016.

For more information, visit www.americaninbloom.org.

Artomatic from A3

of artwork is unmatched because both emerging and established artists present their work side by side, which helps attract the broadest range of visitors."

"It is our pleasure to host such a renowned art experience in Prince George's County which complements the numerous arts offerings of the County and the Department of Parks and Recreation," said Ronnie Gathers, Director of the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and

Recreation. "Artomatic will also help provide visibility for the thriving artists and art districts in the community, like the Hyattsville Arts District."

Visitors will enjoy easy access to Artomatic with the New Carrollton METRO Station, as well as plenty of parking and bus stops nearby.

For the latest information about the event, how to participate, and when to visit, please subscribe to Artomatic by email or Facebook, or visit our website at www.artomatic.org.

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Comptroller Franchot Reminds Marylanders Tax Amnesty Program Deadline is Oct. 30th

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot reminds delinquent taxpayers that they have until October 30, 2015 to take advantage of Maryland's "Act Now, Pay Now" amnesty period. The Tax Amnesty program, enacted by the General Assembly, gives delinquent taxpayers one final opportunity to pay their Maryland tax liability with only half of the interest owed.

"It's important for Marylanders to do the right thing and fulfill their legal obligations," said Comptroller Franchot. "This is a rare opportunity for tax delinquents to settle any outstanding liabilities."

Taxpayers who failed to file a required return or pay a tax imposed on or before December 31, 2014 may file an application with the Comptroller requesting a waiver of all civil penalties (ex-

cept for previously assessed fraud penalties) and one-half interest due. The waivers will be granted for all taxpayers who file their applications on time and meet the terms of the program. Payments made prior to September 1 are not eligible for the tax amnesty program.

The following taxes are eligible for amnesty:

- Personal income tax
- Fiduciary income tax
- Pass-through entity nonresident income tax
- Corporate income tax
- Employer withholding tax
- Sales and use tax
- Admissions and amusement tax

Taxpayers who submit an application may either pay their outstanding debts in full with their application or include ten percent of the amnesty amount due with their application, and set up a payment plan before October 30, 2015. Taxpayers who choose the payment plan

must complete the terms of the agreement on or before December 31, 2016.

During the amnesty period, a taxpayer may not be charged with a criminal tax offense arising out of any return filed and tax paid, so long as the taxpayer does not have any pending criminal charges in the state courts and is not currently under investigation by the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the State Prosecutor and the Office of the State's Attorney or any office with Constitutional authority.

Those who took advantage of two previous amnesty programs in 2001 and 2009 are not eligible for the new program. Those who participated in or were eligible to participate in the Delaware Holding Company settlement established by Chapter 577 of 2004 for tax periods prior to tax year 2003 also are not eligible.

The amnesty application form is accessible at www.maryland-taxes.com, or taxpayers may request a form by calling 1-800-MDTAXES or 410-260-7980 from Central Maryland. Email requests may also be sent to: amnesty@comp.state.md.us or by regular mail to: Maryland Tax Amnesty, Comptroller of Maryland, P.O. Box 2031, Annapolis, MD 21404-2031. Additionally, completed applications may be mailed to the address above or dropped off at any of the 12 local Comptroller offices.

An interactive tax amnesty calculator is available online to help taxpayers determine the amount of tax owed. Taxpayers with an outstanding liability can determine their amnesty liability through the agency's Amnesty BillPay application by using the notice number on bills up to six months old.

For more information and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit www.maryland-taxes.com.

Apparatus from A1

replaced nine engines, one ladder truck, one tower-ladder, 1 engine-tanker, 1 rescue squad and 10 ambulances. Two additional engines and 1 additional ambulance are on order.

In 2011, Fire Chief Marc Bashoor presented County Executive Rushern Baker and the County Council with a proposal to not only replace aging County-owned apparatus, but to also resolve long-term purchase decisions keeping the fleet in a continuous state of readiness. The plan included a "branding" change from white to red equipment with the new Department motto "Safety First, Everyone Goes Home," and the "marking" of all new administrator and Chiefs vehicles. County Executive Baker remarked, "Public Safety is and has been a cornerstone of this administration. Ensuring that the men and women of the Fire/EMS Department, who put



PHOTO COUTESY OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Six shiny new ambulances in a row.

themselves in harms way and risk their lives to save others every day, deserve the best and most effective firefighting and medical transport equipment we are able to purchase. I am proud of the progress we have made to provide our firefighters

and paramedics with state of the art equipment."

Chief Bashoor said, "I am thankful to the County Executive Baker, the Office of Management and Budget staff, and to the County Council for ensuring our strategic plan could

come to fruition. Without all of their support, this would not have been possible. I look forward to continuing to fulfill the strategic plan, placing the Department on level footing for years to come."

USDA Expands Farm Safety Net, Offers Greater Flexibility for Beginning, Organic and Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Whole Farm Coverage Now Available in Every County Across the Nation

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 27, 2015—Agriculture Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden today announced that Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance will be available in every county in the nation in 2016. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is also making changes to the policy to help farmers and ranchers with diversified crops including beginning, organic, and fruit and vegetable growers, better access Whole-Farm Revenue Protection.

"Whole-Farm Revenue Protection insurance allows producers who have previously had limited access to a risk management safety net, to insure all of the commodities on their farm at once instead of one commodity at a time," said Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. "That gives them the option of embracing more crop diversity on their farm and helps support the production of a wider variety of foods."

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) introduced the

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection pilot program for a majority of counties in the 2015 insurance year. Starting with the 2016 insurance year, the new program will be available in all counties in the United States, a first for the federal crop insurance program.

USDA also provided additional flexibility to producers by making the following changes, including:

• **Beginning Farmers and Ranchers** – RMA makes it easier for more beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the program by reducing the required records from five to three historical years, plus farming records from the past year. Additionally, any beginning farmer and rancher may qualify by using the former farm operator's federal farm tax records if the beginning farmer or rancher assumes at least 90 percent of the farm operation

• **Livestock Producers** – RMA removed the previous cap that limited participants to those who received 35 percent or less of their income from livestock production. Producers will now

be able to insure up to \$1 million worth of animals and animal products.

• **Expanding Operations** – RMA increased the cap on historical revenue for expanding operations to 35 percent from its previous 10 percent to better allow growing farms the opportunity to cover their growth in the insurance guarantee.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection includes a wide range of available coverage levels, provides coverage for replanting annual commodities, includes provisions that increase coverage for expanding operations, and allows the inclusion of market readiness costs in the coverage. The policy is tailored for most farms, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. The policy covers farms or ranches with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue.

For more information, including product availability, visit the RMA Whole-Farm Web page. Crop insurance is

sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at www.rma.usda.gov.

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection is a provision of the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and saving billions of taxpayer dollars. To date, USDA has implemented many provisions of this crucial legislation, providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“Knock Knock”

Knock Knock

Grade: D+

Rated R, some harsh profanity, a lot of nudity and some strong sexuality, some violence
1 hr., 20 min

Despite a promising (or at least noteworthy) start with “Cabin Fever” and “Hostel,” horror director Eli Roth is now probably best known to the widest audience as the actor who played Sgt. Donny Donowitz, the Bear Jew, in “Inglourious Basterds.” Unlike most directors, he looks like an actor. He’s also doing well as a producer, helping to bring films like “The Last Exorcism” and “Sacrament” to the screen.

In other words, if the whole “writing and directing” thing doesn’t work out—and his latest, the lame-brained “Knock Knock,” suggests it might not—then at least Roth has other show-business careers to fall back on.

“Knock Knock” takes a titillating setup (two sexy female strangers show up at a man’s house and proposition him) and turns it into hot, wet garbage that doesn’t even work as exploitation, much less as psychological horror or social commentary. The man, Evan, is played by Keanu Reeves, whose limitations as an actor are only evident when he’s required to do big, intense emotions, which unfortunately this film is full of. Evan’s loving wife and children are away for the weekend when gorgeous Genesis (Lorenza Izzo, Roth’s wife) and



ROTTENTOMATOES

When a devoted husband and father is left home alone for the weekend, two stranded young women unexpectedly knock on his door for help. What starts out as a kind gesture results in a dangerous seduction and a deadly game of cat and mouse.

Bel (Ana de Armas), soaking wet from being caught in a downpour, knock on his door and ask to use his phone. They are boldly flirtatious, even shocking (“Underwear models are the kind of guys you [screw] when you’re 14,” says one), but Evan amusedly resists their charms until he can’t resist anymore and the inevitable fantasy three-way occurs.

Next morning, the girls take over his posh house, toying with him emotionally and mangling his wife’s artwork. They prevent him from calling the police by claiming to be under 18, a claim that 1) is self-evidently false (1

mean good grief, look at them), and 2) only works on dumb guys. They abuse Evan physically and psychologically.

Why? Is it justice for some past misdeed of Evan’s? Something against men in general? No, nothing like that. Genesis and Bel are just malicious, conning whores, that’s all. Roth and co-writers Guillermo Amoedo and Nicolas Lopez give them no motives, no rationale, no purpose. The result: a story that has no point, and that doesn’t do much to diminish Roth’s reputation as a misogynist. Unmotivated cru-

elty is too thin a premise to hang a movie on, especially when it’s as hammy acted as this cheap thing is. There are also lazy mistakes in the writing—it’s Father’s Day, but it’s also a long weekend, which doesn’t jibe; the girls chose Evan specifically, but they also went house to house to find a victim at random—but that’s nothing compared to the numerous dumb ways that Evan fails to escape from his easily escapable situation. Then again, I watched the whole movie instead of walking out, so maybe I’m no smarter than he is.

Haley from A1

“What he did affected so many people in so many ways,” said Chris Haley, who after years in the theater industry, chose a career that would allow him to further study the missing pieces of his lineage.

But when remembering Alex Haley, Chris Haley remembers him as “Uncle Alex”—a kind and humble individual who would give him \$10 bills during his visits to Washington whenever he was scheduled to speak at the Smithsonian.

Chris Haley said “I often have to remind myself how huge that is.”

Alex Haley, after all, took 12 years to finish “Roots,” nine of which were used to research his family’s ancestry, Chris Haley said, revealing a connection to Kunta Kinte, a discovery that Chris Haley describes as “amazing.”

‘Roots’ and disputes

Controversy has surrounded the novel, some speculating that Kunta Kinte was a fictional character. Alex Haley was also sued for plagiarism in 1978, a year after the miniseries was released, on the claims that 81 pages of the “Roots” novel was lifted from the novel “The African” by Harold Courlander. Alex Haley agreed to pay a \$650,000 out-of-court settlement to Courlander.

“There are some aspects of (genealogy) that you are so incredibly fortunate if you can find where all the puzzle (pieces) fit,” Haley said, emphasizing the fact that his uncle took 12 years to finish the book. “Just from a practical standpoint, why do you wait that long to steal something from someone? It just doesn’t make practical sense to me.”

Chris Haley, however, still has faith that the story is real and about his ancestry.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRITTANY BRITTO

The Alex Haley sculpture group of the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial is located in the City Dock of Annapolis, Maryland, and depicts the author Alex Haley telling three children of different ethnicities stories of his history from an open book that lies in his lap. The memorial is said to be the only statue in the United States that pays homage to the landing of an enslaved African.

“I believe that where there are literal, documentary lapses or holes in my uncle’s story ... I’m okay with that ... I know through genealogy there are not ‘ABCD’ type things,” Chris Haley said, emphasizing that genealogy is often complemented by oral tradition.

Alex Haley died in 1992 at age 70.

Despite past controversy, a Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial still sits at the City Dock of Annapolis, displaying a statue of the author telling stories to three young children of different ethnicities from an open book that sits on his lap—one of the only memorials in the country to pay homage to an enslaved African and his landing in the United States.

The 26th Annual Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival (<http://www.kuntakinte.org/>) is scheduled for Saturday, and a remake of the “Roots” televi-

sion miniseries is in production and scheduled to air on the A+E channel in 2016.

Remaking a classic

In the midst of Freddie Gray trials and the concerning eye on mistreatment of minorities, Chris Haley argues that the show’s remake will come at an even more controversial time than when the series was originally released.

“I would hope that it is well done and well received. It’s certainly still a valid story,” Chris Haley said, though he acknowledged that many people, actors especially, see no reason for this classic to be remade.

“It will be interesting to see a more modern take on that story, and where it goes and how it connects with today’s sensibility, especially, quite frankly, because of the racially tense climate (of today),” Chris Haley said, reasoning that the original “Roots” miniseries came shortly

after the peak of the Civil Rights Movement. “To show an iconic story like ‘Roots’ is really going somewhere.”

While he says that “Roots” does address man’s inhumanity to man, it also speaks to how white and black people worked together toward a gradual form of equality and success.

Even more, it tells a story—his history.

“It’s about how a black family persevered through generations to exist and to value their own existence to the point where one of them found their courage and the resources to write about his story and validate the stories of his ancestors, which again is something that all of us have the opportunity to do,” said Chris Haley, emphasizing the importance of record-keeping.

See **HALEY** Page A7

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

The Trailer for ‘Concussion’ Should Give Roger Goodell Night Sweats



The NFL should be afraid of the forthcoming film *Concussion*, due to be released this December. Very afraid. I say that having not seen the film, just the trailer. But already there is enough revealed to know that the Will Smith vehicle should be giving league commissioner Roger Goodell night sweats.

First, there is the story itself. To tell the NFL’s concussion saga, director Peter Landesman has centered the story around the true story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, who first discovered the football-related brain injury CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) when performing an autopsy on Steelers Hall of Fame center Mike Webster, who died at the age of 50, and Dr. Omalu’s efforts to get the NFL to give a damn. Landesman also made the criminally overlooked film *Kill the Messenger* about journalist Gary Webb, the late *San Jose Mercury News* reporter who uncovered the long rumored connections between the CIA and the wholesale importing of crack cocaine into the inner city to underwrite Latin American military coups.

In an interview with *Sports Illustrated*’s Peter King, the most mainstream of football writers, it is clear that Landesman is not giving any damns. He said:

I gravitate towards stories of David versus Goliath, the small man versus the machine. Whether it is Bennet Omalu or Gary Webb, a reporter who discovered the cocaine trafficking with the CIA and was destroyed by the *Washington Post* and the CIA and others. In my writing career as a journalist, it was little man against the machine so I think I am just hard-wired for that narrative.

Then there is the casting. Will Smith has long taken roles that portray himself as an avatar of what is heroic in this world. It may be a waste of the transgressive talent shown in his 1993 debut *Six Degrees of Separation*, but it has made him an icon of an almost Old Hollywood righteousness. You don’t root against Will Smith. It would be like, to use another edgeless Smith performance, wanting George Foreman to triumph over Muhammad Ali. But Will Smith is just the beginning. Landesman cast Luke Wilson, an actor best known for *Idiocracy* and a film where Will Ferrell first showed his ass, to play Roger Goodell. This is like casting Rob Schneider to star in a Reagan biopic. You are making a statement just by the choice. Another actor whose casting implies the politics at hand is Paul Reiser, who will play Dr. Elliot Pellman, the longtime chairman of the NFL’s Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee. Dr. Pellman is a rheumatologist without an expertise in brain research, and is alleged to have suppressed much of the data, at the NFL’s behest, linking head injuries and the sport.

The casting of the real-life NFL players also looks rocky for the league. Lined up against Luke Wilson and Paul Reiser, Will Smith will be assisted by David Morse: he of the soulful, sad eyes that make you involuntarily well up, as Mike Webster. Other actors with seriously heart-wrenching dramatic chops, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje and Richard T. Jones, have been cast in prominent roles to play Dave Duerson, the onetime Chicago Bears star who took his own life by shooting himself in the heart so his brain could be examined for CTE, and Andre Waters, who committed suicide at the age of 44. Waters’s brain tissue was described as looking like that of an 80-year-old with Alzheimer’s.

Serious football fans can cite the cases of Duerson, Waters, and Webster, chapter and verse. But for those who don’t pay attention beyond casual cheering on Sunday, the names will justly return to haunt the league.

Then there is the timing. If *Concussion* came out now, it would get less coverage than the Washington quarterback controversy. But tragically, we know that by December, another season of injuries, another season of tragedies will be winding down and the film will amplify all of those renewed concerns.

Lastly, there is the savvy perspective by Landesman himself. He is pressed by Peter King about whether this film is about campaigning to end football, he said:

I have no position on whether or not people should play football or whether they should have their kids play football. To me, this is a story about making adult choices. Once you have the information—and the information has been obscured for a long time, it’s been buried and covered up by people who don’t want to damage the sport—the information is now

See **GOODELL** Page A12

Calendar of Events

October 22 — October 28, 2015

Juanito Pascual New Flamenco Trio

Date and Time: Friday, October 23, 2015, 8 pm
 Description: Juanito Pascual's unique and creative fusion of traditional and contemporary flamenco spans many genres. With influences ranging from Jimi Hendrix to Miles Davis and J.S. Bach, his music is sure to appeal to jazz, classical and pop music fans. "One of the hottest Flamenco guitarists to emerge in recent years."—National Public Radio
 Cost: \$25/person;
 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Haunted House

Date and Time: Friday, October 23, 2015, 7-10 pm
 Description: Travel with us to the Baysox Stadium in Bowie for a haunted house! We will depart by 7 pm and return by 9:30 pm. Please sign up by October 15, 2015.
 Cost: Resident: \$20, Non-Resident: \$20
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Rd, Beltsville
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Monster Mash

Date and Time: Friday, October 23, 2015, 7-10 pm
 Description: Dress in your best costume and enjoy food, drinks, games, pumpkin decoration with your Xtreme Teens family at Monster Mash.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center
 6900 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville
 Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

Calabash Carnage Pumpkin Carving

Date & Time: Saturday, October 24, 2015, 2-4 pm
 Description: Celebrate Halloween with the Brentwood Arts Exchange! This family-friendly event is not a trick, but a treat. This is your chance to leave the pumpkin mess at our house, rather than yours. Use your imagination and bring your jack-o-lantern to life! Pumpkins are \$5 each.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Brentwood Arts Center
 3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood
 Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Haunt & Hide

Date and Time: Saturday, October 24, 2015, 7-10 pm
 Description: Join in on the Halloween fun with a ghoulish game of haunt and seek.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center
 6900 Pontiac St., Berwyn Heights
 Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-699-2544

A Classical Afternoon

Date and Time: Sunday, October 25, 2015, 12 noon
 Description: Early 19th century America was greatly influenced by the classical world. Celebrate ancient Rome as you meet Roman Legio XX. Tour fees include all activities.
 Cost: Adults: \$3; Seniors: \$2; Students: \$1;
 4 & under: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: History of Chocolate

Date and Time: Sunday, October 25, 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 18th and 19th century spice and cocoa.
 Cost: FREE; regular fee for house tours
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

Fundamentals of Estate Planning and Wealth Transfer

Date and Time: Monday, October 26, 2015, 7-9 pm
 Description: In this seminar, participants will learn the fundamentals of estate planning and wealth transfer. Long-term care insurance issues will be covered and the changes in tax laws relating to Estate Planning as well.
 Cost: Residents \$5; Non-Residents \$6
 Ages: 18 & up
 Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington
 Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

Dine & Learn: Cooking with Food Trends

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 6-8 pm
 Description: Specialty ingredients such as Chai seeds, coconut milk and tahini look interesting, but how do you use them? Learn how to incorporate the latest healthy food trends into your daily dishes. 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 ... Do You Have Any Suggestions Regarding How My Company Can Start to Reduce the Amount of Paper We Use?

Dear EarthTalk:

My company talks the talk when it comes to the environment but could do so much more to reduce paper use. Do you have any tips to help get the higher-ups on board to reduce paper use company-wide?

— Elena Sepulveda,
 White Plains, NY

Cutting back on paper may seem "so 1990s" given the current focus of environmental organizations on climate change and related global issues. But reducing paper use is still one of the best ways companies, government agencies and institutions can help the environment during the course of day-to-day activities.

Getting a handle on just how much paper your entity could save is the first step. The non-profit Environmental Paper Network (EPN)—an umbrella group launched in 2002 and made up of more than 100 organizations working to reduce paper production and consumption and clean up the inefficient yet still expanding paper industry—makes it easy with its Paper Calculator. The free online tool compares the environmental impacts of competing paper products and assesses the larger impacts of paper use.

According to EPN, some of the tangible results of its work include legal protection for millions of acres of endangered forests, significant increases in the number of paper-related certifications and forest acres certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), a marked increase in the number of large companies developing environmental paper policies, vastly increased availability of genuine environmental papers for consumers, and increased demand for, and use of, recycled fibers.

EPN also makes available easy-to-read reports outlining the benefits of making more sustainable paper choices. Showing companies the economic advantages of reducing their paper usage and greening other aspects of operations has been key to building EPN's membership and expanding its influence overall.

While joining EPN may be more of a commitment than some entities are willing to make, there are plenty of other free resources to help reduce paper use and green business operations. The non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) offers up a plethora of tips on responsible paper consumption via its Greening Advisor program. A few examples include more double-sided printing and the use of smaller type fonts,



CREDIT: TERRY FREEDMAN, FLICKRCC

The paperless office is still a dream for many businesses, organizations and institutions.

eliminating paper coffee cups, and e-billing (invoicing clients via e-mail instead of paper).

NRDC also emphasizes that saving paper helps the bottom line: "A typical office disposes of about 350 pounds of wastepaper per employee per year ... Identifying ways to reduce paper use can save money."

Yet another great resource is the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency's (EPA's) WasteWise program, which offers free information and assistance for corporate environmental sustainability efforts. Hundreds of companies have already partnered with EPA on the program. One of the biggest WasteWise partners, Bank of America, has saved upwards of \$1 million annually since syncing up with the program.

CONTACTS: Environmental Paper Network, www.environmentalpaper.org; Forest Stewardship Council, www.fsc.org; NRDC Greening Advisor, www.nrdc.org/enterprise/greeningadvisor/; EPA WasteWise, www.epa.gov/wastes/conserv/smm/wastewise/index.htm.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Haley from A6

"We may not be able to do it with the depth or breadth as my uncle did. But we all have the opportunity to speak to someone in our family, to jot down either with a pencil or pen or talk into a tape recorder or send emails or write some blog about our family or about our lives. And I think that's one of the things that reinforces and promotes, is that it's within all of us that we could possibly do this, and respect our own specific lineage."

Reliving history through records

Much of Alex Haley's research for "Roots" was conducted with the help of the Maryland State Archives, where Chris Haley oversees thousands of documents for the Underground Railroad Project, an ever-growing archive unveiling the many unknown people who dedicated their livelihood to the abolishment of slavery in Maryland.

Though the people he discovers aren't as famous as Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass (though he's found record of them, too), these records and newspaper ads bring to light that these runaway slaves were also punished and jailed, Chris Haley said.

Particularly fascinating are the runaway slave ads.

"These documents show that ... however wrong we can agree that slavery was, some aspect of



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY BRITTANY BRITTO

Chris Haley, director of the study of the legacy of slavery in Maryland at the Maryland State Archives, discusses pictures from a recent lecture on racism and sensitivity. On the featured slide labeled "Own It" is a picture of his great-grandfather, nicknamed "Chicken George," and another ancestor, who was a white slave-owner. Chris Haley emphasizes the need to accept and respect all aspects of his lineage.

slavery—the fact that black people were property—is one reason why there's a documentation, a trail to so many (slaves)," Chris Haley said, finding the ads "contradictory" for requesting the return of their slaves as property while describing the slaves' human qualities.

Provided by slave owners, the ads would include specific details and physical descriptions of runaway slaves, including their age, hair and skin color, height, skill level, details about their escape, and even named their fam-

ily members and friends in order to best identify them. A reward was often included at the top or bottom of the ad for their return.

Ira Berlin, an American historian, author and distinguished professor at the University of Maryland, noted that many slaves in Maryland would often make their way to Baltimore to travel up the underground railroad to Philadelphia—a relatively easy path in comparison to other states.

Knowing that escapes were likely, slaveholders would often

bargain with their slaves, negotiating their freedom for additional years of servitude to their owner, Berlin said.

"The distinctive nature about slavery in Maryland (was) the large free population, which (grew) in the American Revolution and (continued) to grow by 1860," Berlin said, noting that in the 1860's there were more freedmen in the state than slaves, eventually leading to the abolishment of slavery, as ruled by the Maryland Constitution, in 1864.

DID YOU KNOW?

Installing a rain barrel is a cost effective and easy way to lower your water bill. During the summer months, 40 percent of total household water is used to water lawns and gardens. By installing a 55 gallon rain barrel to collect and store rainwater that falls on a roof, a homeowner could potentially save up to 1,300 gallons of water.*

A rain barrel is relatively simple and inexpensive to install, and can be purchased from your local hardware or garden supply store. Homeowners may be eligible to receive a rebate for installing a rain barrel on their property through the Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate Program. For more information, visit www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.9146461/k.6D3F/Prince_Georg_e8217s_Rain_Check_Rebate.htm

*Source: www.epa.gov