

The Prince George's Post



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County Council Adopts Legislation Updating Food Truck Laws in PG County

By Press Officer
PG County Government

The Prince George's County Council, during Council session on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, adopted a trio of bills updating mobile vending laws for food trucks in Prince George's County.

Council Bill 16-2015, Council Bill 17-2015, and Council Bill 51-2015, after extensive discussion and amendments following introduction in April, will heighten regulations for food trucks, known formally as food service facility mobile units.

Council Member Karen R. Toles (D) – District 7, co-proposer of the legislation and chair of the Council's Health, Education, and Human Services (HEHS) committee, says the new food truck laws will provide greater accessibility to expanded food options for residents, and increase opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

"Residents who live and work around our Metro stations have expressed a strong desire for healthier and more diverse eating options. The resurgence of food trucks, closely regulated, will provide residents with that option. We also want to provide an opportunity for food truck owners and operators to build and grow their businesses in Prince George's County. While I am disappointed that today's amendments will exclude the Branch Avenue Metro Station, overall, the legislation is moving the

County in the right direction and a 'win' for both residents and business owners."

Council Members Mary Lehman (D) – District 1, and Dannielle Glaros (D) – District 3, co-proposers of the bills, join Council Member Toles in lauding the new regulations, which include a mandatory mobile unit license.

"I am pleased to see new regulations in place," said Council Member Lehman. "Food trucks will not only provide residents and workers with more convenient on-the-go food options, but they also bring healthier food options directly to the County's 'food deserts' and the communities most in need."

"Food trucks are a \$1 billion industry that is growing every year," said Council Member Glaros. "By revitalizing the food truck industry and creating Food Truck Hubs in the County, we open the door to economic development around our transit hubs and create new business opportunities for our aspiring entrepreneurs."

Council Bill 16-2015 establishes "Food Truck Hubs" in targeted locations throughout the County to encourage economic development; increase public access to healthy food options; minimize or eliminate food deserts in underserved areas of the County;

See **FOOD TRUCK** Page A5

As Head Start Turns 50, Future of Program and Its Effectiveness Debated

By JULIE GALLAGHER
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Head Start is 50 years old this month, but the federal early-education program's effectiveness and costs remain controversial among policymakers.

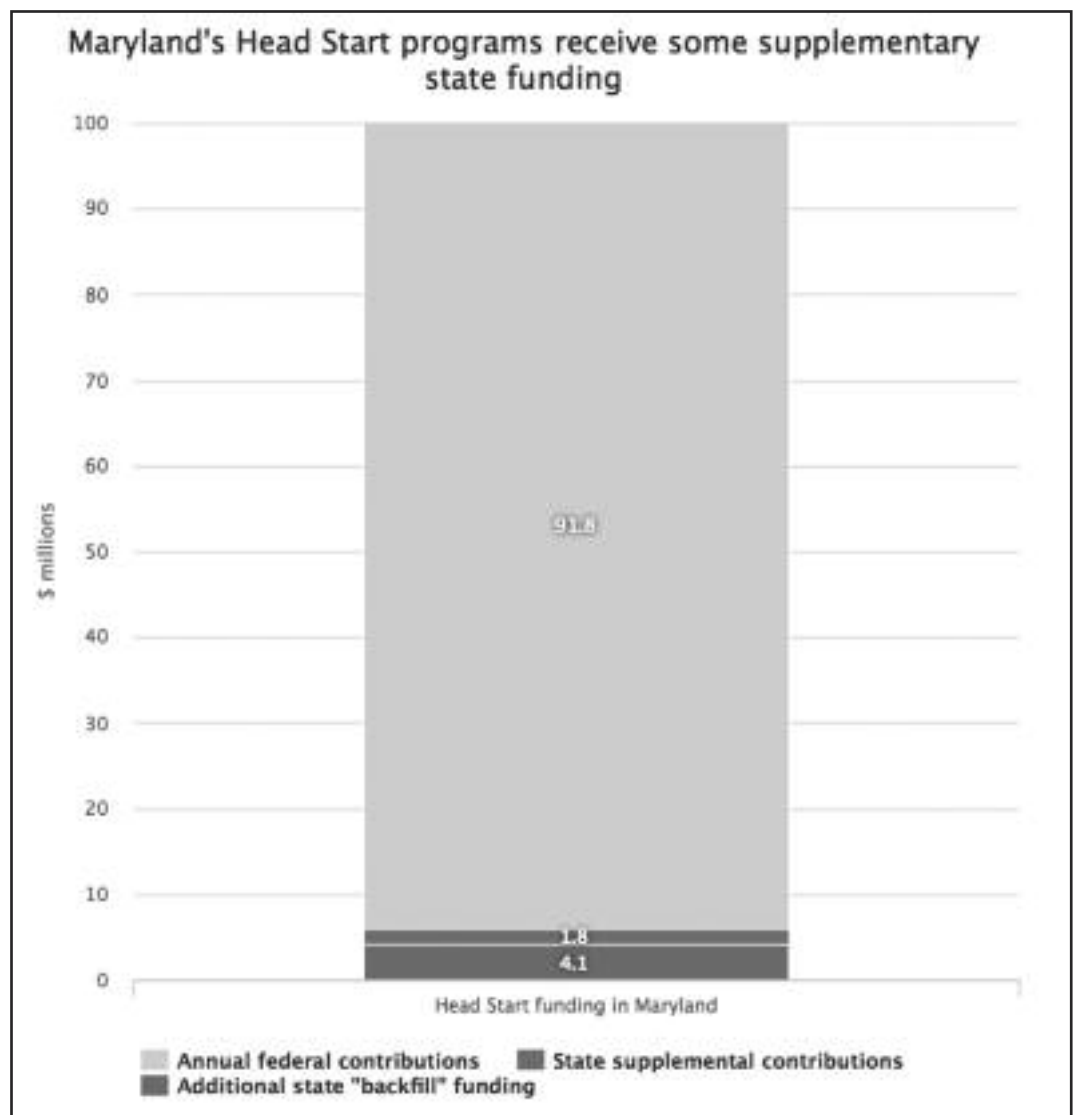
Lawmakers must reauthorize the program and that has sparked another debate over whether the Great Society-era initiative makes all the difference in the world for disadvantaged young learners or is just a government program whose popularity does not match actual results.

The witnesses present at a Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing on Oct. 7 agreed that in order to ensure proper implementation of Head Start, adequate funding must be provided, teachers must be sufficiently paid, and government restrictions must be reduced.

In Maryland, there are 47 Head Start programs that serve over 10,000 children and expecting mothers, according to data compiled by the National Head Start Association.

Head Start is a national program for at-risk three-, four-, and five-year-olds, providing preschool, mental and physical health care, emotional support, and proper nutrition. Early Head Start is a similar program that helps pregnant women and infants from birth until three.

Obama's 2016 fiscal year budget plan calls for \$10.1 billion to be allocated to Head



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY ROSE CREASMAN WELCOME

Start, an increase from last year "full day, full year program." to expand the preschool into a The Senate's budget proposal

See **HEAD START** Page A3

The Capital Wheel at National Harbor Lights Up For Purple Light Nights

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Capital Wheel at National Harbor was the perfect shade of purple every Monday and Thursday this month, joining the Office of the Sheriff's "Purple Light Nights" community campaign to raise awareness and a unified voice against domestic violence during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Of their participation in the campaign, as a result of part-

nering with the county's Department of Family Service during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Melissa Norris, Marketing Manager for the Capital Wheel at National Harbor said, "The Capital Wheel at National Harbor is proud to partner with "Purple Light Nights" in their efforts to raise a unified voice against domestic violence."

"The commitment of our partners at Family Services and their support of "Purple Light Nights" made lighting the Capital Wheel at National Harbor possible," said Sheriff

Melvin C. High. "With the support of partners at every level of government, we've sent a powerful message about our community working together to make change."

The Office of the Sheriff launched "Purple Light Nights" in Maryland in 2014, connecting Prince George's County and the state with a list of cities and counties in over 30 states, and in Canada and 18 villages in Guam. The Purple Light Nights name and logo are approved Federal trademarks of the Covington Domestic Violence Task Force.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
The Capital Wheel at National Harbor.

Council Member Mary Lehman Recognized by Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network

By Press Officer
PGCCM

Prince George's County Council Member Mary Lehman (D)—District 1, is the honored recipient of the Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network (MFANN) 2015 Local Elected Official of the Year Award, recognizing her contributions towards reducing hunger and improving nutrition in Prince George's County. The award was presented to Council Member Lehman during the Fifth Annual Fighting Hunger in Mary-

land Conference: Reframing Hunger event on Tuesday, October 27, held at the University of Maryland, SMC Campus Center, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Council Member Lehman, a strong supporter of the Prince George's Food Equity Council, has worked closely with the group on policy matters to strengthen the County's food system and promote equity in food access for County residents.

CB-34-2014, legislation proposed by Council Member Lehman and adopted by the County Council, created a



PHOTO COURTESY PGCCM
Mary Lehman

See **LEHMAN** Page A5

RETRACTION/CORRECTION—10/29/2015 ISSUE Prince George's Economic Development Corp., Your Partner in Workforce Development

The byline for this article was incorrect, the correct byline should have read:

by Monica Biscoe
Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation

The photograph was also taken by and supplied to us by Monica Biscoe.

We greatly appreciate Monica Biscoe's contributions to the paper and hope to receive more of her informative and well written articles. My apologies for this gross error.

Michal W. Frangia, Editor



PHOTO BY MONICA BISCOE
Howard Axelrod, GBBA President and Jeffrey Swilley, EDC Deputy Director of Workforce Services

INSIDE

New Hands-Free Technology Poses Hidden Dangers for Drivers, Reveals New Study by AAA

This research represents the third phase of the Foundation's comprehensive investigation into cognitive distraction, which shows that new hands-free technologies can mentally distract drivers even if their eyes are on the road and their hands are on the wheel.
Community, Page A3

Adults Are the Problem

The last thing children need is violent assaults in schools which ought to be safe havens, and a suspension, expulsion and arrest to blot their school records and push them closer to the prison pipeline. And the very last thing children need is out-of-control adults using violence as a way of resolving differences.
Commentary, Page A4

Prince George's EDC Takes Small Businesses to the Moon

More than 125 County companies gathered at EDC headquarters to capitalize on the great relationship the EDC is forging with NASA, looking for the opportunity to connect directly with representatives who can guide them toward procurements that can transform their companies.
Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "Steve Jobs"

Though Danny Boyle's fleet-footed direction is skillful, the film's main appeal lies in Sorkin's screenplay, which might be the Sorkinest of his career. It has the expected tsunami of dialogue, the walk-and-talk conversations where every participant is about two notches more quick-witted than regular people are.
Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the difference between a carbon tax and "cap-and-trade" system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

— Marina Brown,
New York, NY

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Rogers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella" coming to McNamara

Bishop McNamara High School Fine Arts Department and the Theatre Program is presenting "Cinderella," with music by Richard Rogers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, based on the book by Oscar Hammerstein II.

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is reborn with the Rodgers & Hammerstein hallmark of originality, charm and elegance. This fully-staged musical includes classic songs such as "The Sweetest Sounds, Impossible" and "Ten Minutes Ago." As adapted for the stage, with great warmth and more than a touch of hilarity, the hearts of children and adults alike still soar when the slipper fits.

Public performances will be Fridays & Saturdays, Nov. 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, Nov. 15 and 22 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are \$10.00. You can click on the "Seat Yourself" button on the Bishop McNamara High School website to order your tickets. Or call Adrienne Davis, 301-745-8401, ext. 136. Or drop by the school at 6800 Marlboro Pike in Forestville.

Neighbors

Emanuel and Juanita Chaplin, of Skyline, are proud of grandson Dominique Braxton who graduated from McDonough High in Pomfret and is majoring in Criminal Justice at The College of Southern Maryland. He is the son of John and Nicole Chaplin.

St. Philip's kindergarten and PreK 4 classes took a field trip to Cox Farms in Centreville, Va., where they enjoyed a hayride, fed the goats, and some of them milked a cow.

I received a very welcome email from Darlene Ferris who grew up in Skyline, the daughter of Col. George and Dottie Donley. Darlene and her family now live in Jacksonville, Fla., and she writes, "Life has been good and I feel blessed that the Lord has watched over us."

A special greeting to the VFW Post 9619 Auxiliary, which was chartered Nov. 13, 1938.

Important meetings coming up

Morningside holds its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The Skyline Citizens Association will be at Skyline School on Wednesday, Nov. 18, for its quarterly meeting, beginning at 7 p.m.

Changing landscape

I have a hard time dealing with change. I'm still waiting for Woodies, Hot Shoppes, Peoples Drugs and Woolworth's to come back.

Now, Walgreens has agreed to acquire rival Rite Aid. What does that mean for the Rite Aid stores in Suitland and Clinton?

And National Geographic is laying off 180 employees and has sold the *National Geographic Magazine* which it has published since 1888.

Speaking of changing landscape, moles have taken over one side of my front yard, making it dangerous to walk on. Do any of you have a fail-safe solution? Email me at mudmmd@aol.com.

Christmas in Paradise

The Surratt Society, in Clinton, is offering a bus tour on Dec. 1 to Paradise, Pa., and the National Christmas Center, with lunch at the Fireside Tavern. The bus leaves from the Surratt House at 8 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. The fee is \$90 per person. Call 301-868-1121 for availability.

Celebrating Charlie Brown

Charles M. Schulz created the *Peanuts* comic strip 65 years ago, and now television's "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is 50 years old.

To celebrate the occasion, the U. S. Postal Service has issued a booklet of ten Forever Christmas stamps featuring Charlie and his friends. See Charlie wistfully checking the mailbox, Charlie and Pigpen building a snowman, Snoopy decorating his doghouse, Charlie proudly showing Linus his sad Christmas tree. They're available at your post office.

Also, Walmart is offering a set of four 16-ounce Philosophy of Snoopy glasses for \$30, and Target has "The Peanuts Movie" Original Motion Picture Soundtrack for \$12. "Only What's Necessary: Charles M. Schulz and the Art of Peanuts" is available at barnesandnoble.com for \$40.

May they rest in peace

Benny Joseph Nagro, 85, formerly of Camp Springs, an Air Force veteran who served in the Korean War, died Oct. 25. He was the son of Italian emigrants and a graduate of Eastern High School where he is remembered as a drummer. He was a member of St. Philip's Church where he and his wife were ushers, and he was active with the Knights of Columbus in Forestville. Survivors include his wife Betty, son Brian Nero and his wife Maria, daughter Brenda McMonigle and her husband Kevin, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Joseph's Church in Cockeysville with burial at Washington National Cemetery in Suitland.

Douglas Eugene Windsor, 52, a member of the Masonic Lodge of Oxon Hill, Shriner of Almas Temple in Washington, and DeMolay in Camp Springs, died Nov. 2. He was an avid golfer and PGA member. His memorial service was held at Surfside U. M. Church in Surfside, S.C.

Irene Dorothy Napper, 102, passed away Oct. 14. She was affectionately known as Mama, Grandma and Ms. Renee, and leaves to cherish her memory four sons, five daughters, 25 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Holy Family Church in Hillcrest Heights. She is at rest in Washington National Cemetery in Suitland.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Robin Brown, Nov. 13; Tyrell Boxley, Nov. 14; Ty Poe, Bob Davis and Carolyn Holland Bennett, Nov. 15; Kendra MacLean and Katie Frostbutter, Nov. 18.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Christian Panda, Ronald Crawford, Darius Paul Kerrick, Dion Jalloh, Owen Johnson, Ugo Mbakwe, Shurrell Bell, Jack Matthews, Marilyn Panda-Massey, Ronald Crawford, Jr., Moya Panda, Bertha Lee, Daphne Rojas, Evangeline Crawford, Sheila Holmes, Pastor Dorothea Belt Stroman, Christina Stevenson, Maly Escanilla, Wade Garrett, Beverly Holman, Grace Omoregbe, Pauline Clark and Dorothy Glasgow-Reid who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of November.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversary to Barron and Kendra Neal who are celebrating their wedding anniversary November 24.

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to attend St. Philip's Annual Prayer Breakfast Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 9:00 AM at St. Philip's Episcopal Church-Baden Parish. Guest speaker is Sister Faye Johnson. Admission for adults is \$10 and children (6-12) are \$5.00. The address is 13801

Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is (301) 888-1536.

148th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Come and worship with us. New Hope Fellowship Parish, Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor invite you to celebrate 148th Anniversary of Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church ("Growing Forward") Sunday, November 15, 2015. Music by New Hope Fellowship Choir and Liturgical Dance by New Hope Fellowship. Brunch is from 10:00 AM-11:15 AM.

Contemporary Worship at 11:30 AM. Guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Walter E. Middlebrooks Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Lothian, Maryland. Church Anniversary will be held at the Family Life Center 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

For more information, please contact Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church at (301) 888-2171 or visit website: thenhf.org.

29TH ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Friday, November 27 thru Friday, January 1, 2016 from 5:00

PM-9:30 PM (daily) come and see the spectacular holiday drive-through event at Watkins Regional Park. This year there will be more than one million lights.

Fee is cash only, \$5 for cars and vans; \$15 mini-buses and limos; \$25 buses; \$10 multi-visit passes for cars and vans. There is no cost December 25. Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks. Visit www.pgparcs.com/Festivals.htm for details. Telephone number is 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544.

YOUTH @ WORK

Prince George's Community College in partnership with the Prince George's County Government is offering free job readiness training for county residents ages 15-19 in 2016. Visit www.pgcc.edu/go/youthatwork.

SEMINAR

Join us at a MedStar Medicare Choice Seminar in your area. There is no obligation for attending. Call 855-307-9239 (TTY 855-250-5604) to reserve your seat. The next seminar is Monday, November 16 at 10:00 AM. Location is the Gwendolyn Brit Senior Center 4009 Wallace Road, Community Room, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards Statement on Successful Democratic Effort to Reauthorize the Export-Import Bank

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement today after Democrats passed legislation in the House of Representatives to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which supports American competitiveness in the global marketplace. On October 9, 2015, 218 Democrats and Republicans signed a discharge petition that forced Republican leadership to bring H.Res. 450, providing for the consideration of H.R. 597, the Reform Exports and Expand the American Economy Act, to a vote on the floor of the House. H.R. 597, which reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank, passed the House by a vote of 313-118.

"On June 30, 2015, Republican leaders stood by and allowed the Export-Import Bank's charter to expire. This Republican obstructionism threatens the 10,000 jobs supported by the Export-Import Bank in Maryland, including businesses that are headquartered in the 4th Congressional District, and the 164,000 jobs at over 3,300 companies across the country. I am grateful that today, Democrats united with 118 Republicans to say 'enough is enough,' and passed this reauthorization. This is welcome news for our economy and thousands of small businesses. I hope we can build on today's success by passing the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, and ensuring the full faith and credit of the United States."

Since 2007, the Export-Import Bank has created or sustained 1.5 million private sector jobs at no cost to the taxpayer. Several times in recent months, Democrats moved to have the House consider legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank's charter. Republicans refused to allow a vote on the bill each of those previous times.

Hospital Participates in Fundraising Walk to Help Raise Diabetes Awareness

LANHAM, MD—On October 17, Doctors Community Hospital's Joslin Diabetes Center participated in the Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes. Held at the National Harbor, this American Diabetes Association event focused on raising funds to increase awareness of and find a cure for diabetes. This year, the hospital's team—DCH Sugar Stompers—raised an estimated \$2,100 to support this cause.

Diabetes is a complex health condition that impacts the lives of both children and adults. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Diabetes Statistics Report, there are about 29.1 million Americans or 9.3 percent of the population who have diabetes. Of that figure, an estimated 21 million are diagnosed and 8.1 million are undiagnosed. In addition to being among the leading causes of death in the community, poorly managed diabetes can lead to long-term complications including heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage and limb amputation.

"As in many parts of the country, diabetes continues to be a major health issue in Prince George's County. That's what makes our support of the American Diabetes Association's



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

walk and other community initiatives so important. For example, we host free diabetes educational support groups each month and have partnered with the Health Department to offer the On the Road Diabetes Program—all focused on helping people maintain or improve their health," stated Angela Diggs, director at Doctors Community Hospital's Joslin Diabetes Center.

Paul Grenaldo, chief operating officer at Doctors Community Hospital, elaborated, "We are committed to raising awareness about various health conditions as well as improving people's access to care. Our Wellness on Wheels or W.O.W. mobile health clinic, which is a partnership with the Prince George's County Health Department, travels throughout the area providing free diabetes, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings. Such efforts are part of the hospital's 40-year mission of passionately caring about the health of our community."

About Diabetes

Diabetes is a disease in which the body is unable to properly use and store glucose (a form of sugar). Glucose accumulates in the bloodstream, causing blood glucose or blood sugar levels to rise too high. There are two types of diabetes:

- Type 1 diabetes—the body completely stops producing any insulin, a hormone that enables the body to process the glucose found in food. People who have type 1 diabetes must take daily insulin injections. This form of diabetes usually develops in children or young adults.

- Type 2 diabetes—results when the body doesn't produce enough insulin and/or is unable to use insulin properly (insulin resistant). This form of diabetes usually occurs in people who are ages 40 or older, overweight and have a family history of diabetes.

People who have diabetes may experience the following types of symptoms:

- Extreme thirst
- Frequent urination
- Unexplained weight loss
- Increased hunger
- Blurry vision
- Irritability
- Tingling numbness in hands or feet
- Frequent skin, bladder or gum infections
- Wounds that don't heal
- Extreme fatigue

Those who experience these symptoms should speak with their primary care physicians. In some cases, diabetes might not produce any symptoms or they come on so gradually that they may not be recognized, which happens occasionally with type 2 diabetes.

Poorly managed diabetes can lead to a host of long-term complications: heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney fail-

ure and blood vessel disease that may result in amputation or nerve damage.

For a free diabetes educational brochure or to schedule an appointment, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

BGE Extends Credit Agreement with Local Banks

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and its parent company, Exelon Corporation, have arranged credit lines totaling \$123 million with 28 minority and community-owned banks located in BGE's service area and other regions where Exelon operates. These transactions help grow local businesses, the local economy, and are critical to communities that remain challenged by current economic conditions.

Exelon's minority and community banking program, which began in 2003, is unique in the energy industry. Administered by JP Morgan Chase since its inception, the program now has 28 participating banks across the country; more than quadruple the original number. Locally, Harbor Bank serves as the lead arranger for BGE's credit line.

"These partnerships are part of BGE's and Exelon's ongoing commitment to investing in our communities and engaging diverse suppliers in major transactions," said Calvin G. Butler Jr., chief executive officer for BGE. "There are multiple benefits to these relationships: BGE receives an additional source of credit at a competitive price, the banks are able to strengthen their relationships with us a key customer, and the local economy also receives a boost."

"Harbor Bank is pleased to join other minority institutions to provide services to the Exelon companies as we all continue to meet the needs of our local communities," said Carla Nealy, senior vice president and senior lending officer, Harbor Bank.

Exelon and BGE's commitment to supplier diversity is a critical part of the company's overall supply chain strategy. Exelon's corporate spending with diversity-certified suppliers totaled more than \$1.1 billion in 2014. BGE purchased a total of \$182 million in goods and services from diversity-certified suppliers in 2014, a \$31-million increase over the previous year.

As a result of this performance, the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council named BGE the "Corporation of the Year" in 2014. This prestigious annual award recognizes corporations with superior performance in supplier diversity corporate policy and minority business enterprise development. Later this month, the organization will also present Butler with its Chairman's award. Butler was cited for championing BGE's Focus 25 program, developed in 2013 to build the company's roster of diverse business partners. Focus 25 provides select minority, women and veteran-owned companies with an in-depth overview of BGE's business and procurement processes along with insight on how to be a successful partner. Nine Maryland companies completed Focus 25 last month, bringing the program total to 18 graduates.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Planning an Eco-Friendly Home Renovation

Plenty of people are now putting the sun, wind and water to work to cut their energy bill. Should you join them?

Before any shift to renewable energy technology, you've got to do some very individualized research and above all, work the numbers.

Solar energy seems to be getting the most attention. You might have heard recent news reports about solar energy's sliding costs and rising support in Washington. A recent White House report (<https://www.whitehouse.gov>) noted that the average cost of a solar electric system has dropped by 50 percent since 2010 and that federal agencies are working to make it easier for lower-income taxpayers to borrow up to \$25,000 for solar and energy efficient home improvements.

And many are rushing to do installations by the current year-end 2016 expiration date for the 30 percent federal consumer energy efficiency tax credits (http://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits) covering solar energy systems, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps.

How should you evaluate the cost of a renewable energy project? Consider these questions first:

Could incremental energy-saving projects be more practical? Start with baby steps. Before you decide on an expensive solar or other renewables project, see if smaller changes around the home could save money. You can improve the performance of heating and air conditioning systems and seal air leaks from windows, doors and other areas of the home. A do-it-yourself or professional energy audit (<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-audits>) might be a good first step in detecting energy waste.

What's going on locally? When it comes to renewable energy, geography matters, and not just for tax breaks and credits for systems. Generally, weather, temperature, wind and sun exposure measurements matter when you're choosing a particular project. For example, the Solar Energy Industries Association reports that solar installations are more common on the East and West Coasts, mainly because—that's because sun exposure is greater on the coasts than in the center of the country. State and local organizations dealing with renewables can offer guidance to cost, effectiveness, installation and many other issues you'll need to evaluate. A local evaluation of options is essential.

Do you really understand the technology? There is no doubt that technology is always evolving, and this is one of the reasons why solar and other renewable energy options are becoming cheaper. However, falling costs are one thing, but you need to fully understand what you're buying so you can hire the best people to install it and service the system over time. For the basics, a good place to start is the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy.gov site's renewable energy section.

Should you buy, lease or borrow? One of the drivers behind the recent growth in solar is a new generation of vendors who provide one-stop shopping, installation and billing for systems at little or no initial cost. These vendors facilitate both purchase by loan and lease options. As convenient as this option might be, watch for inflation clauses, fees and penalties that could drive you above what you're paying for conventional, utility-produced electricity.

How will it affect resale? There's a fair amount of debate as to whether green home improvements actually boost home prices. Also, many real estate experts have mixed opinions about how prospective buyers feel about purchasing a home with existing renewable energy equipment that's either been bought or leased.

Should I involve my financial and tax advisors? Whether you plan to buy, borrow or lease a system or do intermediary energy improvements around the home, talking to a qualified financial or tax advisor isn't just worthwhile, it's essential. It is also a good idea to speak with your homeowners insurance agent to see if your project will affect your coverage.

Bottom line: Want to save money while saving the planet? Do your homework and make sure an investment in renewable energy works for you.

Public Sculpture Dedication in Cheers Three Sisters Gardens

Saturday, November 14 at 1 PM

“Owl and Woodchuck”

Dedication at Springhill Lake Garden

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Garden,
6101 Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt, MD

- CHEARS Food Forest Community Workday from 10am-1pm and dedication at 1pm
- Sculpture dedication rain location: Springhill Lake Recreation Center

New Hands-Free Technology Poses Hidden Dangers For Drivers, Reveals New Study by AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

AAA Mid-Atlantic Poll Says District Drivers Believe Hands-Free Distractions Last Less Than Ten Seconds, Study Shows Distractions Last Longer Than Drivers Realize

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Hands-free doesn't mean distraction-free. Need proof? Surprising new research finds that potentially unsafe mental distractions can persist for as long as 27 seconds after dialing, changing music or sending a text using voice commands, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. At the de facto speed limit in the nation's capital (25 miles per hour), that's tantamount to covering the distance of hitting a golf ball 300 yards from the tee down the fairway (a feat that few golfers on the PGA tour can accomplish), explains AAA Mid-Atlantic.

The results raise new and unexpected concerns regarding the use of phones and vehicle information systems while driving. This research represents the third phase of the Foundation's comprehensive investigation into cognitive distraction, which shows that new hands-free technologies can mentally distract drivers even if their eyes are on the road and their hands are on the wheel.

“The lasting effects of mental distraction pose a hidden and pervasive danger that would likely come as a surprise to most drivers,” said Peter Kissinger, President and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “The results indicate that motorists could miss stop signs, pedestrians and other vehicles while the mind is readjusting to the task of driving.”

Findings

Researchers for the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that potentially unsafe levels of mental distraction can last for as long as 27 seconds after completing a distracting task in the worst-performing systems studied. At the 25 MPH speed limit in the study, drivers traveled the length of nearly three football fields during this time. When using the least distracting systems, drivers remained impaired for more than 15 seconds after completing a task.

Washington, D.C. Residents Underestimate Length of Mental Distractions

Locally, almost one third of drivers surveyed in the na-

tion's capital confessed to using new in-car technology to make a call and to perform other tasks including sending a text or changing the radio dial, while driving in the last six month-period. That's according to the startling results of a separate telephone survey of adults in Washington, D.C. Yet nearly seven out of ten (67 percent) drivers in Washington, D.C. proper said they believe a driver's brain is only distracted for up to 10 seconds when completing an in-vehicle task like tuning the radio or dialing a phone while driving, the new AAA Mid-Atlantic survey of respondents in the city shows.

“Drivers need to be especially careful even when using voice-activated systems, and even when stopped at a red light,” said John B. Townsend II, Manager of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic. “The reality is that mental distractions can affect a driver's attention far longer than they realize or admit”

The survey was recently conducted by Public Policy Polling for AAA Mid-Atlantic between October 9—October 12. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4 percent.

The researchers in the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety study discovered the residual effects of mental distraction while comparing new hands-free technologies in ten 2015 vehicles and three types of smart phones. The analysis found that all systems studied increased mental distraction to potentially unsafe levels. The systems that performed best generally had fewer errors, required less time on task and were relatively easy to use.

Again, researchers found that potentially unsafe levels of mental distraction can last for as long as 27 seconds after completing a distracting task in the worst-performing systems studied. At the 25 MPH speed limit in the study, drivers traveled the length of nearly three football fields during this time. When using the least distracting systems, drivers remained impaired for more than 15 seconds after completing a task.

Head Start from A1

calls for \$8.7 billion, a \$100 million increase, and the House proposed \$8.8 billion, a \$192 million increase, according to Ortiz.

“All too often low-income families lack access to high quality, affordable, early education and these children tend to fall behind,” said committee ranking member Rep. Robert Scott, R-Va., at the hearing. Head Start is intended to bridge that accessibility gap.

Head Start values its mission to care for the “whole child”—which is why there is such a strong emphasis on social, emotional, and physical health. Head Start strongly urges parents to be actively engaged.

In order to accomplish that goal, parents can also receive help from Head Start, including access to professional training, access to GED programs, and drivers' licenses.

Maryland families need to know there is a safe learning environment for their children, said Mónica Ortiz, executive director of the Maryland Head Start As-

sociation. There is no universal free preschool in Maryland, Ortiz said, so access to Head Start can be vital for children in poverty-stricken areas.

“A lot of the programs in Maryland have been providing services for a significant amount of time, the majority of them have been around longer than ten years. They know their communities well,” Ortiz said.

Each year Head Start programs are required to complete a community assessment to examine if they are meeting community needs—often looking at what languages are spoken, the economic environment, the presence of any drug issues, teen pregnancy, whether prisons are located in the community, if there are military families in the community and which family members are raising the young children.

“I think that the programs in Maryland do a really good job at taking that community assessment seriously,” Ortiz said. “The programs are very specific across the state, and they really know who is in the area.”

Chevy Equinox Outperforms Mazda 6; Google Now Bests Microsoft Cortana, Apple Siri

The best performing system was the Chevy Equinox with a cognitive distraction rating of 2.4, while the worst performing system was the Mazda 6 with a cognitive distraction rating of 4.6. Among phone systems, Google Now performed best with a distraction rating of 3.0, while Apple Siri and Microsoft Cortana earned ratings of 3.4 and 3.8. Using the phones to send texts significantly increased the level of mental distraction. While sending voice-activated texts, Google Now rated as a category 3.3 distraction, while Apple Siri and Microsoft Cortana rated as category 3.7 and category 4.1 distractions.

“The rapid growth of voice-activated technologies in passenger vehicles represents a growing—and not yet fully recognized—safety problem for drivers,” continued Townsend. “We are concerned that these new systems may invite driver distraction, even as overwhelming scientific evidence concludes that hands-free is not risk free.”

Washington, D.C. Residents Think Voice-Activated Technology is Less Distracting

Over half of District respondents in the AAA Mid-Atlantic survey think voice-activated technology is less distracting than a handheld cell phone. However, as the Strayer results show; hands-free is not risk free.

In Washington, D.C., 88 percent of respondents said they believe other drivers are very distracted or somewhat distracted when using either a hand-held phone or a hands-free device to talk or text. Despite this overwhelming number, 29 percent of respondents in Washington, D.C. admitted to using a voice-activated technology to make a phone call, send a text message or change radio stations while driving in the last six months.

Previous AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety research established that a Category 1 mental distraction is similar to listening to the radio or an audio book. A Category 2 distraction is comparable to talking on the phone, while Category 3 is equivalent

to sending voice-activated texts on a perfect, error-free system. Category 4 is similar to updating social media while driving, while Category 5 corresponds to a highly-challenging, scientific test designed to overload a driver's attention.

“Developers should aim to reduce mental distractions by designing systems that are no more demanding than listening to the radio or an audiobook,” continued Townsend. “Given that the impairing effects of distraction may last much longer than people realize, AAA advises consumers to use caution when interacting with these technologies while behind the wheel.”

Select b-roll video of the research is available to download and for news media purposes. The previous findings from Phase I and Phase II of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's research into cognitive distraction also are available.

Dr. David Strayer and Dr. Joel Cooper of the University of Utah conducted the research. A total of 257 drivers ages 21-70 participated in the study of 2015 model-year vehicles, while 65 additional drivers ages 21-68 tested the three phone systems.

Established by AAA in 1947, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, publicly-supported charitable educational and research organization. Dedicated to saving lives and reducing injuries on our roads, the Foundation's mission is to prevent crashes and save lives through research and education about traffic safety. The Foundation has funded over 200 research projects designed to discover the causes of traffic crashes, prevent them and minimize injuries when they do occur. Visit www.AAAFoundation.org for more information on this and other research.

As North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 55 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at AAA.com.

Committee chairman Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., said that children living in poverty may struggle in school, which can have long-term effects on their life.

“We know that a great education can be the great equalizer, but we also know some children have a tough time adapting to the pressures of school and that can be especially true of children living in poverty,” Committee Chairman Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., said at last week's hearing. “Without the proper support, these children are more likely to fall behind in school and fall through the cracks later in life.”

Each individual Head Start program receives its own grant. Programs can be run through public schools, local community centers, or other non-profit organizations like YMCAs or Catholic Charities.

In 2014, Maryland received \$91.8 million in federal funding for Head Start, according to its latest fiscal year data.

Maryland Head Start programs also receive state funding to supplement the federal grants.

“It's a minimal amount of money but not every state does this for their program, so Maryland is very lucky that way,” said Ortiz. “Having the state dollars helps provide additional services and meet that federal funding requirement.”

The Obama administration and Head Start supporters both have pushed to extend the duration of the program from nine months to 12 months, in addition to extending the day. This does not apply to Early Head Start, as that program already allows for full-days for 12 months a year.

Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Wis., expressed concerns at the meeting that having a longer day is not effective, as young children need naps and teachers would essentially be paid for “nap time.”

In order to adjust Head Start to become full-day, Ortiz noted that something would have to give—whether it is budget increases or the removal of additional services to provide for the longer hours.

See **HEAD START** Page A7

COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



Hoyer Celebrates Dedication of the University of Maryland Math Building Named for William E. Kirwan

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) attended the dedication ceremony for the naming of the University of Maryland's Mathematics building in honor of William E. "Brit" Kirwan. The Mathematics building is located on Campus Drive and will be named William E. Kirwan Hall.

"I was honored to attend the dedication ceremony for the University of Maryland's Mathematics building, named in honor of my friend, Brit Kirwan," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "Throughout his time as chancellor, Brit has worked to strengthen the experience of learning on University of Maryland campuses and make higher education accessible to more Marylanders, giving them the chance to build a solid foundation for their lives and their careers. Dedicating this building in his honor is a very fitting tribute to him as a scholar, an administrator, and a visionary."

"As a member of the mathematics faculty from 1964 to 1998 and now professor emeritus, Brit has played a central role in the development of Maryland's math program," continued Congressman Hoyer. "When students walk out of the doors of 'Kirwan Hall' each day, they will gaze upon a campus that is growing, transforming, and reaching for an exciting future. I know Brit will continue to lend his wisdom and voice to improving higher education quality and access in the years to come, and I join in thanking him for his service to Maryland, to its students and faculty, and to the next generation of Terps."

Kirwan's career in public higher education includes 13 years as the University System of Maryland Chancellor and 35 years at the University of Maryland, where he rose from assistant professor of mathematics to department chair and eventually to UMD president.



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ???

HENRY A. WALLACE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) is a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Services (ARS). BARC is the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. Beltsville's record of accomplishments and ongoing programs has made it a world leader in agriculture research. It's international reputation attracts thousands of visitors each year from the United States and abroad. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination in order to: Ensure high-quality safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. BARC is located at 10300 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD

Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



Adults Are the Problem

It is time for adults of every race and income group to break our silence about the pervasive breakdown of moral, family, and community values, to place our children first in our lives, and to struggle to model the behavior we want our children to learn. School children don't need one more "Officer Slam" as some students referred to the White South Carolina school resource officer who this week shamed the nation with his violent ejection of a 16-year-old Black female student from her classroom for a nonviolent offense. A very welcome counter narrative took place when a White female police officer in Washington, D.C. after diffusing a potentially volatile conflict between two groups of Black teens, then charmed with a "dance off" a defiant teenage girl who had refused to leave.

Any parent who has gone through the challenges of adolescence could only admire the quick thinking and agile footwork of the D.C. police officer. The last thing children need is violent assaults in schools which ought to be safe havens, and a suspension, expulsion and arrest to blot their school records and push them closer to the prison pipeline. And the very last thing children need is out-of-control adults using violence as a way of resolving differences.

I am often asked what's wrong with our children and I almost always answer, adults are what's wrong. We tell our children to control themselves while slapping and spanking and ejecting them violently in our homes, child care centers, schools, detention facilities and prisons. Adults tell children to be honest while lying and cheating and not to be violent while marketing and glorifying violence.

I urge every parent, adult, educator, faith and public leader to conduct a personal audit to determine whether we are contributing to the crisis our children face or to the solutions they urgently need. And if we are not a part of the solution, we are a part of the problem and need to do better.

Our children don't need or expect us to be perfect. They do need and expect us to be honest, to admit and correct our mis-

takes, and to share our struggles about the meanings and responsibilities of faith, parenthood, citizenship, and life. Before we can pull up the moral weeds of violence, materialism, and greed in our society that are strangling so many of our young, we must pull up the moral weeds in our own backyards and educational institutions. So many children are confused about what is right and wrong because so many adults talk right and do wrong in our personal, professional, and public lives.

- If we are not supporting a child we brought into the world as a father or mother with attention, time, love, discipline, and the teaching of values, then we are a part of the problem rather than the solution to the family breakdown today that is leaving so many children at risk.
- If we are abusing tobacco, alcohol or other drugs while telling our children not to, then we are a part of the problem rather than the solution in our overly addicted society.
- If we have unlocked and loaded guns in our home and cars, and rely on them to feel safe and powerful, and don't stand up to those who market guns to our children and to those who kill our children with guns,

or glamorize violence as fun, entertaining, and normal, then we are part of the problem rather than the solution to the escalating war of American against American, family member against family member, and children against adults and adults against children that is tearing us apart.

- If we profess to be people of faith and send rather than take our children to worship and religious education services, and believe that the Sermon on the Mount, Ten Commandments, the Koran, or whatever religious beliefs we hold, pertain only to one-day worship but not to Monday through Sunday home, professional, and political life, then we are a part of the problem rather than the solution to the spiritual famine and hypocrisy plaguing America today.
- If we tell, snicker, or wink at racial, gender, religious, or ethnic jokes or engage in or acquiesce in any practices intended to diminish rather than enhance other human beings, then we are contributing to the proliferating voices of racial and ethnic division and intolerance staining our land again. Let's not fight the

See WATCH, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Crime, Punishment and Justice for All

"I see each prison cell as very valuable real estate that ought to be occupied by individuals who pose the greatest threat to public safety. In my opinion, under our current system, too many relatively low-level drug offenders are locked up for 5, 10, and 20 years when lesser sentences would, in all likelihood, more than satisfy the legitimate penological goals of general deterrence, specific deterrence, and retribution."

—John Malcolm, Director of the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, Heritage Foundation

Let's get this straight.

Advocating for a smarter and fairer criminal justice system that strives to apply balance in sentencing and uses sensible, public-safety based practices to reduce our nation's ever ballooning prison population does not mean that you are soft on crime, or that you stand against law enforcement—or law enforcers. It means that the problems, challenges and clear disparities that run rampant throughout our nation's criminal justice system have given serious pause to people across the political spectrum, who recognize that our nation's blind, prison-centered approach to all crime comes at a great economic and social cost. Those who would characterize this movement for change as a campaign against law enforcement have missed the point—this is a campaign for fairness in law enforcement.

Heather Mac Donald's *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, "Obama's Tragic Let 'em Out Fantasy," clearly missed the point.

Early on in the piece, Mac Donald admits that, "there may be good reasons for radically reducing the prison census and the enforcement of criminal laws." What she takes issue with are "the arguments advanced in favor of that agenda," branding them as "deceptive." While Mac Donald is entitled to her own opinions, she is not entitled to her own facts. According to the latest statistics from the United States Sentencing Commission, drug trafficking accounted for 30 percent of all federal offenses in 2013. In that same year, people of color, mostly men, made up 75 percent of those incarcerated for drug trafficking, while white drug traffickers accounted for 22 percent. It is also important to note that the race of the offenders varied "substantially across different drug types." Almost half of all drug traffickers had little or no prior criminal history, yet most—over 96 percent—were locked up. On the state level (in 2014) 16 percent of its prisoners were serving sentences for drug offenses. According to National Prisoner Statistics, Black men had the highest imprisonment rate and were in state or federal fa-

cilities 4 to 10 times more when compared to white men and 1 to 3 times more often when compared to Hispanic men.

Mac Donald also fears that "nonstop pressure from the Black Lives Matter movement," among other things, will push our nation into a criminal justice "experiment" that will endanger the lives and property of law abiding citizens. This would suggest that citizens have no right to scrutinize law enforcement, or protest when law enforcement fails to protect the communities it is sworn to serve and protect. Protest is not a crime and this "us versus them" narrative is a dangerous one that tears us apart, rather than build consensus on the pressing issue of criminal justice reform—a need that even Mac Donald can agree on.

Mac Donald pointed to the recent, tragic death of New York City police officer Randolph Holder at the hands of a man with a long history of arrests as a heart-rending example of the challenges that lie ahead as our nation moves to provide relief to offenders who received unduly harsh prison sentences and reduce the dangerous level of overcrowding in our prisons. She is right that alternatives to incarceration can only work with far tighter screening and supervision. All law-abiding citizens and officers of the law deserve a system of justice that makes public-safety the first priority.

We need to do more than rely on prisons. Even Mac Donald suggests that, "a more promising alternative to incarceration is policing." While she advocates pedestrian stops and Broken Windows policing, the National Urban League has developed a "10 Point Justice Plan" that recommends a new model of policing that eliminates Broken Windows—by extension reducing the distrust between police officers and the communities they serve—and replacing it with initiatives that focus attention and resources on the most significant and severe crimes. We also advocate new methods that promote a community-policing model of law enforcement.

There are criminals who present such a risk to society that they must be, and remain, incarcerated, but there are also thousands—who are non-violent or first time offenders—who can be successfully rehabilitated and reintegrated back into society. Mass incarceration overpopulates our prisons and can even become a school for low-risk offenders and foster more crime. It destroys families and often destroys opportunity after time has been served.

"Rather than lock everyone up, burdening the taxpayers and snuffing out hope, we should give non-violent offenders a hand up before they even see the inside of a jail cell. Rather than lock everyone up, let's build a criminal justice system based on just that: justice—for all."

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Avoiding the "Helicopter Parent" Trap

As parents we all want our children to be safe and happy. It's a natural reaction built into our genes ever since our cave man ancestors had to protect the young ones or the odds were good that the kids simply wouldn't survive.

Today's world usually isn't quite as frightening and dangerous, but our offspring still need a lot of care and attention, especially as babies. That's a time when "helicopter parenting," the hovering over virtually every aspect of a child's life, makes sense. The problem comes when that desire to always be there protecting and helping goes on too long.

It's difficult for parents to accept that sometimes children actually need to make bad decisions, to learn from natural consequences and possibly to just flat out fail. As a parent, you're all too aware of the mistakes your child may be heading for and the temptation is almost always to want to jump in, to stop the bad things from happening and to help your child avoid problems.

Yes, parents do need to help keep truly dire consequences from occurring ("No, taking a loaded gun for show and tell is not a good idea!"), but you also want to encourage your children's natural growth and independence by letting them learn on their own. Your staying up all night doing that school project does not help him or her prepare for the future.

Children with overly protective parents often have trouble making their own decisions because they know Mom or Dad is always there to point the way. Kids who have been constantly helicoptered may also end up rebelling strongly as their desire for independence grows.

Stopping yourself from being a helicopter parent can feel difficult, but it's important for healthy development that children have space to make their own decisions, good or bad. Yes, you can talk your children through their dilemmas and help them find solutions, but it isn't your job to find the solutions for them.

Help your children build independence and confidence by encouraging them to try new things, even things that may scare them a bit. Offer sympathy and understanding when something goes wrong, but don't always jump in to make it right. When a child is allowed to face possible failure, and sometimes to even experience it, he or she is learning valuable lessons about growing up.

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

Food Truck from A1

and promote entrepreneurship and revitalization.

Council Bill 17-2015 clarifies fixed locations for food service facilities for temporary periods of time.

Council Bill 51-2015 establishes a business license for food trucks and heightens health and public safety requirements for food trucks to include: insurance requirements; review by the Prince George's County Fire De-

partment for appropriate use of open flame and propane gas; and an on-site Certified Food Manager.

Violations of public health and safety guidelines could result in fines of \$500-\$1,000 per violation.

The Council also adopted Council Resolution 15-2015, supporting legislation establishing a Food Truck Hub Oversight Committee to provide continuing oversight and support of the Food Truck Hub Program.

Lehman from A1

SNAP to Health initiative, providing County funding to assist local farmers markets with accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Additionally, Council Member Lehman recently proposed CB-74-2015, establishing a tax credit for property that is used for urban agriculture in Prince George's County.

"I thank the Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network for this honor," said Council Member Lehman.

"By growing our local food system and ensuring everyone has access to healthy food, we connect farmers, markets and businesses to underserved communities, a win-win for economic development and healthier communities."

Maryland Food Access and Nutrition is a statewide coalition comprised of federal, state and local government, non-profit, faith and community based organizations with a strong focus on improving food access and nutrition in Maryland.

Prince George's EDC Takes Small Businesses to the Moon

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted its first-ever NASA IT Procurement Opportunity Day to open the door to more than \$4 billion in procurement opportunities for County businesses. More than 125 County companies gathered at EDC headquarters to capitalize on the great relationship the EDC is forging with NASA, looking for the opportunity to connect directly with representatives who can guide them toward procurements that can transform their companies. NASA Assistant Chief of Procurement Operations E. Anne Haase, and County Supplier Development and Diversity Division Executive Director Sharon Jackson spoke to a capacity crowd of IT business owners from Prince George's County, Northern Virginia and the surrounding region about the steps required to get their businesses in line to obtain lucrative contracts with NASA and Prince George's County.

"As the EDC has moved about the County meeting with a variety of business owners, we have seen significant growth in the County's IT sector," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "Today's event is just the beginning of our continued outreach to assist County's small, local and minority businesses in participating in the more than \$4 billion in procurement contracts that NASA and other federal agencies award every year. This is exactly what small businesses have been waiting for to take their busi-

nesses to the next level."

The Economic Development Corporation has seen growth in the IT sector in Prince George's County and has been reaching out to IT companies in D.C. and Northern Virginia as part of a strategic effort.

"The Economic Development Corporation is here to take small businesses to the moon! That's why today we have connected them directly with the top contract officials at NASA," said Mayank Kapur, Economic Development Director, specializing in information, communications and electronics. "IT companies from all over the region have heard that opportunity is out of this world in Prince George's County and they are flocking from D.C., Northern Virginia and all over the region to rocket their revenues."

According to NASA, the majority of NASA Goddard's budget enters the economy through funds obligated on contracts with commercial firms, educational and non-profit institutions, and other government agencies. NASA Goddard significantly impacts the local, state, and national economies through employment, contracting opportunities, technology development, community outreach, and public education by contributing more than \$4 billion in local spending and output to the Maryland economy.

"We are delighted to be a part of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation's first NASA IT Procurement Day," said E. Anne Haase, Assistant Chief of Procurement Operations, NASA. "NASA has a distinguished reputation for seeking out new talent and bring-



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Pictured L to R: Pradeep Ganguly, Exec. VP EDC; Jim Coleman, Pres. & CEO, EDC; Sharon M. Jackson, Acting Exec. Dir. SDDD; Anne Hasse, Asst. Chief Procurement Operations, NASA; Anoop Mehta, Pres. SSAI, Mayank Kapur, Econ Dev Dir specializing in Information, Communications and Electronic, EDC

ing it to the forefront in the information technology sector. Today's event has both enlightened us to the talent and technologies available from the small and minority businesses in Prince George's County, and has hopefully given these local companies a blueprint to follow to get a portion of the millions of dollars in procurement contracts that NASA awards every year. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the Economic Development Corporation for many years."

Anoop Mehta, the President of Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI), a leading provider of scientific, engineering and IT support in Lanham, Maryland for the last 37 years spoken to the attendees about how his company has grown from a 2 person business to a 700 person organization though

strategic procurements with federal agencies like NASA. Mr. Mehta's company has always called Prince George's County "home."

"Prince George's County is a wonderful place to start a business," said Anoop Mehta, SSAI President. "We have personally found that NASA really promotes small businesses. Our first contract was a small purchase order for \$3,000. Today, our company wins \$200 million to \$300 million contract awards. This is the place you want to be if you want to be successful."

For more information about the business development, expansion or procurement opportunities contact Mayank Kapur, Economic Development Director at 301-583-4632, mkapur@co.pg.md.us or visit www.pgcedc.com.

Dirty Little Secrets of Family Business

Passing Leadership Role to Next Generation Is Tricky If Path Not Carefully Planned

By HENRY HUTCHESON
News and Experts

After years of hard work, you've built the family business into a great success and you take pride in meeting the challenges that each day brings.

At some point, though, the day arrives when it's time to turn the reins over to the next generation.

That can be an exciting moment or an anxiety-ridden one, depending on what has gone on before to prepare for the momentous occasion.

"Laying the path to a successful family-business transition requires a bit of threading the needle," says Henry Hutcheson, author of the book "Dirty Little Secrets of Family Business" (<http://dirtylittlesecretsoffamilybusiness.com>).

"On the one hand you don't want to paint an overly rosy picture to the next generation. That could create a sense of entitlement and the false perception that running a business is easy and all you need to do is count the money and show up every now and then to check on things."

At the same time, he says, if you put too much emphasis on the difficulties of running a business and the stresses that come

with it, your sons and daughters might not clamor to be first in line to take over.

Ideally, it's best to think ahead and start grooming the next generation long in advance, Hutcheson says. Give them summer jobs while they are in high school and college so they can start testing their abilities.

When they join the family business full time, find initiatives for them to work on that involve group dynamics. But also hand them individual projects where they hold sole responsibility for the results.

"It's critical when you are selecting the next leader to realize that it's not all about who will lead," Hutcheson says. "It is also about ensuring that those who are not selected are in support of the decision and can work as a team with the new leader."

Hutcheson says there are four key ingredients to developing the right person to take over the family business.

• **Independence.** Next generation leaders must have confidence in themselves, their thoughts and their beliefs. "Much of this can be developed while working in the family business by constructing and leading significant projects," Hutcheson says. But one short-

cut to accomplish this is to work for some other company early on. Many multi-generation family businesses like to make that a requirement for family members.

• **Competence.** This is more than just being able to do the work. It means developing bottom-up experience. Not just being the accountant, but being able to reconcile the accounts and perform the journal entries. Not just being sales and marketing manager, but having been on a quota and worked the trade shows. Experience doing some of the day-to-day grunt work can pay dividends down the line.

• **People skills.** "It's not enough to just be smart and confident," Hutcheson says. "You need to be able to work with people." He notes that in the book "Emotional Intelligence," Daniel Coleman outlines two studies that measured the success of a batch of high school valedictorians and Harvard graduates. Those who were able to perceive the emotional state of others and react to it appropriately proved to be the most successful.

• **No special privileges.** The person in line to take over the family business needs to be will-

ing to show up to work on time, stay late, take on special projects and be measured by the same metrics as everyone else. "This will show that you are part of the team and that you want to be judged on the merits of your work, not your bloodline," Hutcheson says. It will also help the next generation gain the respect of co-workers.

About Henry Hutcheson

Henry Hutcheson is president of Family Business USA and specializes in helping family and privately held businesses successfully manage transition, maintain harmony, and improve operations. His newest book is "Dirty Little Secrets of Family Business: How to Successfully Navigate Family Business Conflict and Transition" (<http://dirtylittlesecretsoffamilybusiness.com>). He's also quoted in "Kids, Wealth, and Consequences" and "Sink or Swim: How Lessons from the Titanic Can Save Your Family Business." Hutcheson grew up working for his family's business, Olan Mills Portrait Studios. He studied psychology and has an MBA from Columbia Business School, and is a popular speaker at professional, university and corporate-sponsored events.



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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "Steve Jobs"

Steve Jobs

Grade: B+

Rated R, because they say the F-word a few dozen times, and the MPAA thinks its entire job is to count F-words
2 hrs., 2 min

Steve Jobs was a computer nerd who invented apples, alienated his friends, got cancer, and died. Some of these facts are explored in the movie "Steve Jobs," which, like its subject, eschews the usual formula in favor of something innovative. In this case, screenwriter Aaron Sorkin encapsulates Jobs' life and career by checking in with him at three specific moments: as he's about to unveil the Macintosh (1984), as he's about to unveil NeXT (1988), and as he's about to unveil the iMac (1998). On each occasion, he's visited by ghosts of launches past who help him (sort of) see the error of his ways.

Michael Fassbender disappears into the role of Steve Jobs. One could argue that he is even better at it than Ashton Kutcher was, if you can imagine. Smart, persnickety, and endowed with an impressive God complex, Jobs spends the minutes before each launch ironing out details with Joanna Hoffman (Kate Winslet), who's his



Set backstage at three iconic product launches and ending in 1998 with the unveiling of the iMac, Steve Jobs takes us behind the scenes of the digital revolution to paint an intimate portrait of the brilliant man at its epicenter. ©Universal

marketing chief but functions more like a personal assistant. When Jobs is being difficult, Joanna is the only person who can stand up to him with any hope of being heeded. ("Do you want to try being reasonable? Just to see what it feels like?") Others—like engineer Andy Hertzfeld (Michael Stuhlbarg), Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak (Seth Rogen), and mentor/father figure John Sculley (Jeff Daniels)—butt heads with the impersonal, vaguely autistic Jobs, with varying degrees of success.

Though Danny Boyle's fleet-footed direction is skillful, the film's main appeal lies

in Sorkin's screenplay, which might be the Sorkinest of his career. It has the expected tsunami of dialogue, the walk-and-talk conversations where every participant is about two notches more quick-witted than regular people are—and I love it. I'm a sucker for a sharp exchange and a well-worded one-liner. Sorkin also does a clever job rewriting history so that these crucial conversations 1) happen at all and 2) happen just as Jobs is about to go onstage to address shareholders. Whether the characters and events are factual, I don't know, and don't care. The important thing is that it

makes for engaging drama (and comedy).

I'm less enthusiastic about the tidy, schmaltzy way Sorkin wraps things up. He chose Jobs' tumultuous relationship with his daughter, Lisa (played at 5, 9, and 15 by Makenzie Moss, Ripley Sobo, and Perla Haney-Jardine), to be the recurring element that gives us an emotional investment in a story whose protagonist is kind of a jerk. That's fine, and necessary. But Sorkin mishandles the resolution, resorting to formula after being served so well by ingenuity for two hours. He should have stayed the course and continued to think different.

Mount Rainier Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

Wins 2015 "Sustainability Champion" for Highest Points

By MIKE HUNNINGHAKE
EFC University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that the City of Mount Rainier was one of twelve Maryland municipalities honored at the Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference held in Cambridge this week.

Mount Rainier is this year's Sustainable Maryland "Sustainability Champion," amassing an impressive 495 points on their application, more than any other community that was certified in 2015.

Mount Rainier was one of the first four Maryland municipalities to become Sustainable Maryland Certified when the program launched in 2012, and successfully became re-certified again this year.

A detailed summary of Mount Rainier's sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report.

Highlights of Mount Rainier's accomplishments include:

- Installed a solar array on top of City Hall, which produces about approximately 14,000 kilowatt hours/year and reduces

energy costs approximately \$8,000 annually

- Created a Bicycle Coop to enable residents of Mount Rainier and the surrounding area to own, maintain, and ride bicycles affordably

- Formed a Corn Bin Cooperative to help supply residents with bio-fuel for home heating
- Operates a community garden program with 32 plots

- Created more than 300 bicycle parking spaces through installation of bike racks in the city's downtown historic core

- Created a Bicycle Master Plan and a Green Infrastructure Master Plan

- Created a Carbon Footprint Report that illustrates the city's energy usage across buildings, vehicles and operations

- Adopted a tree ordinance in order to better protect, preserve, and promote Mount Rainier's urban forest

- Developed a waste reduction guide with handy information for residents on recycling and local businesses and programs that help support waste reduction and reuse

"Mount Rainier's Sustainable Maryland re-certification is an indicator of how serious Mount Rainier and its residents are about helping to reduce the size



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
From L to R: Green Team member Joseph Jakuta, Mayor Malinda Miles, and Green Team Chairperson MaryLee Haughwout with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference this week.

of our footprint on Mother Earth," said Mayor Malinda Miles. "Going green in Mount Rainier is a way of life, not the next thing that is 'trending.' Going green has been a priority in Mount Rainier long before it became fashionable, and our amazing Green Team has worked with Mayor and Council to capture and document the City's work in this area."

"We are excited to welcome more municipalities to the growing Sustainable Maryland community," said Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center. "This program is

a hallmark of our work at the Environmental Finance Center, guiding communities towards healthier, more sustainable futures. Each certification award represents the commitment of local elected officials, municipal staff and Green Team volunteers in these towns and cities to create a stronger, more resilient Maryland."

For detailed information about Mount Rainier's sustainability initiatives, please contact Green team Chairperson MaryLee Haughwout at 608-287-6445 or mhaughwout@hotmail.com

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

NYPD on Trial: NBA Player Thabo Sefolosha Fights Back After Police Beating



UPDATE: This morning, October 10, 2015, Thabo Sefolosha was cleared of all charges and found not guilty of misdemeanor obstructing government administration, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest this morning in New York. Read below to find out why this was an easy call for the jury to make. The next step will almost certainly be a civil lawsuit against the city.

NBA player Thabo Sefolosha had his leg broken by the New York Police Department, an undisputed fact that is still stunning to contemplate. This week, Thabo has been in criminal court as prosecutors attempt to imprison him for the crime of "resisting arrest."

In actuality, he is being prosecuted for not going away quietly, choosing instead to fight back.

And fight back he has. We learned this week that the prosecution, in an effort to make this go away, offered a plea deal where Thabo would just have to do a day of community service and all would be forgiven. They did not want this going to trial. They did not want a civil case, much more dicey for Thabo if he had pleaded guilty. They did not want a light shined on events of last April in the wee hours of the morning.

They did not want this, but Thabo Sefolosha demanded it, even with the risk of a much harsher punishment.

We also learned that Thabo would take the stand to proclaim his innocence, a rarity in a criminal case. It marked the first time that Thabo had given, in full, his account of what took place outside a Manhattan nightclub called 1 Oak last April.

Thabo described a scene where he was walking away from a melee outside the club alongside (white) teammate Pero Antic and two women. He talked about being singled out and followed by a police officer named John Paul Giacona who said to him, "With or without a badge, I'm going to fuck you up and I can fuck you up." He then said they attacked him when he extended his arm to give money to a homeless person who went by the name "True."

"I said, I'm just going to give the guy some money," Sefolosha said. The officer "grabbed my arm. I dropped the money. He said, 'That's it, you're going to jail.' I turned and tried to put my right hand behind my back. I had a lot of money in my left hand and I tried to put it in my pocket.

"Two or three officers were pulling me. I said, 'Relax.' They never gave me a direct order. One is pulling on my right. One is pulling on my left and someone had a hand on my neck. After five seconds, I realized they wanted me on the ground. I felt my leg going up, with somebody kicking me on my right leg."

The three people who were with Thabo, including Pero Antic, all testified to this version of events. They said Thabo was targeted and attacked.

The police counter-testimony was very simple. They said that Thabo Sefolosha gestured at them in a manner they found threatening and refused to "move along" from a crime scene. So they broke his leg.

The most damning testimony against their account was from two people from dramatically different walks of life. The first was the homeless man, True. Somehow, True was located, and he testified that the "threatening gesture" allegedly made toward police was in fact Thabo handing True a \$20 bill.

The second person was his Atlanta Hawks coach, the reigning NBA Coach of the Year Mike Budenholzer. Coach Bud described Thabo's character as being "of the highest order" and pledged that if Thabo was saying it, then his word was good. Every single person with whom I have spoken has said the same. If you were going to think of the last NBA player who would be involved in a situation like this, Thabo would top that list. This truth about his character did not, of course, protect him from the NYPD.

The State of New York v. Thabo Sefolosha bears startling similarities to another high-profile incident involving the NYPD and a top athlete: retired tennis star James Blake. This week, a city agency confirmed Blake's account that two police officers used excessive force in taking him down to the pavement and erred in not identifying himself. The only difference between the Blake and Thabo situations is that we have video of Blake's being approached and roughed up. Our only video of Thabo was taken by someone in his party after the police began to attack, with one officer seen swinging a nightstick.

As a jury now attempts to untangle whether Thabo Sefolosha is guilty of resisting arrest, the uncomfortable truth of this matter was said bluntly by Thabo's lawyer, Alex Spiro. "I think [the NYPD] saw a black man in a hoodie. They grab him, they pounce on him, they pull him limb from limb, they smash him on the ground."

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!
in *The Prince George's Post*
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Calendar of Events

November 12—November 18, 2015

Art Night Out

Date and Time: Friday, November 13, 2015, 6:30-9 pm
Description: Art Night Out is back and better than ever! Abstract expression, realism, or whatever your style suits you, join us for an evening of creative fun. Art Night Out at the Brentwood Arts Exchange will be an evening of mixing, mingling, and making art hands-on with other art enthusiasts. From novices to aspiring phenoms, come alone (or bring a friend), it's time to let your creative side out. All materials and refreshments provided.
Cost: \$25/person at the door
Ages: 21 & up
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Pirates of the Chesapeake

Date and Time: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 1-2 pm
Description: Trade ships and military were not the only vessels along the Bay. Come hear the lesser known tales of the pirates on the Chesapeake.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD
Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

Harvest Time Tea

Date and Time: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 2-4 pm
Description: Escape from the cold and join us for an autumn tea! Foods of the season will be served including pumpkin spice and autumn savories.
Cost: \$25/person
Ages: 14 & up
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Bicycle Nature Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 12 noon- 2 pm
Description: Take a nature tour by bike and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Patuxent wetlands. Use one of our bikes or bring your own. Bikes are limited, so call the park to reserve one for your trip. Participants under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.
Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-Resident: \$3
Ages: 12 & up
Location: Patuxent River Park (Group Camp Area)
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Basket Weaving Class

Date and Time: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 10 am-3 pm
Description: Learn how to weave a basket using reed and other natural materials. For students of all skill levels, beginners to advanced. Materials and tools supplied by instructor.
Cost: Resident: \$30; Non-Resident: \$36
Ages: 13 & up
Location: Patuxent River Park
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY 301-699-2544

Trash To Treasure Green Craft Fair

Date & Time: Saturday, November 14, 2015, 10 am-4 pm
Description: Go green with your holiday shopping this year! Join us for our 7th Annual Trash to Treasure: Green Craft Fair at Watkins Nature Center, located in Watkins Regional Park.
Explore local crafters and artists who create treasures made from at least 50% recycled, organic, fair trade or sustainably-harvested materials. Items for sale include jewelry, candles, recycled wood carvings, knitwear, bags, paintings and other gifts.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Watkins Nature Center
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Classical Recital Series: Yulia Petrochuk, Vocals

Date and Time: Sunday, November 15, 2015, 3 pm
Description: Born in Tula, Russia, Yulia Petrachuk began musical studies and performing from the early age of 5. Accepted into the prestigious Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow, she has performed in numerous operas throughout Europe, Russia, and the United States.
Cost: Free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Exhibition: Jordan Shackelford—To Be Young

Date & Time: Friday, October 16, 2015—Saturday, January 9, 2016 (Daily)
Description: You're invited to view the artwork Cheverly-native and Suitland High alumnus, Jordan Shackelford. His drawings, oil paintings and mixed media works on wood depict carefree childhood.
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center
5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Thabo from A6

As for the prosecution, they closed their case with this argument: "Imagine a world where we are allowed to say no to an officer.... that's chaos." (Sounds more like the missing line from a certain John Lennon song.)

This is a familiar story in New York City, but the difference this time was that Thabo Sefolosa had the financial means and political will to fight back. Even though this could have all gone away, he chose instead to seek justice. Clearly, the NYPD grabbed the wrong "black man in a hoodie."

EARTH TALK ... What's the Difference Between a Carbon Tax and "Cap-and-Trade" System for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the difference between a carbon tax and "cap-and-trade" system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

—Marina Brown,
New York, NY

Most of us can agree that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a must given the rapid warming of the planet; just how to do it best is another question entirely. The two leading market strategies are a carbon tax, whereby polluters are simply taxed for the carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases they spew, and "cap-and-trade," whereby government sets an overall cap on the amount of greenhouse gases that each industry or sector can emit without penalty and issues permits or allowances accordingly that companies can buy and sell to each other based on their own business and sustainability priorities. Each approach been shown to effectively cut down emissions, but many nations are now weighing which way to go as they prepare to make new commitments as part of the potentially decisive international climate talks (COP21) coming up in Paris in December 2015.

Cap-and-trade allows affected businesses to choose how much pollution reduction they can tolerate and then leverage market forces to buy or sell allowances accordingly. Such systems effectively penalize polluters who exceed allowable limits (those who therefore must "buy" credits) while rewarding

those who not just meet emissions target levels but get down below them (the difference being what they can then "sell"). Cap-and-trade markets are designed to encourage flexibility in allowing companies to decide how they want to meet emissions reduction targets.

Of course, cap-and-trade isn't a new concept. The first national cap-and-trade market limited emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide that were causing acid rain in 1990s. The European Union later launched the first major market in greenhouse gas emissions trading in 2005 in order to meet commitments made under the Kyoto Protocol, the first international treaty to limit carbon emissions. In North America, three regional carbon cap-and-trade plans have been in place since the mid-2000s (the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Midwest Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord, and Western Climate Initiative), but there hasn't been enough political will at the federal level yet to support a nationwide carbon emissions market.

Not everyone thinks cap-and-trade is the way to go to reduce emissions. Carbon tax proponents argue that cap-and-trade scenarios can cause unnecessary price volatility to energy prices, are overly complicated, and are easily manipulated by those that learn to game such systems to their advantage without reducing greenhouse gas output. "Carbon taxes will lend predictability to energy prices, whereas cap-and-trade systems will aggravate the price volatility that historically



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Whether to cap-and-trade or tax carbon emissions is still a hot topic of debate among environmentalists, economists, policy-makers and politicians.

has discouraged investments in less carbon-intensive electricity generation, carbon-reducing energy efficiency and carbon-replacing renewable energy," reports the Carbon Tax Center.

Critics counter, however, that it's easier for companies to pass the costs of a carbon tax onto consumers by raising prices—and that lower income households bear a disproportionate amount of those economic costs. Perhaps the world's biggest experiment in carbon taxation ended last year when Australians voted to repeal their carbon tax due to rising costs of living, saving the average household more than \$500 a year. Meanwhile, a recent analysis of Norway's carbon tax—the highest in the world on a percentage basis—found that emissions reductions there were negligible over the first decade of implementation.

While both systems have their pros and cons, either can

be effective in reducing emissions if there is enough political will behind it. A key component to the upcoming COP21 Paris climate talks is flexibility in allowing participating nations to choose how they want to reduce emissions. Environmental leaders are keeping their fingers crossed that whether through cap-and-trade or taxation, the nations of the world will finally agree on enough greenhouse gas cuts to finally stem the still surging tide of global warming.

CONTACTS: COP21, www.cop21.gouv.fr/; Carbon Tax Center, www.carbontax.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Head Start from A3

"The big concern is that of course we want the kids to be getting more services but we want them to be developmentally appropriate," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said that an estimated minimum of 160,000 children would lose their spots at Head Start in order to shift funds around to pay for longer days.

Some local and state governments match the federal government's funding, and that whole structure could be compromised when adding longer hours to the day.

"It is a double-whammy, off-setting matching (funds) in order to extend the day means you might have to shift money away from other resources," Ortiz said.

Access to programs like Head Start may help brain development in children, said Dr. Matthew Biel, division chief of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Georgetown University at the hearing.

"Early exposure to toxic stressors such as extreme poverty, abuse or neglect, or liv-

ing with a parent with mental illness or substance abuse disrupts developing brain architecture," Biel said.

In order to be enrolled, children and families must meet a certain set of at-risk indicators. This includes, but is not limited to, low income and community environment.

However, there was some concern from members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce that Head Start does not have lasting positive influences on its participants.

The Department of Health and Human Resources released a study in 2012 that stated that by the time Head Start students reached third grade, there were little to no differences from their peers who did not attend Head Start.

Ortiz argued in a phone interview that this study is not definitive.

"The Head Start Impact Study has never been well-supported by the Head Start community, mostly because at that point they've been out of the

Head Start setting for so long it's not really appropriate to say that Head Start did not provide x, y or z," Ortiz said.

Dr. Tim Nolan, CEO and executive director of National Centers for Learning Excellence with 46 years working at Head Start, said that public schools should continue the wholesome support that Head Start provides.

"We need to keep the support dosage up so those gains don't evaporate," Nolan said, suggesting that students should be followed with the same kind of care through early elementary school.

Ortiz also noted that long-term effects, such as percentage of students graduating high school, teen pregnancy rates, and incarceration rates are significantly better among Head Start children. Ortiz said that focus on social and emotional development has that lasting impact among Maryland Head Start students.

Ortiz also noted that it is difficult to track each Head Start

child, as parents may not always indicate that their children were enrolled in Head Start when applying to kindergarten.

Nolan's mantra was, "we should not seek to make Head Start more like the public schools, but make the public schools more like Head Start."

However, this year the graduating Head Start students in Maryland did not do well on their readiness assessment. Ortiz credited that to a brand new assessment that was released, not to the students' preparedness for kindergarten.

For Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, director for the Office of Head Start in the Department of Health and Human Services, the program is much more than its statistical success.

"It means that no matter where you are born in America, the color of your skin, the language you speak, the state of your child and family, Head Start will be there to offer an opportunity to make your dreams come true," Sanchez Fuentes said.

DON'T SHOP... ADOPT!

Join the Prince George's County Animal Services Facility in their celebration of National Adopt-a-Dog Month.

Throughout the month of October, the facility is reducing dog adoption fees to \$125 (normally \$225).

If you are considering adding a new pet to your family, visit the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro first to see the small puppies and big dogs that are waiting to become loving additions to your home.

To view pets available for adoption at the Animal Services Facility, visit www.princegeorgespetshome.com or contact CountyClick at 3-1-1 for more information.

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