

# The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY NAOMI EIDE

The Maryland Cybersecurity Council, with more than 40 members from both the public and private sector, met for the first time on Nov. 10, 2015, in Hyattsville, MD.

## Cybersecurity Council Begins Work to Curb Risks to Utilities, Agencies in Maryland

By NAOMI EIDE  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Protecting Maryland's utility infrastructure and state agencies from cyber threats is the top priority for a new advisory panel comprised of state and federal officials working

alongside private-sector security experts.

The Maryland Cybersecurity Council plans to develop recommendations on how to take advantage of the cyber institutions in Maryland, create additional cybersecurity jobs and promote economic development, according to state Attor-

ney General Brian Frosh, chair of the council.

The council, which met for the first time Tuesday, plans to develop statewide guidelines for a coordinated response in the event of cybersecurity attacks.

Maryland needs to be vigilant so "hackers, crooks and terrorists—our enemies," cannot

use networks to gain access to utilities and other infrastructure, Frosh said.

The council can "help tell our government, help tell our private sector, how to get to cybersecurity."

See CYBER Page A5

## FBI Seeks Possible New Headquarters in Prince George's County

By MATT BEINART  
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The push for an FBI headquarters move to Maryland is underway, with Sen. Ben Cardin and other Maryland officials making the case for two possible locations in Prince George's County.

The FBI announced its plans on Oct. 14 to consolidate its new headquarters and is considering sites in Landover and Greenbelt, as well as in Springfield, Va.

"Three potential sites for the new headquarters facility have been identified and work is well underway to evaluate security, environmental and transportation impacts on the sites," the FBI said in a statement.

Maryland and Virginia officials have submitted their site proposals to the General Services Administration (GSA), who are in the process of conducting environmental and transportation analysis.

"The Landover and Greenbelt sites have the adequate space for a full consolidation," Cardin said recently in an interview, emphasizing the commuting convenience for the many FBI workers located in Maryland. "The Virginia site is pretty crowded."

The Greenbelt location fulfills the FBI's criteria that the new site is near the Metro system and the Capital Beltway,

according to Greenbelt community planner Jessica Bellah.

"The GSA has been working over the last year on analyzing the impact of the site," said Bellah, who believes a final decision won't take place until December of 2016.

Maryland's location options face competition from the Springfield site in Virginia.

"The best part of the whole thing is that the land is already owned by the GSA," Taylor Holland said, the chief of staff for Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay said. "They can go start building whenever they want."

The Springfield site includes a GSA warehouse located near the Franconia-Springfield Metro station. "You can't get much cheaper than free," Holland said.

Fairfax County officials released their own transportation analysis of each of the sites on June 4.

The average travel time on public transportation to Springfield, based on where the largest concentration of FBI employees live, would be 2 minutes shorter than Greenbelt and 23 minutes shorter than Landover, according to Fairfax County's report.

The GSA is not expected to make a recommendation for a site until late next year.

See FBI Page A3

## Housing Director Named Housing Person of the Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Eric. C. Brown, Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development was named Housing Person of the Year by the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition (MAHC) today at the organization's annual meeting and 15-year anniversary celebration. MAHC'S mission is to advocate for affordable rental hous-

ing in Maryland by ensuring adequate public and private resources, efficient housing programs and strong support among public officials at all levels of government. Mr. Brown was selected for his significant contributions to affordable rental housing in Maryland; his work to help advance the interest of the affordable rental housing community in Maryland through advocacy,

See DIRECTOR Page A5

## PG County Adopts Legislation Providing 24-Month Residential Housing for PG County Seniors

By PRESS OFFICER  
Capital News Service

The Prince George's County Council, during session on Tuesday, November 3, unanimously adopted Council Bill 59-2015, legislation allowing for 24-month leases to residents living in age-restricted senior living facilities.

Council Member Deni Taveras (D)—District 2, spon-

sor of the legislation, says CB-59-2015 will assist County seniors challenged by the cost of rental housing.

"A large number of our County's senior residents are on limited or fixed incomes, and the rising cost of rent is proving problematic for many of them,"

See SENIORS Page A3

## Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Named *Governing Magazine* "Public Official of the Year"

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Today, *Governing Magazine* announced their 2015 "Public Officials of the Year" Awards and honored Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III as one of nine public officials from around the nation being honored this year. County Executive Baker joins California Governor Jerry Brown, Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Wayne County, Michigan Prosecutor Kym Worthy, Cleveland Transit CEO and General Manager Joseph Calabrese, New York State Medicaid Director Jason Helgeson, and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Commander Emada Tingirides and Sargent Phil Tingirides.

In awarding County Executive Baker this honor, *Governing Magazine* stated that

the County Executive "has quickly and purposefully guided Prince George's County, MD, from the grips of economic recession and political corruption to its most promising point in recent memory." To read the full profiles about County Executive Baker and the other honorees, visit the website at: <http://www.governing.com/poy/>

"I am honored to be named one of *Governing Magazine*'s 2015 Public Officials of the Year," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "This is a tremendous honor for me, but more importantly, it is a testament to the great work that the people of this government are doing each and every day to make this County a great place to live and work. Our residents, elected officials and stakeholders have all played a part in our transformation. I want to thank *Governing Magazine* for recog-

nizing the amazing work we are doing to make Prince George's County one of the most sought after communities in the Washington Metropolitan region."

Baker, who was recognized by *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of their 2014 Washingtonians of the Year, now joins Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley (2009) and Former Lt. Governor Anthony Brown (2013) as a recipient of *Governing Magazine*'s prestigious Public Officials of the Year Award.

### About *Governing Magazine* "Public Official of the Year" Award

Every year since 1994, *Governing Magazine* has honored individual state and local government officials for outstanding accomplishment by naming them Public Officials of the Year. Elected, appointed and career officials from any branch of state or local government are eligible. *Govern-*



PHOTO PG COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
Rushern L. Baker, III

ing annually receives several hundred nominations from individuals in the public and private sectors. In addition, *Governing Magazine* staff consults experts and scholars in the field, and also nominates outstanding individuals they encounter in the course of their work. Nominations are evaluated by a selection committee, which, after painstaking research, chooses the winners.

### INSIDE

#### USDA Provides Funding for More Than 1,100 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects Nationwide

The funding is for energy efficiency improvements and/or renewable energy systems. USDA is financing projects in every state, as well as in the Virgin Islands, the Western Pacific and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Community, Page A3

#### Rigged: Racial Bias in Jury Selection

Despite the efforts of our federal government and the Supreme Court to address and eliminate racial discrimination in the jury selection process, the practice continues to run rampant, and unchecked, throughout our criminal justice system.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Will Your Retirement Hit Bottom If the Markets Plummet?

Bryan S. Slovon says portfolios that have an appropriate level of risk—with a percentage of the money in such areas as real estate or fixed annuities—allow retirees to avoid significant losses when the stock market takes a drastic turn for the worse.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: "Jem and the Holograms"

Jerrica (Aubrey Peeples) is a bladen with a nice singing voice who lives with her sister, Kimber, their Aunt Bailey, and Bailey's two foster daughters, Shana and Aja. The four teens half-heartedly want to be a band, but Jerrica is shy, or self-conscious, or something.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that making and installing concrete takes a big toll on the environment. What's being done to clean up this industry?

—Jenn Chadwick,  
Washington, D.C.

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Young Artists in concert at Davies U. M. Church, Nov. 22

Davies Concert Series, now in its 44th season, presents the Young Artists Concert, Sunday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The program features rising artists, many of whom are former or current Howard University students, including Victoria Waltz, on harp; Shacara Rogers, voice; Colin Chambers, piano, and David Bamber, bass.

The repertoire includes jazz, classical and gospel.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for 18 and younger. Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church is at 7400 Temple Hill Road in Camp Springs. For information, call 301-627-0284.

### Neighbors

The seniors at Camp Springs Senior Activity Center are on stage Thursday, Nov. 19, for "The Family Reunion," a play with music and, I'm sure, lots of laughs. Performances are at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Two of my neighbors are featured, Yvonne Garvin and Juanita Chaplain, and I'll be there to cheer them on.

Curtis Rhinart, of Skyline, has provided a handsome sign, which is posted along side McKeldin Drive, marking the entrance to their one-block-long neighborhood. On the sign: "Arthur B. Dick Subdivision, established 1948, Prince George's County."

### Congratulations, County Executive Baker!

Governing Magazine announced on Nov. 10 their 2015 "Public Officials of the Year" Awards and honored Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III as one of nine public officials from around the nation being honored this year.

Governing Magazine stated that the County Executive "has quickly and purposefully guided Prince George's County, MD, from the grips of economic recession and political corruption to its most promising point in recent memory."

### 16th annual Gingerbread House

Head to Darnall's Chance House Museum for a sweet treat—an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses. (No nibbling allowed!) Visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favorites in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition.

The contest & show is open weekends Nov. 27-29, Dec. 4-6, and Dec. 11-13; 12 noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$1.00. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. Call 301-952-8010. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro.

### Changing landscape

I had two calls regarding my mention of the Allentown Gateway Development. The callers wanted to know "where is this"? Years ago I attended a meeting regarding the development of land at, or near, the intersection of Allentown Road and Branch Avenue. Apparently, this is the site. The entrance will be across from Bells Church, the Social Security Office and Dunkin' Donuts. On the Net, a map of the development shows a grocery, a gas station (possibly Wawa), an auto parts store, space for more shops, and residential (probably condos or townhouses) at the rear.

Fast Eddie's Sports Bar & Grill has opened in the Andrews Manor Shopping Center. A friend tells me it is mostly a pool parlor with food.

Along Auth Road, between Allentown Road and the Branch Avenue Metro, curbs—complete with ramps, gutters and landscaping—are being installed. I assume sidewalks will follow. They are much needed.

### Remembering Jerry

Gerald August Glaubitz was born Nov. 23, 1920. I would have loved attending his 95th birthday party. But Jerry died April 26, 2005.

Instead, I'll reflect on how much he meant to the Town of Morningside, where he served as mayor for 43 years and which has a Town Circle ded-

icated to him. How much he meant to the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department where he served virtually every position and which has a special plaque honoring him in the firehouse entry. How important he was at VFW Post 9619 at and Bethany Lutheran Church, of which he was a charter member.

In fact, I could fill this page with his accomplishments, memberships and honors. But instead, I'll just say, "Happy Birthday, Jerry. I miss you."

### May they rest in peace

Mary A. Oursler, 85, of Dunkirk, formerly of Camp Springs, died Oct. 23. Back in the founding days of St. Philip's Church, in 1959-60, Mary was the second woman to serve as prefect of the Ladies Sodality. Her husband Marvin preceded her in death. Survivors include five children, Marvin Jr. (Christine), Robert (Barbara), Kathleen Bailey (Rick), Thomas (Susan) and Carl (Amy). She also leaves two sisters, 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Jesus the Divine Word Church with burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Penny Bradford, 67, a Crossland graduate and daughter of former Suitland Road residents, Nita and Jack Boone, died Sept. 13. She had retired after 30 years with Hennepin County, Minn. Survivors include her mom and three grandkids.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Herbert Hanson and Andrew Boone, Nov. 20; Linda Cullinan and Brea Sandy-Hanson, Nov. 21; Dolores Steinhilber, Sharon McKlveen and Jill Flaherty Kimmel, Nov. 22; Leslie Greene, Nov. 23; Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24; Ray Call, Avanna Williams, Andrew Gryskewicz and Mary Gaither, Nov. 25; and Darryl Moss, Nov. 26.

Happy anniversary to Paul and Sharon Locke on Nov. 22.

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on Passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) today issued the following statement regarding H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. The bill passed the House 266-167.

"Today's bipartisan budget agreement is an important step forward for the country. For far too long, the Republican majority has forced the American people to endure one manufactured crisis after another. The Republicans' failure to govern resulted in devastating budget cuts through sequestration, forcing federal employees to bear the burden of deficit reduction, shutting down the government in 2013, and downgrading the country's credit rating.

"While today's budget deal is not what I would have written, it is the product of Democrats challenging Republicans relentlessly to compromise in order to stop the cycle of crisis and provide a level of certainty to the federal government, the American people, and our economy. Namely, the legislation provides sequestration relief equally to defense and non-defense spending, saves millions of seniors from suffering serious increases in Medicare Part B costs, prevents a 20 percent reduction in Social Security disability benefits for millions of individuals, and ensures the full faith and credit of the United States through March, 2017. This is the type of cooperation the vast majority of the American people expect in Washington. I hope we can continue that effort to finalize the appropriations levels for federal spending for Fiscal Year 2016."

### Giant Food Lowers Prices on Thousands of Additional Items

Part of "My Giant" commitment to help customers save money, save time and eat well

LANDOVER, MD (October 16, 2015)—Giant Food of Landover, Md. today announced its latest price reduction on thousands of items across the stores as part of its new "My Giant" commitment to make grocery shopping more affordable and convenient for customers, and to help customers lead healthier lifestyles. These customer-essential items are in addition to the price reductions Giant implemented last fall.

"As a continuation of the low-price initiative we launched last year to help our customers reduce their weekly shopping bill, Giant is pleased to offer our customers lower prices on thousands of additional fresh food and grocery items," said Gordon Reid, president, Giant Food. "For 79 years, Giant has put customers at the heart of our business and that is why we are rededicated to helping our customers save money, save time and eat well."

Giant's lower priced items are highlighted in the weekly circular and also in stores on new Low Everyday Price signage. Customers can see the savings on blue



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

shelf tags where they can compare an item's old price with its new price.

These price reductions are part of the company's business strategy to invest in price, quality and service on behalf of the customer. This strategy is being supported by a new branding effort under the tagline: "My Giant helps me save money, save time, and eat well."

In addition to saving money, Giant helps customers save time in numerous ways, including grocery delivery and pick-up via Peapod in participating communities, offering ready-made meal options, ready-cut fruits and vegetables, in-store technology, and personalized offers sent directly to shoppers' email.

Giant also helps customers eat well and save money with an ever-expanding selection of more than 800 Nature's Promise products. From handcrafted artisan breads and fresh meats to healthy snacks and yogurt, customers can trust Nature's Promise products for their family's health and well-being at a great value every day. And Giant's award-winning digital content platform and magazine "Savory Fast, Fresh and Easy™" pulls it all together by making meal planning and fresh food preparation easy.

Giant is helping customers win small victories and providing customers with the shopping experience they want, where they want it, and how they want it. For more information about how to save money, save time and eat well when shopping at Giant, visit giantfood.com for more information or stop into any store.

### Hospital Provides Free Lymphedema Educational Session and Stroke Support Group

LANHAM, MD—FREE Lymphedema and Chronic Swelling Educational Session  
January 21, 2016,  
1 p.m.–3 p.m.  
April 20, 2016,  
5 p.m.–7 p.m.  
July 21, 2016,  
1 p.m.–3 p.m.  
October 20, 2016,  
5 p.m.–7 p.m.  
December 13, 2016,  
12:30 p.m.–3 p.m.  
Doctors Community Hospital  
8100 Good Luck Rd.  
North Bldg., 5th Floor,  
DSE Room  
Lanham, MD 20706

The lymphatic system covers the human body like a net. It collects, transports and filters waste products including protein, metabolic waste and inflammatory byproducts that are present

in body fluid. It is also responsible for white blood cell transportation by way of lymphatic vessels, which contribute to the body's ability to prevent diseases. When there is a blockage in the lymphatic system, fluid can build up causing swelling in one or more limbs as well as the face, neck, trunk or perineal region. This swelling is known as lymphedema—a chronic, yet treatable, condition that is sometimes triggered by surgeries, infections, musculoskeletal injuries, underdeveloped lymphatic systems at birth, and use of chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer irradiations.

For people who have this condition and their caregivers, Doctors Community Hospital offers a free lymphedema educational and support session. With one of the largest lymphedema programs in Maryland, its experienced professionals provide useful information about treatment and management.

For more information or to register, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

### Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Supports Education at the Prince George's Community College Bluebird Blues Festival

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union joined the faculty of Prince George's Community College along with over 12,000 members of the education community at the 23rd annual Bluebird Blues Festival. The event, which was held on the Prince George's Community College campus in Largo, included a full day of entertainment for blues lovers including two stages, food and craft vendors, music workshops and activities for children.

Educational Systems FCU is a Prince George's Community College Foundation "Partner for Success" sponsor helping the Foundation in its efforts to raise scholarship funds for students. As part of the partnership, Credit Union employees were available at the Bluebird Blues Festival to help members of the education community by providing Credit Union information and offering financial education tips.

"Our core purpose is serving the education community," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of Educational Systems FCU. "Participating in the Bluebird Blues Festival and being a Partner for Success with the Prince George's Community College Foundation are just a few ways that we support education at Prince George's Community College."

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With over \$800 million in assets and 12 branches, the Credit Union serves 87,000 members in seven school systems and three community colleges throughout Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Talbot counties.

Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### INSTALLATION

Delegate Michael A. Jackson was installed as a new board trustee of Nexus Board Health, which is the parent company of Fort Washington Medical Center. The event was held Tuesday, November 3 at the National Golf Club at Tantallon during the Annual Public Meeting.

### BADEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to all the students who were honored at the First Quarter Awards Assembly on November 13, 2015. The students were awarded for achieving the Honor Roll and perfect attendance.

### STAGE PLAY

Jocelyn B.D. Moore & JM Entertainment will present a stage play "Conversations in Faith" Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 2:00 PM "Conversations in Faith" is a stage play based on the book (of the same name) by Jocelyn B. D. Moore.

"Faith" is a fictional work based on historical facts. The setting of the play is a modern day LIVE talk show where the guest on the show are women and men from the Bible. This is

an entertaining and inspiring production that you will enjoy.

The stage play will be presented at Surratts-Clinton Library (Auditorium) 9400 Piscataway Road Clinton, Maryland 20735. Doors open at 1:00 PM. For tickets: www.JMEntertainment.info

### SKC EARLY EDUCATION CENTERS

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

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

Happy  
Thanksgiving  
to all our readers!

### XTREME TEENS AND XTREME PRE-TEENS PROGRAMS

The Xtreme Teens and Xtreme Pre-Teens programs offer opportunities to explore and enjoy sports, arts, nature, travel and other healthy, fun, interesting recreational pursuits for ages 10-17. Xtreme Teens and Xtreme Pre-Teens will be able to participate in workshops, learn new skills, and socialize with peers. For more information, call 301-446-3400 or e-mail myxtreme-teams@pgparks.com.

### 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.pg-parks.com/Festivals.htm for details. Telephone number is 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Moving Soon? Keep Costs Under Control

Even if you're only moving across town, it's likely to cost more than you think.

According to the latest figures from the American Moving and Storage Association, the average cost of an in-state professional move—based on 7,570 pounds of stuff—is \$1,170. The average state-to-state move costs \$5,630.

How can you control moving expenses? Start making a master checklist to collect data and consider all costs and personal aspects of a potential move. You may even want to include a pro-and-con list that addresses all conceivable economic and lifestyle outcomes—the real long-term costs and benefits of a move. After deciding whether the move is worthwhile, consider these subsequent steps:

**Seek solid advisors.** Whether or not you plan to sell a home with a licensed real estate broker or agent, most are open to do a market valuation of your property and suggest repairs or improvements that could maximize a sale price. If you use a qualified financial planner or tax advisor, include that individual in early discussions on how a move might affect your finances. Also, if you're selling property, find an experienced real estate attorney to review broker and sale contracts.

**Get multiple estimates from movers.** An early walk-through at your home or apartment by two to three U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)-registered movers (<http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/hhg/search.asp>) can provide a reality check on how much you'll want to take and whether you can afford luxuries like packing or storage. Online resources can also help you evaluate those estimates.

**Watch for fraud.** Recent news reports have highlighted a trend called "hostage load," a practice whereby unscrupulous moving companies demand more money from customers before finishing a delivery. Getting references from trusted friends and advisors is a good first step to finding the right registered mover for your relocation. DOT has launched the "Protect Your Move" (<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/protect-your-move>) site that allows you to download a moving fraud protection guide and offers tips on proper ways to investigate and hire a mover.

**Start downsizing—now.** Getting early estimates from movers certainly helps you decide what you're really willing to take. If there are valuables you think you can sell, consult professional appraisers and even general marketplace sources like eBay to get a realistic idea of value. Otherwise, consider garage sales and donations for the rest.

**Insure what you're moving.** Whatever plans you're making for home or renter's coverage at the new destination, make sure you have proper coverage in place for the contents of your move. The Insurance Information Institute provides a useful guide (<http://www.iii.org/article/getting-right-insurance-coverage-moving>) to properly insuring the possessions you're moving.

**Build a cash reserve for deposits, fees and incidentals.** Keeping moving costs low can help you handle dozens of smaller and sometimes unexpected expenses that crop up immediately before, during and after a move. Budget for those hidden costs which can include deposits, fees and multiple trips to the discount store, home center or grocery.

Bottom line: Thinking about moving? Give yourself adequate time and resources to plan all aspects of this major life and money event.

#### Seniors from A1

said Council Member Taveras. "It is important to have policies in place that protect our seniors from entering into a lease agreement that leaves them vulnerable to unexpected rent increases and fees they cannot afford."

Council Member Todd M. Turner (D)—District 4, co-sponsor of CB-59-2015, says the legislation will allow senior residents to enter into a lease agreement free from the worry of an unmanageable rent increase.

"Our seniors should not have to worry about how they will afford a rent increase if or when it happens. CB-59 eliminates the uncer-



tainly, ensuring that residents of our County's age-restricted living facilities know their monthly rent expense for at least two years."

Under CB-59-2015, Prince George's County seniors living in specified age-restricted housing will have the opportunity to enter into a 24-month lease agreement that will not incur fees or rent increases for the term of the lease. Landlords will be required to provide written notice concerning the 24-month period when entering into a new lease or a renewal lease.

CB-59-2015 was also co-sponsored by Council Members Mary Lehman (D)—District 1 and Andrea C. Harrison (D)—District 5.

"These (Prince George's County) sites are not hampered by development in the immediate area, which the Springfield site is," Cardin said. "We have two very viable sites and developers that are interested."

#### FBI from A1

For now, Maryland officials are continuing to promote the economic and transportation benefits of locating the FBI headquarters in Prince George's County.

Proudly Serving Prince George's County

## USDA Provides Funding for More Than 1,100 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects Nationwide

*Funding Supports Solar and Other Renewable Energy Projects to Create Jobs and Promote Energy Independence*

By PRESS OFFICER  
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is awarding loans and grants that will help more than 1,100 rural small businesses and agricultural producers reduce energy usage and costs in their operations. The funding is for energy efficiency improvements and/or renewable energy systems. USDA is financing projects in every state, as well as in the Virgin Islands, the Western Pacific and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

"More rural business owners and ag producers are incorporating energy-saving measures into their business plans," Vilsack said. "These actions improve an operation's bottom line and help reduce its carbon footprint. This funding will help incorporate renewable energy and energy efficiency technology and reduce energy costs. But beyond the local benefits seen by a company saving energy costs and the global benefits of reducing carbon emissions, this funding will also create American jobs by supporting energy production and efficiency installations that are made in rural America."

USDA is providing \$102 million in loan guarantees and \$71 million in grants for 1,114

projects financed through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Among the projects, nearly \$6 million is being awarded for 17 anaerobic digesters in California, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Washington. In total, these projects are expected to generate and/or save 906 million kilowatt hours (KWh) of energy—enough to power more than 83,675 homes for a year and cut carbon pollution by an estimated 455,000 metric tons. That is the equivalent of taking more than 131,500 cars off the road for a year.

The owners of Parker Farms in Ripley, Tenn., are receiving a \$45,000 REAP grant to help finance the installation of a 50 kilowatt solar system that was installed late last year. The system has lowered the grain farm's average monthly electric bill by \$800—from \$1,140 to \$340. That is a savings of nearly \$10,000 a year. The solar system covers more than 70 percent of the farm's annual electric costs. Parker Farms participates in the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Green Power Providers program and sells 100 percent of its solar electricity to TVA at a premium.

Fresh Air Energy XVI, LLC is receiving a \$3.8 million loan guarantee to finance a 6.5 megawatt solar array in Greene

County, North Carolina. The project is expected to produce enough energy to power 1,000 average-sized homes for a year. This is one of several loans the company is receiving to expand the use of solar energy in the state.

In Pearl City, Hawaii, the owner of the wholesale bakery "The Patisserie, Inc." is being awarded a \$256,000 loan guarantee and a \$128,000 grant to install a photovoltaic system. It is expected to generate 172,000 kilowatts of energy annually and reduce energy use by nearly 40 percent.

Congress created the REAP program in the 2002 Farm Bill. Because of the success of the program, Congress reauthorized it in the 2014 Farm Bill with guaranteed funding of at least \$50 million annually for the duration of the five-year bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past seven years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since the start of the Obama Administration, REAP has helped finance 10,753 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects that have reduced energy costs for rural businesses nationwide. During this period, USDA has provided almost \$360 million in grants and \$430 million in

loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small business owners. When operational, these projects will generate/save an estimated 8.4 million megawatt hours—enough to power more than 760,000 homes for a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. That's the equivalent of removing more than 1 million cars from the road.

Funding of each award announced today is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the loan or grant agreement.

In addition to the grants announced today, USDA is reminding eligible recipients that the department is accepting applications for future REAP funding. For application deadlines and details on how to apply, contact a USDA state energy coordinator, or see page 60349 of the October 6 Federal Register.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

## As BGE Completes Preparations for Winter, Now is a Good Time for Customers to Prepare Too

By PRESS OFFICER  
BGE

BALTIMORE, MD—As temperatures begin to drop, BGE has completed upgrades of its electric and natural gas systems and conducted a comprehensive review of its preparedness plans in advance of the winter season.

In 2015, BGE is investing approximately \$175 million in the company's natural gas system to provide safe and reliable service for customers. This work includes equipment inspections, repairs and replacements, and preventive maintenance on the company's natural gas system. The company regularly installs new gas pipelines to meet customer demand, such as a recently installed 11-mile segment of pipeline in Carroll County between Westminster and Mt. Airy. Major gas system reinforcements were also installed in Anne Arundel County this year, and in Baltimore City, Harford and Baltimore counties prior to last winter.

BGE is also replacing existing gas mains with durable new pipes that will deliver gas safely and reliably to communities well into the future. So far this year, approximately 36 miles of aging gas mains have been removed from service as part of BGE's ongoing upgrades to its gas system. This includes replacement of cast iron and unprotected steel mains at an accelerated rate under BGE's STRIDE gas system modernization plan. In addition to modernizing equipment, the company has also secured natural gas contracts and filled its storage facilities to help ensure it has the gas supply necessary this heating season for those customers who purchase natural gas from BGE.

Electric system preparations have also been underway in preparation for winter weather. This seasonal readiness work is a part of the approximately \$475 million BGE is investing in the company's electric system in 2015. BGE is inspecting more than 7,000 circuit miles of overhead power lines and approxi-

mately 40,000 utility poles this year. The company also takes steps to minimize the threat to power lines of trees weakened by heavy snows and winter storms by spending approximately \$30 million annually in trimming vegetation near overhead lines.

"Our customers depend on us to safely deliver the energy they need, particularly during the extreme weather months," said Calvin G. Butler, Jr., chief executive officer of BGE. "Our employees and contractors work year round to ensure we are ready to meet customers' needs in any conditions."

As BGE prepares for winter, customers are reminded to prepare as well by following these tips:

- Test your heating system and have it inspected by a qualified technician. Regular service will ensure the heating system operates safely and efficiently for the season ahead.

- Schedule a free Quick Home Energy Check-up, where an energy efficiency professional will walk with you through your

home to provide valuable tips for increased efficiency.

- Save an average of 2 percent on your energy bill for every degree you lower your thermostat.

- Lower the temperature on your water heater and conserve hot water when you can.

- Seal holes and seams in your ductwork and gaps around doors, windows, and outlets.

- Ensure you have 12 to 15 inches of attic insulation, or an R-38 level.

- Open curtains and drapes during the day, to let the sun warm your home. Close them at night for insulation.

Customers should also explore the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program® at [bgesmartenergy.com](http://bgesmartenergy.com) to identify new ways to save energy, money and the environment.

During colder weather, heating systems work longer to keep homes warm. Help in paying winter bills is available to income-qualified customers. Call (800) 352-1446 or visit <http://www.dhr.state.md.us>.

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# COMMENTARY

## Barbara A. Mikulski

United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski, Cardin Announce Almost \$3 Million in Federal Funds to Fight Crime in Communities Across Maryland

Justice Department Grants Are Primary Source of Federal Funding to Local Law Enforcement; Help Reduce Violent Crime Across State

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) today announced that \$2,910,366 in federal grant funding has been awarded from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to municipalities across Maryland through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) program. These funds will be used to support public safety activities and reduce violent crime as well as crimes against victims and children throughout Maryland.

Senator Mikulski is Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee, which fund DOJ. Senator Cardin is a member of the Senate Finance Committee.

"I've heard from state and local police from all over Maryland and around the country that the lack of funding means fewer cops on our streets fighting gangs, drugs, and child predators and fewer prosecutions of criminals," Senator Mikulski said. "State and local law enforcement have been stretched and stressed, forced to do more with less. That's why I continue fighting so hard to put this funding in the federal checkbook. I am committed to giving law enforcement the tools they need to protect community safety, protect our families and fight crime."

"Law enforcement officers across Maryland put their lives on the line daily safeguarding our communities. Ensuring officers have the tools and training they need to get the job done and come home safely has always been a top priority," said Senator Cardin, whose Blue Alert legislation to expedite the apprehension of criminals who

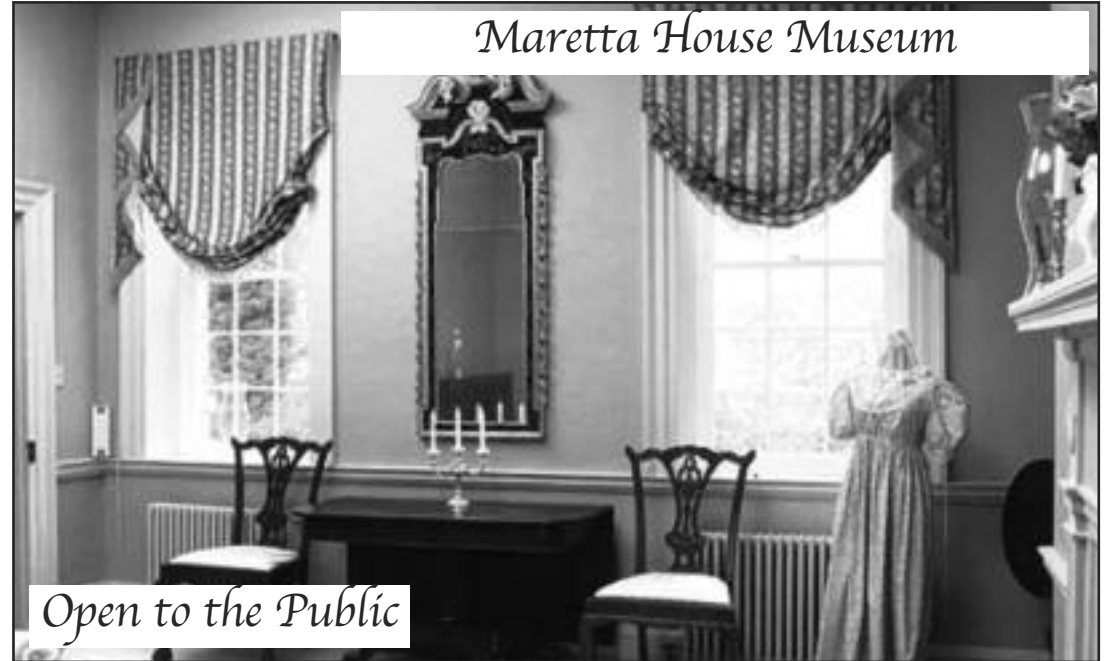
have threatened, injured or killed law enforcement officers was recently signed into law by President Obama. "With all the dangers law enforcement officers face on the job, they should know they have friends in Congress. I will continue to work with whomever is willing to make sure law enforcement officers across the country can continue to do their important work safely, effectively and with strong community support."

This formula program allows state and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime, and to improve the criminal justice system. Byrne JAG funding is fast, flexible and effective in helping states and communities address emerging crime problems.

Maryland law enforcement agencies receiving funds from the Byrne JAG program include the following:

- The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP)—\$1,011,443. The GOCCP will use these federal funds to help defray increased police overtime costs surrounding the civil unrest following the death of Freddie Gray.
- Anne Arundel County—\$170,982. These federal funds will be used by Anne Arundel County to provide funding to organizations within the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
- City of Baltimore—\$693,488. The City of Baltimore will use these federal dollars to fund the continuation of crime prevention and strategies and crime prevention efforts of community based organizations.

See FUNDING Page A5



Marietta House Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ???

#### MARIETTA HOUSE MUSEUM

Marietta, the Federal style brick home of Gabriel Duvall, an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built ca. 1813, Marietta remained under ownership of the Duvall family until 1902. Justice Duvall's law office and root cellar still remain today. Marietta is situated on 25 acres of lawn and wooded areas and the grounds boast two County Champion trees and lovely old boxwood. Marietta operates as an historic house museum and is furnished and interpreted to reflect the three generations of Duvall's that occupied the house. The Society of Maren Duvall Descendants has relocated the family graveyard from its original location to the serene surroundings at Marietta. Located at 626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD, the museum is also the headquarters of the Prince George's County Historical Society. Open to the public year round. Admission: \$3/adults, \$2/seniors/groups, \$1/ages 5-18, FREE/ages 4 & under \$2/person for groups of 10 or more. For information call 301-464-0590.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Helping Children Cope with Crisis

*"If you were to look down upon the world today, you would see a world divided by wars and natural disaster ... you would think there is little hope ... Even though there is a lot of bad in the world, we have to believe there is more good. We have to believe in tomorrow."*

—Jonathan, Connecticut sixth grader

*"I don't think I'll ever trust the sky again."*

—A Connecticut child after 9-11

Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children Elaine Zimmerman helps meet many child needs in her state including sharing advice to help children cope with terrible events. Some of our nation's largest tragedies have hit Connecticut's children close to home. Many lost family members who worked in New York City on September 11th. Then there was the unimaginable heartbreak and horror of the mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut which murdered 20 first graders and six beloved teachers in a place where families believed their children would be safe. But epidemic gun violence has shattered schools, colleges, and movie theaters and streets and homes all over America.

Connecticut children are far from alone in their fears of violence and terrorism. Constant stories about wars, desperate refugee parents and children, worries about attacks on places of worship, and the cumulative natural and unnatural devastation can make the world seem like a very scary, unpredictable place. So Elaine Zimmerman has shared suggestions she, as Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Children gives adults to help children cope with crisis and provide all children the security they desperately need.

• Connect. Many children feel isolated, scared and confused. Counter that by giving them comfort and understanding.

• Answer children's questions directly and honestly whenever possible. Authentic response in tragedy is so important to children and youths. Listen carefully and answer. They may want to know just one answer, one detail.

Then ask if there are other questions and make it clear that you will answer, to the best of your ability, whatever they are asking.

• Provide a message of warmth and security. Children need to know that home is safe, so show them you love them and will protect them. There are no stronger barriers against the harmful effects of violent and chaotic behavior than love and a sense of connection.

• Highlight steps to keep school safe. As a teacher, note strong school safety measures and explain that school is one of the safest places in our communities. As a parent, learn about new safety protocols, professional training, and building security for your own comfort, participation and messaging. Help children play and learn together in a relaxed manner.

• Know what to do, as much as possible, in a disaster. Develop emergency plans that include roles for the children. Ensure they know adults are thinking about their safety.

• Direct children to a school or community counselor who serves children and families if you perceive that the response they are showing might benefit from a professional conversation. Counseling, often short-

term and focused, can be tremendously helpful when needed. Signs might include prolonged trouble eating or sleeping, bad dreams, or aggressive play. Find out what mental health supports are available at school and in your community.

• Show antipathy to violence and hatred. Bullying and racial bias in school are local forms of the cruelty we see on the world stage. When children learn to respect each other, they begin to make their environments safer.

• Honor heroes. In the attack on Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut there were many heroes, including teachers, the principal, the police, neighbors, and many children. And there are many heroes every day. Help children see them and recognize them in our daily lives. Ask children who their heroes are. Mention yours. Talk about heroes together.

• Honor good works and deeds. Pointing to the accomplishments of others creates examples for our children and youths. It also instills respect, caring, and hope.

• Help children become everyday heroes. Give them pur-

See WATCH, Page A12

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Rigged: Racial Bias in Jury Selection

*"Illegal and unconstitutional jury selection procedures cast doubt on the integrity of the whole judicial process. They create the appearance of bias in the decision of individual cases, and they increase the risk of actual bias as well."*

—Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Peters v. Kiff (1972)

During the Reconstruction Era, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1875. The act guaranteed all citizens, particularly African Americans, equal treatment and access to public accommodations, public transportation and protected their right to serve on juries. This week—140 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1875—the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a Georgia death penalty case that serves as an intolerable reminder that people of color continue to be unlawfully excluded from jury service because of their race.

In 1987, Timothy Foster, an African American, was convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury in the murder of an elderly white woman. Foster, who was 18 years old at the time of the crime, is seeking a new trial on the basis of racial discrimination by the prosecution, who he claims deliberately singled out and purged all prospective Black jurors. Coincidentally, Foster's death sentence came only a year after the Supreme Court had ruled in *Batson v. Kentucky* that excluding potential jurors based on race was unconstitutional and violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The clear message of *Batson v. Kentucky* to not exclude jurors based on race failed to police the behavior of prosecutors in Timothy Foster's case. And Foster's case is a textbook example of racial discrimination that is often so hard to prove. In this rare instance of well-documented misconduct, prosecutors used a variety of methods to single out and remove potential Black jurors. After getting access to the prosecution's jury selection notes in 2006, Foster's lawyer found "an arsenal of smoking guns in this case," including

prosecutors highlighting the names of potential Black jurors, circling the word "black" on questionnaires, and taking note of Black jurors as "B#1" or "B#2."

Despite the efforts of our federal government and the Supreme Court to address and eliminate racial discrimination in the jury selection process, the practice continues to run rampant, and unchecked, throughout our criminal justice system—a system where more than half of the people on death row are people of color. African Americans make up 42 percent of that number, while they make up only 12 percent of the United States population.

Deliberately excluding people of color from juries only serves to undermine our confidence in the credibility of our nation's criminal justice system. How can we believe justice is being served if the system is so blatantly rigged? And studies have shown that diversity makes for a better jury. In comparison to all-white juries, racially diverse juries are said to take longer to deliberate, they consider a wider variety of perspectives when deciding and make fewer factual errors. We cannot allow our constitutional right to be judged by a jury of our peers to be abused based on a prosecutor's implicit or explicit racial bias—lives are at stake.

If we are going to effectively address prosecutorial misconduct, there must be real enforcement of rulings like *Batson v. Kentucky* to prevent the exclusion of jurors based on their race. Along with enforcement, there must be punishment. Right now, prosecutors are not taken to task when racial bias rears its ugly head during jury selection. With enforcement and monitoring, we can discover the patterns and punish the offenders. Foster's case has pulled back the curtain on an ugly and unlawful practice that we must remedy if we want a criminal justice system we can believe in.

Fortunately, we are decades past the all-white juries of the Jim Crow era, but we have a long way to go if we are committed to bring justice into our jury pools for all our nation's citizens.

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### When It's Time For A New Job

Very few jobs today are forever. Company changes may be threatening your job or it might be that while your company and job is secure, it isn't work that has you feeling satisfied, fulfilled or happy. You might be facing "job burnout," when it's time to move on.

Realizing that you have to go job hunting, whether it's your decision or one that's been forced on you, can be a frightening experience, but it doesn't have to be. The secret is simply to learn to make the most of the situation, or, as many people have put it, to look at it as an opportunity.

While job hunting often is stressful, there are a number of things you can do to make the process easier and more productive.

It's generally advised to start your job hunt while still working at your old job, if possible. Employers tend to look more favorably on candidates who are still employed, plus you'll experience less pressure and stress as long as you still have that current job. A key, however, is not to tell your current fellow employees that you're job hunting since that almost ensures that your current work environment will suffer.

There are several things you can and should do before beginning that job search. Start off by taking a self-inventory. What are your interests, current skills and overall experience? Do you enjoy your current field of employment or would you be happier if your work life headed in a whole new direction? If the latter is the choice, what skills and interests could you bring to a new job? Is there training that you might need to head into that new field? Would you relocate to a different town or state for a new job? An important question for many is whether they wish to continue working for someone else, or are they willing to take the risk of starting their own business.

If facing such questions and self-analysis seems a bit overwhelming you might consider meeting with a professional counselor who specializes in career counseling, guiding people to identify for themselves what might be the best new direction for them. If you visit the American Counseling Association website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org), the "Find a Counselor" link at the top of the page will direct you to websites to help you locate counselors in your area offering career and employment counseling.

*Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)*

### Director from A1

participation in policy, program improvements and volunteer efforts that have benefited housing for low and moderate income persons.

"We applaud Eric Brown for this award since he has been a strong advocate and leader of providing affordable housing in Prince George's County," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Over the past five years, we have been focused on attracting more private investment for affordable housing in Prince George's County. Eric has been a leader in these successful efforts. As a result, we are now seeing new and renovated affordable housing units throughout the County."

For over 30 years, Eric C. Brown has devoted his life to advancing the interest of the affordable rental housing community through his participation in policy and program improvements. Armed with his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration, his Master's Degree in Urban Regional Planning and his Juris Doctorate, he set out to operate and improve affordable rental housing around the country. He has over 25 years of senior level administrative and management experience in the multi-family rental housing arena, serving as Deputy Executive Director of Housing Management in New Orleans, LA; Deputy Executive Director for the Philadelphia Housing Authority, Philadelphia, PA, and Executive Director of the Meridian Mississippi Housing Authority. Mr. Brown has worked throughout his career to make improvements in the agencies he has worked so that they might provide better service to the community.

In Maryland, he served as the Deputy Executive Direc-

tor of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. The city of Baltimore has the country's fifth largest housing authority with 18,000 units of public rental housing and 12,000 Section 8 certificates. Supervising 1,400 employees, Mr. Brown was a key member of a team of dedicated professionals that improved the operation of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City and launched a public housing redevelopment effort that continues to this day.

Next, he set his sights on the City of Annapolis, where he served as Executive Director of the city's housing authority. Under his leadership, the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA) achieved substantial and significant accomplishments in revitalization, capital improvement, operational and the financial sectors. Mr. Brown implemented the agency's first major redevelopment of public housing properties using the public-private partnership model.

Currently, the Director of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Mr. Brown supervises three (3) agencies under DHCD: the Community Planning and Housing Divisions of DHCD, the Housing Authority of Prince George's County and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County. Each agency has as its mission to provide affordable housing to low and moderate income groups. DHCD had a troubled past, and again, Mr. Brown stepped in to get the agency back on track. Through his leadership, developers are now eager to apply to DHCD for federal

## Will Your Retirement Hit Bottom If the Markets Plummet?

*A Portfolio Done Right Should Shield Retirees From Tumultuous Ups and Downs, Financial Planner Says*

By BRYAN SLOVON  
News and Experts

Wall Street hasn't been for the faint of heart lately.

Jittery investors saw the volatile market play havoc with investment portfolios. But while the ups and downs may have created anguish for some, financial planner Bryan S. Slovon says he fielded few if any calls from nervous clients.

And that's the way it should be when your clients are retirees or people nearing retirement, he says.

"Retirees really shouldn't be seeing major changes in the values of their portfolios every time the market takes a huge dip," says Slovon, founder and CEO of Stuart Financial Group ([www.stuartfg.com](http://www.stuartfg.com)). "A well-constructed portfolio for a retiree should shield them from much of the volatility that happens with the stock market."

If their portfolio changed as much as the market did, he says, they need to revisit their allocation plan before something really significant happens.

He says portfolios that have an appropriate level of risk—with a percentage of the money in such areas as real estate or fixed annuities—allow retirees to avoid significant losses when

the stock market takes a drastic turn for the worse.

"It definitely relieves stress for people when they know they have an investment strategy that matches their stage of life," he says.

Any retirees who felt queasy over the recent swings in the market probably have their money invested in the wrong areas, Slovon says. He suggests options that retirees, or those nearing retirement, should look for as they try to figure out how much investment risk is right for them:

- **Rule of 100.** In trying to ascertain an acceptable level of risk, people should look at the rule of 100, Slovon says. For those unfamiliar with this rule, here is how it works: Start with 100 and subtract your age (or, in the case of married couples, the average of both your ages). The result is the approximate percentage of your investments that you should have in riskier investments, such as stocks.

"The rule of 100 is not the end all, but it's a good long-term financial planning tool that's stood the test of time," Slovon says. For example, if you are 60, 100 minus 60 comes to 40 percent risk. "That can vary depending on each person's situation, but it's a

good place to start," Slovon says. "Unfortunately, one of the things that can happen is you work with people who offer nothing but risk. They offer only risk because they are part of Wall Street."

- **Annuities.** If you want a steady stream of income during retirement, an annuity can be a good choice, Slovon says. Essentially, an annuity is an insurance product that pays income. You buy the annuity, and then it pays money to you on a regular basis for life. You can have either a fixed annuity or a variable annuity.

The fixed version pays a set amount, so market performance isn't a factor, Slovon says. With the variable version, though, you choose from a list of investments and the payout depends on how well those investments do.

- **Bond alternatives.** Bonds can be a handy part of your portfolio, shielding you somewhat when the stock market takes a dramatic tumble. Bonds tend to lose their value when interest rates rise, though, so it's not a bad idea to consider some alternatives, Slovon says. One possibility is mutual funds because with a mutual fund you are investing in a collection of stocks, bonds or other securities. That gives instant diversity to your

portfolio. Another alternative is real estate investment trusts, which are companies that own and usually operate income-producing real estate. These could be office buildings, apartment buildings, shopping centers or other types of property.

"Whether you are a few years away from retirement, or already retired," Slovon says, "you want to make sure your money is properly situated for steady cash flow, for health care costs or for that proverbial rainy day. It should look very different from when you were still saving for retirement."

### About Bryan Slovon

Bryan Slovon is the founder and CEO of Stuart Financial Group ([www.stuartfg.com](http://www.stuartfg.com)), a boutique financial planning firm exclusively serving retirees and soon-to-be retirees in the District of Columbia metro area. He is a financial planner specializing in retirement planning and wealth preservation to a select group of clients. He currently holds his Series 65 license and is a Registered Financial Consultant as well as a Comprehensive Wealth Manager offering investment advisory services through Global Financial Private Capital, an SEC registered investment advisor.

### Cyber from A1

A successor to the now defunct Maryland Commission on Cybersecurity Innovation and Excellence, council membership includes stakeholders from the private and the public sector with representatives from places like the National Security Agency, University of Maryland, University College and Booz Allen Hamilton.

The commission, disbanded by law in 2014, reviewed federal and state cybersecurity laws and worked to promote cyber innovation in Maryland. During its tenure, the commission proposed legislation, which was later passed, to protect agencies from cyber attacks and to prevent and protect health care records from identity theft, according to its final report.

State Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery, co-chair of the former commission and a member of the council, said she wants the new panel to work to both prevent cybersecurity risks and take advantage of the cyber job markets in the state.

Both the NSA and the U.S. Cyber Command are located in Fort Meade, Maryland.

"We could be, we should be, the epicenter of cyber innovation and jobs. But you have to make it a priority," Lee said.

The primary sponsor for the bill establishing the council, Lee originally wanted to ex-

tend the life of the commission beyond its three-and-a-half year lifespan but came across opposition, she said. "No one wants to get regulated or (to) change things."

"Maybe it's because they don't understand the gravity of this problem," Lee said, citing potential threats to both government and commercial industries.

"What if they attacked a utility or public service carrier? That would be horrible," Lee said. "That would really impact public safety."

Lee called the recent data breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management a "harsh reality check" for federal agencies and contractors.

In June 2015, the agency found a breach in its background investigation records, which compromised "sensitive" information, like Social Security numbers, of 21.5 million people, according to OPM.

The University of Maryland also had a major data breach in February 2014. Hackers accessed records like Social Security numbers, names and birthdates of all individuals with a school ID card between 1998 and 2014, according to the university.

Michael Greenberger, a council member and former member of the commission, said the council broadened its membership to include stake-

holders across the state with experts from the federal government and private industry.

Greenberger, founder and director of the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security, said that cyber attacks could wreak havoc on critical infrastructure and, for example, harm the integrity of the utilities grid or the efforts of first responders.

Maryland "still (has) a high degree of vulnerability, as is true throughout the country," Greenberger said.

The attorney general as chair will help bring credibility to any recommendations the council offers, Greenberger said. A more permanent structure, unlike the limited tenure of the commission, will allow for "staying power" with the council, Greenberger said.

The General Assembly established the Maryland Cybersecurity Council during the 2015 legislative session, tasking it to work with both federal agencies and the private sector to create a strategic plan for cybersecurity in Maryland while ensuring compliance with federal guidelines.

The council will work closely with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, commonly referred to as NIST, to find which local infrastructures are most vulnerable to cyber attacks and require enhanced cybersecurity.

### Funding from A4

- **Baltimore County**—\$321,447. These federal funds will be used by Baltimore County to continue the retention of six police officers to increase patrols and investigations in targeted areas of the county.

- **Cecil County**—\$27,950. These federal funds will be used by Cecil County to purchase a mobile digital data system and upgrade in-car camera systems.

- **Charles County**—\$42,450. Charles County will use these federal funds to support the Charles County Drug Court

and to strengthen community relationships.

- **City of Frederick**—\$42,844. These federal funds will be used by the City of Frederick to purchase body cameras, upgrade security cameras and purchase computer equipment.

- **City of Hagerstown**—\$16,523. These federal funds will be used by the City of Hagerstown to deploy proactive and strategic policing strategies based on evidence-based policing. The goal of this project is to maximize law enforcement services in the city.

- **Harford County**—\$35,988. Harford County will use these

federal funds to enhance use of license plate readers, purchase portable pocket protectors and HD cameras.

- **Howard County**—\$47,073. These federal funds will be used by Howard County to fund saturation patrol overtime and an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course refresher.

- **City of Laurel**—\$12,031. The City of Laurel will use these federal funds to purchase equipment to reduce violent encounters between police and citizens.

- **Montgomery County**—\$133,969. Montgomery County will use these federal

funds to outfit 100 police officers with tasers.

- **Prince George's County**—\$309,180. These federal funds will be used by Prince George's County to fund upgrade A/V equipment in interrogation rooms, improve security measures for courthouses and improve forensic equipment for fire investigators.

- **City of Salisbury**—\$27,871. The City of Salisbury will use these federal funds to fund technology upgrades.

- **St. Mary's County**—\$17,127. These federal funds will be used by St. Mary's County to support a body camera

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### “Jem and the Holograms”

*Jem and the Holograms*  
Grade: C-  
Rated PG, a little mild profanity,  
nothing truly outrageous  
1 hr., 30 min

*Jem and the Holograms* brings the '80s cartoon about an all-girl rock band into the real world. Sort of. That is to say, it's live-action, and it thinks it's presenting a real-world account of a band's rise to fame, but it's actually hilariously divorced from reality. (This is the only hilarious thing about it.)

Jerrica (Aubrey Peeples) is a bland teen with a nice singing voice who lives with her sister, Kimber (Stefanie Scott), their Aunt Bailey (Molly Ringwald), and Bailey's two foster daughters, Shana (Aurora Perrineau) and Aja (Hayley Kiyoko). The four teens half-heartedly want to be a band, but Jerrica is shy, or self-conscious, or something. To be honest, I was never clear on what Jerrica's deal was.

Then Kimber posts an unremarkable video of Jerrica, calling herself Jem, playing the guitar and singing a song on YouTube, and the next morning THE WHOLE WORLD wants to know who Jem is. Music exec Erica Raymond (Juliette Lewis) floods her inbox with requests for a meeting. Before you know it (it may actually be the next day), Jerrica and the girls are in L.A., getting makeovers and being turned into rock stars. All on the basis of one brief video not unlike 10,000 other videos uploaded to YouTube that day. They become world famous just as quickly, and on the basis of even less artistic effort.

(Side note: Jerrica's kitschy earrings, a gift from her father, are deemed unsuitable for her new look, so Erica Raymond locks them in a safe in her office—solely so they'll be inaccessible later in the movie, when the plot requires Jerrica to have them. That's the kind of writing we're dealing with.)



**Jem and the Holograms rock their way to the big screen in this live-action adaptation of the popular 1980's cartoon. Nashville star Aubrey Peeples takes front stage as Jerrica Benton, aka Jem, with Stefanie Scott jamming the keyboard as Kimber, Aurora Perrineau slapping the bass as Shana, and Hayley Kiyoko in lead guitar as Aja. Jon M. Chu directs from a script by Ryan Landels for Blumhouse Productions and Scooter Braun Productions.—Jason Buchanan, Rovi**

Erica has vague plans to cheat the band somehow (she's fixated on making Jerrica go solo), coinciding with Aunt Bailey's vague money problems that may cause her to lose her house. Meanwhile, Erica assigns her hunky teenage son, Rio (Ryan Guzman), to keep an eye on the girls, then is angry and surprised when he spends a lot of time with them. The obligatory scene of Jerrica stopping by Rio's hotel room when he's just stepped out of the shower is not omitted.

Also, Jerrica and Kimber's dead father (their mother is never mentioned) left behind a little robot that has been inactive for 10 years but starts coming to life in L.A. It provides clues that the

girls have to follow in order to fully activate it. Once activated, it, um, shows some holograms. Nothing essential. We are left to conclude that the sequel (which the film VERY MUCH wants to set up) will feature the hologram robot in a more useful capacity.

The director is John M. Chu, who made a couple of the “Step Up” dance movies, the Justin Bieber concert films, and “G.I. Joe: Retaliation” (which, like “Jem and the Holograms,” is based on a 1980s Hasbro toy cartoon). In other words, his entire career has been leading up to this. He aims for authenticity, treating it like a serious a-star-is-born story, and the way he uses technology in the girls' lives

rings true, even if it all happens implausibly fast.

But Ryan Landels' drab, simple-minded screenplay, with no grasp of how the world works, undercuts those efforts. The film keeps telling us that Jem and the band are inspiring to girls, but it fails to show how or why this would be. (It also keeps insisting the fans don't know who Jem really is, even though she's just Jerrica with eye makeup and a wig.) The paper-thin characters and their impossible rise to fame are pure fantasy—tedious, often dour fantasy, at that—and totally at odds with Chu's naturalistic style. I never saw the cartoon this is based on, but surely it was at least FUN, right?

## Council Member Mary Lehman Recognized by Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network as Local Elected Official of the Year

*MFANN Honors Lehman for Work to Improve and Promote Food Access Equality in Prince George's County*

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

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 Maryland 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 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 grow-

ing 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.”

The Maryland Food Access and Nutrition Network 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.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### 7 Things We Learned From Thabo Sefolosha's Trial



After just under an hour of deliberation, a Manhattan jury acquitted Atlanta Hawks guard Thabo Sefolosha of misdemeanor charges ranging from obstructing government administration and disorderly conduct to resisting arrest last week. The charges stemmed from a late-night confrontation with the New York Police Department last April that left Thabo with a broken leg.

The injury kept the Hawks' “LeBron-Stopper” out of the playoffs, which, sure enough, eventually found the overmatched Hawks smacked down by King James and his Cleveland Cavaliers.

One would imagine this case would be catnip for the sports media, given the number of NBA players that stood with the Black Lives Matter movement against police violence and the fact that their concerns had come home to roost. Yet there was mostly silence. It is a shame, because the entire episode leaves us with a great deal to ponder. Here are seven of my own takeaways:

**1) It is significant Sefolosha even went to trial.** Several NBA players have been arrested in similar circumstances over the last decade: instances where police arrested them without cause or used pepper spray or tasers to put them down. Usually these cases are settled quietly in the name of mutually beneficial public relations. But Thabo Sefolosha risked his freedom and livelihood in an effort to clear his name. This speaks to his own character as well as the moment in time in which we are living. There is simply less tolerance for unchecked police aggression.

**2) Thabo Sefolosha received justice, but the system remains unjust.** Sefolosha was able to fight back because he could afford competent attorneys to find witnesses and mount a defense. Most people hurt by the police and then charged with crimes for their troubles lack the resources needed to beat the system. In addition, these officers were found to have broken a man's leg without cause, but no one expects them to be prosecuted, lose their jobs, or even be placed on leave. They essentially exist in a lawless, unchecked space.

**3) There is a frightening mentality in the New York district attorney's office.** Assistant DA Francesca Bartolomey closed her case with two arguments. The first was, “The defendant doesn't get to say where the crime scene ends.” In other words, even though Thabo was far down the street from where a stabbing took place, the police had the right to physically accost him for not moving quickly enough. The second was when Bartolomey said, “Imagine a world where we are allowed to say no to an officer. It would be chaos.” Dear Lord. Imagine a world where you are not allowed to say no to a police officer.

**4) The NYPD has a racism problem that was just proven in open court.** One of the least covered aspects in this trial was that Thabo's lawyer had surveillance footage of the initial approach by police. They are seen passing Thabo's white teammate Pero Antic and making a beeline for Thabo. He was in their sights. He was their target. His skin was a bull's-eye.

**5) It's easy to understand why the Atlanta Hawks left it all on the court for their coach Mike Budenholzer.** Coach Bud took a team without superstars to the Eastern Conference Finals and was named Coach of the Year. He also traveled to Manhattan to testify on Thabo's behalf, vouching for his truthfulness, character, and version of events. In the aftermath, he said, “Thabo is such a great person, we feel great about supporting him. We're very happy for him and his family that the decision went in his favor today. Now he can focus on basketball and get back to doing what he enjoys and loves.” Don't think for a moment that any NBA coach would have stepped into a criminal courtroom to do this.

**6) The sports media dropped the ball.** I wrote about it before, but the absence of coverage on this case speaks to the power of the New York Police Department, particularly its public relations wing. Talking heads, as I was told, were instructed not to cross them. Or maybe in some cases, Thabo was deemed too irrelevant a player to pay attention to. But it was a colossal failure not to understand just how deep in the vein of NBA players' life experiences this case cut. But hey, when there is breaking news about who to select on DraftKings, maybe there just isn't time to talk about the NYPD breaking an NBA player's leg right before the playoffs.

**7) The only question that now remains is whether Thabo Sefolosha will bring a civil suit against the**

See THABO Page A7

## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!



in *The Prince George's Post*

Call Brenda Boice at 301 627 0900

## Calendar of Events

November 19 — November 25, 2015

### Fall Fling Luncheon

Date & Time: Thursday, November 19, 2015, 12 noon-3 pm  
Description: Join us for A Taste of Tucker Road. There will be delicious food along with lively music and dancing for the entire family to enjoy.

Cost: Resident: \$10; Non-Resident: \$12  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Tucker Road Community Center  
1771 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD  
Contact: 301-248-4404; TTY 301-699-2544

### Craft Artists Talk

Date and Time: Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6:30-8 pm  
Description: Featured artists at the Brentwood Arts Exchange Fine Craft Store will discuss their processes and inspirations. The Brentwood Arts Exchange Fine Craft Store features one of a kind, hand-made items created by local artists. A unique gem in the Gateway Arts District, the store sells functional and fashionable items such as ceramic ware, jewelry, blown and fused glass, handbags, scarves, and other crafts.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange  
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD  
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: Old Country Buffet

Date and Time: Friday, November 20, 2015, 7-10 pm  
Description: Travel with us to Old Country Buffet in Laurel for a night of delicious food. We will depart at 6:30 pm and return by 9:30 pm. If you're not going to Old Country Buffet, join us at the center for board games.

Cost: Resident: \$12; Non-Resident: \$12  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Good Luck Community Center  
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD  
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: Campfire

Date and Time: Friday, November 20, 2015, 7-10 pm  
Description: Teens will enjoy roasting marshmallows by the campfire and telling stories.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Kentland Community Center  
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY 301-699-25444

### Brentwood Arts Exchange Listening Room presents:

#### The Honey Dewdrops

Date & Time: Friday, November 20, 2015, 8-10:30 pm  
Description: The duo Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish are The Honey Dewdrops. Their original songs can be described as a mix between narrative and prose. The Honey Dewdrops' folk & country music exude musical chemistry with shared vocals and guitars creating a sound that captivates audiences.

Cost: \$15/person  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Brentwood Arts Center  
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD  
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

### 31st Annual Pottery Sale

Date & Time: Saturday, November 21, 2014, 11 am-4 pm  
Description: Start your holiday shopping now by shopping for one-of-a-kind items such as baking dishes, baskets, garlic keepers sushi dishes, berry bowls and more. This event will showcase unique, functional, stoneware pottery for sale that was made at the Langley Park Community Center Pottery Studio.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Langley Park Community Center  
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD  
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

### Lula Washington Dance Theatre

Date & Time: Saturday, November 21, 2015, 2 pm & 8 pm  
Description: The nationally acclaimed Lula Washington Dance Theatre blends African, modern, ballet and performance art to create innovative and provocative dance pieces performed with powerful, high-energy artistry.

Cost: \$30/person (General Admission)\$25/person (Students, Seniors or Groups of 20 or more)  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, November 22, 2015, 2:30 pm  
Description: Enjoy music in the mansion, then meet the artists at a reception after the performance.

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

### Artists Talk: Looking Back/Looking Forward: 15 Years of Millennium Arts Salon

Date and Time: Sunday, November 22, 2015, 4-6 pm  
Description: This exhibition commemorates Millennium Arts Salon's (MAS) commitment to art and culture in the Washington, DC area for over fifteen years. Participating artists featured in this exhibition foster the dialogue between cultural consciousness, social expectations, and human emotion. Abstract forms, fictional characters, and symbolic representations give us an entry point to an open-ended exchange about human connectivity.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Brentwood Arts Exchange  
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD  
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... What's Being Done to Clean Up the Concrete Industry?

Dear EarthTalk:

I've heard that making and installing concrete takes a big toll on the environment. What's being done to clean up this industry?

—Jenn Chadwick,  
Washington, D.C.

The 20 billion tons of concrete produced around the world annually account for an estimated five to 10 percent of global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Concrete is one of the most widely used materials in the world, and the energy-intensive process to create it is the third largest source of planet warming CO<sub>2</sub>. According to a 2012 study from Scotland's University of Aberdeen, making a ton of concrete releases about a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. While the concrete industry has actually reduced its carbon emissions by a third over the last few decades, it still has a long way to go before becoming part of the solution to our collective climate woes.

Part of the reason concrete is so energy- and CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive to make is that it requires heating the mineral feedstock, alite, to 1,500 degrees Celsius in order to make it malleable. Researchers are working to develop mixtures using alternatives to alite that do not require such high temperatures during processing. The leading contender, belite, has a much lower temperature threshold while main-

taining similar strength. But belite takes months to set completely, while alite sets in just a few hours. Concrete makers continue to tinker with the mix as well as with other chemicals and additives in search of greener alternatives to alite.

Dust pollution generated by concrete's manufacture and disposal is another big concern. Quarrying entire mountainsides worth of rock for the aggregate that makes up the majority of concrete's material sends massive amounts of rock dust into the atmosphere. The back end of concrete's lifecycle is similar as demolition of buildings emits large amounts of concrete dust into the air. New technologies that trap and reduce dust emissions are making inroads, but not nearly fast enough, say environmental leaders.

Another green trend among concrete makers is recycling in one form or another. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), some are using waste ash products from other industries to create an entirely new, greener concrete mix. Others are focusing on collecting concrete chunks from demolition sites and crushing them to re-use in new construction projects. Such efforts require less energy and less water and as a result can reduce the carbon footprint of manufacturing concrete significantly.

Of course, all that finished concrete around us not only in-



CREDIT: TONY CYPHER, FLICKRCC

All that concrete underfoot accounts for as much as 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions globally.

hibits biodiversity—wildlife doesn't find paved-over areas particularly hospitable—it also leads to pollution, erosion and flooding as torrents of run-off can't naturally percolate through soils as they make their way downstream. So-called permeable concrete seeks to address this issue by absorbing much more water than traditional concrete, slowing down and significantly reducing urban run-off. Yet another concern is that concrete absorbs much more heat than does soil, so cities are often significantly warmer than rural areas, exacerbating the greenhouse effect. One solution to this so-called "urban heat island effect" may be lighter-colored concrete, which has been shown to reflect up to 50 percent more light than its more traditional darker counterparts.

While there is much innovation afoot within the concrete industry, the vast majority of concrete produced still isn't particularly green. Until some of these forward-thinking techniques and technologies become more mainstream, the pavement beneath our feet will continue to be a thorn in the side of those working to fight climate change and clean up our environment.

CONTACT: EPA, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

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

## Five Tips For Using Household Appliances More Efficiently

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDHCD

When you get your monthly electricity bill, do you ever wonder which appliances consume the most power?

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that major appliances in your home account for 13 percent of household energy costs. Our homes are a hub of activity for some energy-hungry appliances. Your refrigerator, clothes dryer and water heater use most of the electricity, according to this list.

There are many ways to lower your electricity bill and enhance your quality of life. This week, we've put together five tips for using appliances efficiently.

### Energy-Saving Tips for Appliances:

Is your refrigerator too cold? Cut energy use in your refrigerator and freezer by adjusting the temperature settings. Keep refrigerator temperatures at 35 to 38 degrees Fahrenheit, and freezer temperatures at 0 to 5 degrees. Adjusting the temperature 10 degrees lower than the recommended level can increase energy use by 25 percent.

1. Small laundry loads waste energy and water. Wash and dry only full loads and use lower temperature settings. According to Consumer Reports, doing laundry in cold water can save you \$60 annually.

2. Save up to five percent on water heating costs by

changing the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees to get comfortable hot water for most household uses. Learn more water heating tips from our previous post.

3. Using the same principle as the clothes washer, always wash full loads on the dishwasher. Use less water and energy by running the dishwasher once in the evening. Whether it's half-full or completely full, the dishwasher uses the same amount of water for every use.

4. Don't pay for phantom electricity. Even when they're off, televisions, phone chargers and hair dryers that are plugged-in are still using energy. Before you leave the house, take the time to unplug

all electronics that are in standby mode.

Lastly, when it's time to shop for new appliances, look for products with the ENERGY STAR and EnergyGuide labels for long-term savings.

You can also get innovative financing for energy efficiency improvements to your home through our Be SMART Home Loan program, which covers appliance replacement and upgrades. Be SMART offers flexible financing of up to \$25,000 for eligible homeowners.


We hope you put these simple energy tips into action. For more ways on how to save energy, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's website.

### WINTERIZE YOUR RAIN BARREL

As winter approaches, these tips may help you prepare your rain barrel for the cold months and save you the hassle (and expense) of replacing parts or even the barrel.

- ▶ Disconnect your rain barrel from the feeder gutter downspout and connect a temporary downspout extension to the feeder gutter to direct rain water away from the house or structure;
- ▶ Use or drain any water in the barrel as water left in the unit could freeze and crack the barrel;
- ▶ Open the barrel spigot to avoid hardware damage and remove attached hoses;
- ▶ Remove any debris in the barrel and the barrel's filter screen; and
- ▶ If possible, store your barrel indoors in a garage or basement during the winter months.

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Planning & Community Development and Office of General Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in the County's operations.



William E. Pelt  
County Executive

### Thabo from A6

NYPD. When asked, Se-folasha said, "I haven't made a decision on that." It would be more than understandable if he wants to put this behind him and focus on rejoining the Hawks. But it would be a public service if Thabo uses this victory as a platform to take a bite out of the NYPD and sue them for every last cent he lost,

and every moment of mental and physical anguish he endured last spring. Thabo could then take that money and start a legal fund for families who are subject to police brutality, yet don't have the means to hire competent attorneys. That act of solidarity would be epic and truly inch us forward to more families finding a measure of justice in a manifestly unjust environment.



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