

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 83, No. 48 November 26 — December 2, 2015 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

Prince George's County Housing Director Named Housing Person of the Year

By ALEXIS REVIS YEOMAN
PGCDHCD

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) at the organization's annual meeting and 15-year anniversary celebration. MAHC'S mission is to advocate for affordable rental housing in Maryland by ensuring adequate public and private resources, efficient housing programs and strong support among public officials at all levels of government. Mr.



PHOTO COURTESY
OFFICE PGCDHCD

Eric C. Brown

Brown was selected for his significant contributions to affordable rental housing in Mary-

See BROWN Page A3



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICER PHOTO BY BRITTANY BRITTO

Gov. Larry Hogan salutes a Maryland trooper at the re-opening of the state police barracks in Annapolis, on Nov. 3, 2015.

First JA Finance Park® Opens in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

RIVERDALE, MD—On October 27, 2015 Junior Achievement Greater Washington officially celebrated the opening of the very first JA Finance Park® in Prince George's County, on the campus of James Gholson Middle School, 900 Nalley Road in Landover, Maryland. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County, Department of Parks and Recreation, is proud to be a partner of Junior Achievement of Greater Wash-

ington and built an interactive entertainment storefront to showcase the exponential number of programs, jobs, and resources that the Department offers to Prince George's County and in the region.

"We want students' experiences in our entertainment storefront to be fun and engaging while also teaching them about our agency and the programs we offer, ranging from free to moderate cost options. It also introduces them to vol-

See PARK Page A6

One Year After Election, Hogan Focusing on Keeping Campaign Promises

By NAOMI EIDE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—One year after Gov. Larry Hogan shocked the state's political establishment and won the gubernatorial election on essentially a single-issue campaign, his administration has worked to cut spending and reshape the state's budget priorities.

Though details were few, Hogan's campaign promised

Marylanders he would cut \$1.7 billion in waste from the state government and roll back taxes while upholding government priorities and making the state friendly to businesses.

Since his Nov. 4, 2014, election, Hogan, a Republican, has rolled back road, tunnel and bridge tolls, and pared back fees from some state agencies.

Mileah Kromer, a professor of political science at Goucher College, said that people al-

ways like to see the fulfillment of campaign promises.

"I think that his pushing to cut fees over the summer was well received," Kromer said. "He is certainly pursuing the policy initiatives which he talked about."

"You could say he is looking out for the taxpayer," said Warren Deschenaux, executive director and chief budget analyst for the Department of Legislative Services.

"Governor Hogan will have control of the budget, so he will have the opportunity to squeeze further and create savings," said Deschenaux. "When he has done that, we will look at that and see what he has accomplished."

Every January, the governor submits the budget to the Maryland legislature, which

See HOGAN Page A5

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Supports Local Step Squad with a \$1,000 Donation

By PRESS OFFICER
ESFCU

GREENBELT, MD—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union donated \$1,000 to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Dem' Raider Boyz (DRB) Step Squad on October 22 as a thank you for performing at the Credit Union's Employee Conference.

The DRB Step Squad is an all-male step team founded in 2001 on the principles of brotherhood, scholarship, community service and fun. The team practices 15 hours a week and routinely performs and competes in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and along the east coast. The young men of the DRB Step Squad are not only successful on stage but also in the classroom. Each year they maintain a team average GPA of 3.5 or higher with many members receiving above a 4.0 GPA. DRB members have a 100% graduation rate, and over 95%



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU

Vic Samuels (VP, Community Relations at Educational Systems FCU) presents a \$1,000 check to Mr. Reginald McNeill (Principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School) and Richard Melvern (step team coach).

of them are accepted and continue on to colleges and universities around the country.

"It was our pleasure to share the talent of the DRB Step Squad with Educational

Systems FCU," said Reginald McNeill, Principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. "We appreciate the donation and their continued support of education."

The DRB Step Squad is coached by Richard Melvern, who is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and a founding member of the team. Under his leadership, the DRB Step Squad has won dozens of first place trophies, been featured on several nationally televised broadcasts, enjoyed four undefeated seasons and is the 2014 Youth Step USA National High School Stepping Champion. In May of 2014, they were named the best team in the country since they took first place in every competition entered since 2011.

"For us, it's an honor to support education," said Chris Conway, President/CEO of

See ESFCU Page A3

PEPCO Donates Smoke Alarms for 11th Consecutive Year

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

For the 11th consecutive year, PEPCO has donated smoke alarms that will be installed in homes by firefighters. On a weekend that included the day firefighters urge residents to provide a fresh battery in their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms or to upgrade to 10-year alarms, PEPCO provided the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services with 1000 10-year smoke alarms each. This

year's donation from PEPCO brings the total number up to 30,000 of these lifesaving smoke alarms donated to area fire departments.

Pete Pedersen, PEPCO Emergency Preparedness Manager and Emergency Services Partnership Program Coordinator, presented the alarms and stated, "PEPCO is pleased to once again make this donation of smoke alarms. These alarms will be installed in homes by firefighters throughout the region and help resi-

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PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS

(L to R) Pete Piringer, Pete Pedersen and Mark Brady at PEPCO smoke alarm donation in Rockville, MD.

INSIDE

Hogan Administration Announces \$600,000 Partnership With Garrett County for Homeownership

The initiative is part of Governor Larry Hogan's focus on changing Maryland for the better by making government more effective and more accessible, particularly in rural communities.

Community, Page A3

Revising the Undemocratic 'Map of Shame'

Most people are represented directly because they are voters, but those who can't vote—children, non-citizens, formerly incarcerated people who have not had their voting rights restored, and others who are disenfranchised—are all represented indirectly.

Commentary, Page A4

USDA Invests in New Market Opportunities in Local and Regional Food Systems

USDA has helped the market for local food grow to an estimated \$11.7 billion in 2014. Between FY 2009 and FY 2014, USDA invested more than \$800 million in more than 29,100 local and regional food businesses and infrastructure projects.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: "The Last Witch Hunter"

Diesel plays a lumpen marble-mouth named Kaulder, on whom the Witch Queen placed a curse back in the 13th century that he would never die. Then he killed her. Today, he travels the world, arresting witches who disobey the rule not to use magic against humans.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

My neighbor uses Roundup in her yard routinely and tells me it's harmless to people and pets, but I've heard that it is carcinogenic. Can you set the record straight?

—Maise Alexander,
New Hope, PA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Surratt House displays seasonal decor, antique dolls and toys

Enjoy the holiday season as the country binds up its wounds after four long years of the Civil War. The Surratt House invites you to visit and enjoy the period decorations, the charm of antique dolls and toys, refreshments, and interaction with folks in period attire.

Receive a holiday discount in the excellent museum shop and sample cider and cookies.

The House will be open for tours Tuesday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 13 (except Dec. 7 and 8). Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission: adults, \$3; seniors, \$2; and children \$1.

The Surratt House Museum is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. For information, call 301-868-1121. The House will close for the season Dec. 15 through Jan. 15.

Santa comes to town

Morningside is hosting Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 12, 9 a.m. at the Town Hall (Santa arrives about 10:30). Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee.

Registration and payment (\$3 per person) will be accepted at the Town Hall Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. No one will be admitted without a reservation, as seating is limited.

Neighbors

Hazel Ball, of Skyline, is training to master a cane after a long period of being in a wheelchair and dealing with prosthesis. Part of her left leg was amputated some time ago. Say a prayer that she gets really good on that cane.

County Executive Baker delivered seasonal remarks at National Harbor's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Nov. 14.

Condolences to the family of Steve Ferralli, teacher and coach, who died Nov. 14 while awaiting a donor heart. I'll pay tribute to him in next week's column.

Oxon Hill Library closed for "facelift"

Oxon Hill Branch Library will close from Nov. 22 through Dec. 21 for new carpeting and other

renovations. The email I received calls the closure a facelift.

Christmas with U.S. Army Concert Band

The Army Band will perform at the Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting, 100 East Capitol Street N.E. in Washington, on Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.

The Band will also perform at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 3 p.m. Tickets are free and available online at <http://goo.gl/nwgivf>.

Other things to do

The Festival of Lights at Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro will be open Nov. 27 to Jan. 1, 5:00 to 9:30 each night. Admission is \$5. The multi-visit pass is \$10; mini-bus or limo, \$15. Free Christmas Day. When you go, bring canned goods for local food banks.

Winter is about ice-skating and ice hockey. Head for the Tucker Road Ice Rink. It offers public skating, classes, adult pick-up hockey, youth hockey teams, birthday parties, a warming room, and more. Call 301-265-1525 for information.

ICE! is back at National Harbor. It offers 2 million pounds of colorful ice sculptures and two-story ice slides. Also, Santa and scenes from a holiday classic come to life in this walk-through winter attraction. The Frostbite Faction has a live ice-carving zone. Tickets start at \$28 for ages 12 and up; \$20 for ages 3 to 11. Info: 301-965-4000.

Changing landscape

A granite memorial was dedicated, on Nov. 6 at Walker Mill Regional Park in District Heights, to the victims of a 2008 medical helicopter that crashed, killing four and seriously injuring another. The deceased were pilot Stephen Bunker, Trooper 1st Class Mickey Lippy, volunteer emergency medical technician Tanya Mallard and 17-year-old Ashley Younger who had been injured in an auto accident. The survivor is Jordan Wells who was in the auto accident with her friend Tanya. She attended the dedication along with family members of the victims. The site of the acci-

dent is a marked a short distance from the memorial.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture, on the Mall, celebrated the completion of its exterior by turning its outside walls into a giant movie screen two days last week. The movie flitted from the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery in 1865, to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The new museum will open to the public in about a year.

Weatherman Topper Shutt predicts we'll have between 10 and 15 inches of snow this winter and the first measureable snowfall will be Jan. 17. Enjoy.

A sad time for the Colandrea family

Back in the 1970s and '80s, Andrew Colandrea and his family lived on Morgan Road in Morningside. He was a baker for Wonder Bread and a beloved coach for the Bowie Bulldogs. In fact, he had a fatal heart attack during coaching practice Sept. 27, 2007. His first wife, Peggy, had died in 1975.

His second wife, Carol, 73, died on Oct. 13. She lived in Lyons Creek, Md., and was retired from NASA. Survivors include nine children and stepchildren, and grandchildren.

Then on Nov. 1, his daughter-in-law, Janie Colandrea, 44, died of brain cancer.

Survivors include her husband David; three children, Jessie, Johnie and Devin; and two grandchildren. Janie was the sister-in-law of Holly Jean Nichols, formerly of Morningside.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Arthur Rose, Nov. 27; Thomas Shipman, Sr., Nov. 28; Devin Kane Blade, Nov. 29; Karen Windsor, Alexis R. Paige, Ramona Britt and Patricia Branch, Nov. 30; Mary Doyle, Susan McKay and Jon Foster, Dec. 1; John Anthony, Jr., Vonn Branch and Tyonda Simms-Taylor, Dec. 2; Louise Lantz, Mary Straud and Sen. Mike Miller, Dec. 3.

Happy anniversary to Gary and Ivy Kline on Nov. 28.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all my readers!

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

OLD MARYLAND FARM

Old Maryland Farm is an educational farm located in Watkins Regional Park at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Call 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2554 for information to schedule birthday parties. The farm also offers curriculum-based school programs for kindergarten thru grade 12, hayrides and farm programs. The Park has year-round livestock displays donkey, ducks, rabbits, goats, chickens, cows, ponies and llamas.

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Parish Cancer Care Ministry, Rev. Constance C. Smith invites you to attend a Praise Service "In the Midst of a Storm" on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 4:00 PM. The program will include New Hope Fellowship Choir, The Mighty Wonders, Special Guest Choirs, New Hope Fellowship Liturgical Dance and a Spoken Word of Cancer. Light refreshments will be served.

Cancer Care Ministry Praise Service will be at our South Campus: Christ United Methodist Church, 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Mary-

land 20608. There will be a free will offering. For more information contact Shonnita Lee (202) 527-8598. Email: nhf-cancer-care-ministry@gmail.com. Website: www.thenhf.org. Facebook.com/New Hope Fellowship Md.

SENIORS ON STAGE AUDITIONS

Audition to be part of the 2015 seniors on Stage Show being held in the spring at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts. Please call for details or to register to audition. Auditions are scheduled every 15 minutes. Ages 60 & better; free at Prince George's Ballroom. Call 301-446-3400; 301-446-3402.

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

CAFÉ NEW HOPE

CAFÉ NEW HOPE Nottingham Myers Campus celebrated their 148th church anniversary ("Growing Forward") on Sunday, November 15, 2015. Narrator was Alicia Johnson; Liturgist was Bridgette Cotee Simons. Guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Walter Middlebrooks, former Pastor of Nottingham Myers. Musical selections by New Hope Fellowship Choir. We also had the pleasure of having Senator Mike Miller of Maryland, friends and family members to attend our anniversary service.

Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church is an outgrowth of the "Old Salem" meeting house which sat on the banks of the Patuxent River at Nottingham during the early to mid-1800s.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE

Neighborhood Events

Edwards and Comstock Amendment to Overhaul WMATA Board Accepted

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Today, an amendment offered by Reps. Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) and Barbara Comstock (VA-10) to overhaul appointments and oversight of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) board of directors was adopted in the House Amendments to Senate Amendments to H.R. 22, the DRIVE Act. Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) has championed this effort in the Senate.

"It is no secret that WMATA continues to face significant challenges addressing safety, performance and management," said Rep. Edwards. "WMATA's board of directors determines the agency's policies and provides oversight for the funding, operation and expansion of transit facilities. Our bipartisan amendment is an important step forward to reforming the leadership and oversight of WMATA by giving the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) the authority to appoint the four federal members to the WMATA board. Currently, the General Services Administration (GSA) has had this sole authority. I thank Sen. Mikulski and Rep. Comstock for this bicameral and bipartisan effort to bring a much-needed overhaul to the selection process for WMATA's board that I am confident will help improve safety and reliability."

"This bipartisan amendment grants the U.S. Secretary of Transportation authority to appoint someone with real transit experience to the WMATA board," said Rep. Comstock. "It is paramount that Metro meets all the necessary safety requirements. Metro will only win the public's trust again if it changes its culture. Our amendment that passed today is necessary to achieve that goal. I appreciate working with Congresswoman Edwards in shepherding this important amendment through the House."

"I will not rest until Metro produces safety results," said Senator Mikulski, who fought to get the first-ever federal rail transit safety standards passed into law. "I have demanded new leadership and a new culture of safety at Metro. I've introduced Senate legislation to give the U.S. Transportation Secretary the authority to name federal representatives to the Metro Board. We need strong leadership on the Board to attract strong leadership at Metro."

WSSC Significantly Increases Spending with Minority and Women Business Enterprises
Contract Payments Equal \$134.4 Million in FY15

LAUREL, MD—WSSC's spending with Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) increased significantly in Fiscal Year 2015, continuing a positive trend in WSSC's efforts to ensure that all segments of the local business community have a reasonable and significant opportunity to participate in WSSC contracting.

In FY15, WSSC increased the amount of money paid to M/WBE firms to \$134.4 million. This is 25 percent of the overall amount paid to vendors (\$542.7 million) in FY15



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

and represents an increase of 34.5 percent over FY14 figures. In addition, WSSC awarded \$187.9 million in contracts to M/WBE firms out of a total of \$674.3 million in FY15, or 28 percent—a 5 percent increase over FY14.

This information is included in the FY15 Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise Performance Results Report, which WSSC is required to submit annually to the Maryland General Assembly. The Report, which was released to legislators on Friday, can be accessed on the WSSC website: <http://www.wsscwater.com/legreport/>.

"I am very proud of the ongoing transformation brought about by our Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise Office," said WSSC GM/CEO Jerry N. Johnson. "Over the last 10 years, WSSC has awarded more than \$1 billion to minority—and women-owned businesses, as well as local firms. These efforts are spurring job creation, developing the capacity of these businesses to grow, investing in the local economy and exhibiting a strong commitment to our community."

The MBE program is predicated on a disparity study conducted every five years, which assesses WSSC's procurement activity with M/WBE firms. The last study was conducted in 2010 and a new study is now underway. In order to complete the 2015 Disparity Study, WSSC has contracted with MGT of America, Inc. The results and a final report will be completed by the end of FY16.

PG County Initiates East Riverdale and Beacon Heights Sector Plan

New Community Tool Launched to Engage Residents on Community Vision

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) requests public involvement in developing a new sector plan for the East Riverdale and Beacon Heights area of the County, through the use of a Community Wikimap Planning Tool. The sector plan area includes several landmarks such as the Riverdale Plaza Shopping Center, the commercial corridor along Kenilworth Avenue and the neighborhoods of Riverdale Heights, Riverdale Hills, Crestwood, Templeton Knolls, Eastpines and Beacon Heights. It also contains two planned Purple Line light rail stations—Riverdale Park and Beacon Heights.

"I am excited this plan is moving forward at two important neighborhood nodes where reinvestment is needed," said Prince George's

County Council Member Danielle Glaros (D) – District 3. "Both are along the Purple Line route and it is important to have an updated, visionary plan in place."

The sector plan will focus on developing a strategic plan of action addressing a range of issues including: land use, economic prosperity, transportation and mobility, natural and built environment, housing and neighborhoods, healthy communities, public facilities, and community heritage, culture and design.

"The demographics and character of the neighborhoods have changed," said Fern Piret, Planning Director. "We are hoping that the community's input can help guide quality of life enhancements for current and future residents, businesses and surrounding neighborhoods."

Ideas and suggestions on the future of this community can be provided through the use of the Wikimap Planning Tool. This tool allows users to recommend improvements like walkable trails, sidewalks, bike routes and more by drawing points and lines on an editable map. Users can also provide feedback on others' recommendations. The information gathered will help shape the plan recommendations.

Residents and other stakeholders can visit: www.pg-planning.org/ERBH.htm to learn more about the East Riverdale and Beacon Heights Sector Plan and to input their ideas into the interactive Community Planning tool.

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Office of Information Technology is pleased to provide a new public Graphical Information Systems (GIS) mapping application for the Board of Elections.

The Prince George's County GIS Voter's Information application is a map based viewer providing County maintained information on Early Voting Sites, Polling Places and the Elected Officials for that polling place. The application has two tools, an Early Voter Site Map tool and a Polling Place and Elected Officials Map tool. Voters can enter in any address or their location from a mobile device to the Early Voters Map tool and find the closest Early Voters site and driving directions to that location.

When the Early Voter sites open for voting, the site will provide wait times for each of the nine Early Voting sites. The Polling Place and Elected Officials Map tool allows voters to enter in a valid Prince George's County address and find their polling place and driving directions to that polling place. By using the Elected Officials tab in the application, a listing of Federal, State, and County Representatives for that address is shown as well as contact and web information for that representative. The map can be viewed in a street or aerial imagery view and be emailed to anyone or posted to social media.

To access the application, please go to the PG County Board of Elections Polling Place website at <http://gisonline.princegeorgescountymd.gov/electionpollingplace/default.htm>

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Making Holidays Bright—And Affordable

Already dreading what you'll spend this holiday season? It doesn't have to be that way.

Gifts aren't the only budget-busting culprit during the holidays. The weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's are also a peak time for spending on groceries, travel, events, entertainment, energy, clothes and meals out.

Financial advisors recommend you use no more than 1.5 percent of your annual income on holiday spending (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/holiday>), so consider the following suggestions to keep it under control:

Start with a list and make a budget. Begin your planning by listing every possible holiday expense you'll face—and don't stop at gifts. Consult the Practical Money Skills for Life comprehensive holiday budget planner (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/yourholidaybudget>) to help organize your information and track your spending.

Be open about money trouble. If you are facing financial difficulties during the holiday season, don't spend to hide the problem. Don't be ashamed to make adjustments and tell friends and family members that you'd like to temporarily downsize your spending until conditions improve. They might actually appreciate a spending reprieve, too.

Build a bargain-hunting strike force. Let friends and family know you're looking for particular toys, gifts, foods or decorating items and volunteer to do the same for them. Save and share coupons. Encourage your group to find resources, check prices and share requests and ideas via social media. Results can come back in a matter of minutes.

Evaluate all transportation costs. Do you really need to run out of one or two items at a time? Designate certain days of the week for particular items, keep an eye out for free delivery and see if friends and family might want to share errands. Those with large vehicles or trucks can help move, deliver and even install appliances or electronics if they have the skills to do so. Smart transportation choices extend to car pools or public transportation for events and entertainment.

Leverage your creativity. If there's something you make or do really well that people love, consider making such accomplishments into gifts. From specialty food items your friends enjoy, to clothing or art, anything done well can be a gift. Don't rule out lessons or skilled labor as potential holiday gifts, particularly for relatives who can't afford such services at this time. Smart shopping for ingredients or supplies can make such creative gifts a real money saver.

Build a year-round gift stash. If there are gifts or food-stuffs you can buy on sale and keep for a while, you'll have a ready source of thank-you gifts for hosts, teachers or co-workers year-round. Set aside a similar area for cards, gift tags and wrapping paper. Also keep in mind that many retailers put holiday-themed items on sale before the holidays are finished. If you think you'll need these items next year, grab your coupons, take advantage and put those items aside for future gift giving.

Late saving for gifts? Do it anyway. If you don't have a holiday fund set up, don't let that keep you from starting one. Every little bit helps. Take 5-10 percent of your next paycheck and set it aside, doing it each week throughout the holidays. If you keep it up, your holiday fund can eventually become an emergency fund to be used for other savings goals, including retirement.

Take notes for next holiday season. Create a paper or digital file where you can collect ideas for next year. Check print and online resources like Consumer Reports for items that can be bought at specific times of the year at a discount so you are able to hide them for the holidays—but remember where you hid them.

Bottom line: Keeping holidays affordable isn't a challenge when you're willing to do a little planning, idea-sharing and record-keeping. Make it an activity you can do year-round.

Alarms from A1

Chief Marc Bashoor. "10-year smoke alarms are the best protection in receiving an early alert and provide a precious few moments to escape a burning house."

"We are grateful to PEPCO for this generous donation of smoke alarms."

Pete Pedersen made this year's donation at Montgomery County Trivilah Fire/EMS Station in Rockville to Pete Piringen and Mark Brady, spokesmen for their respective Departments.

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The Prince George's Post

Call Brenda Boice

301 627 0900

Hogan Administration Announces \$600,000 Partnership With Garrett County for Homeownership

Initiatives Announced for Homebuyers and Current Owners for Home Improvements

By PRESS OFFICER MDHCD

MCHENRY, MD—The Hogan administration and Garrett County Commissioners on Wednesday announced Maryland Pathway to Homeownership in Garrett County, an upcoming partnership between the administration and the county that will help an estimated three dozen potential homebuyers purchase a home in the county by making down payment and closing costs more affordable.

With \$300,000 of down payment assistance from the county and \$300,000 committed from the state for down payment assistance, closing costs, and loans and grants for home repair, the program offers significant resources for potential homebuyers and current homeowners. This is believed to be the first such partnership between the county and the state to encourage homeownership.

"A healthy housing market is key to a healthy economy," Governor Larry Hogan said. "We are proud to partner with Garrett County to not only help homeowners improve their aging homes with upgrades and enhanced efficiency but also encourage new homeowners to plant roots in Garrett County for many years to come."

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Single Family Housing Program Director Amy Grutzner and Garrett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Paul Edwards announced the new partnership at the Town of McHenry's homeowners meeting at Garrett College, which was also attended by staff members from the single family and energy programs. Further details will be announced on Nov. 10.

Residents in Garrett County will also find it easier to apply for state grants and low interest loans to make much-needed improvements to their homes through housing and community development programs.

The department brings the ease of one-stop shopping to help homeowners—including senior citizens and those with special needs—invest in improvements that can save money on heating and cooling costs, enhance livability and make repairs to meet building codes for safer and healthier living. The initiative is part of Governor Larry Hogan's focus on changing Maryland for the better by making government more effective and more accessible, particularly in rural communities.

Attendees learned how the loan program can be used to improve the safety, comfort and accessibility of the whole home by:

- Adding accessibility features such as hand railings, ramps, grab bars and wider doorways
- Correcting building code violations
- Installing energy conservation materials and insulation
- Installing EnergyStar appliances and retrofit lighting
- Rectifying structural or maintenance issues



PHOTO COURTESY MDHCD

Some Garrett County residents drove more than 30 miles on Wednesday to get information about a new homeownership partnership between the Hogan administration and the county.

- Reducing and eliminating lead paint hazards
- Repairing or replacing heating and cooling systems
- Repairing plumbing and septic systems
- Replacing or repairing roofs and porches
- Sealing air and whole house envelope
- Upgrading energy-efficient appliances

"These programs are examples of Governor Hogan's commitment to rural Maryland," said Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "Empowering rural communities is vital to strengthening our local economy and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens."

Applications will be accepted until the allocated grants are reserved. To learn more about home improvement loan programs, call 1-301-429-7802 and for energy efficiency programs, call 1-855-583-8976.

The department's one-stop shopping approach was first introduced with great success in September before homeowners in Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore.

Visit dhcd.maryland.gov for additional information on all housing and community development programs.

Brown from A1

land; his work to help advance the interest of the affordable rental housing community in Maryland through advocacy, 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 Director 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 Balti-

more 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 funding to assist in building affordable rental housing in Prince George's County; he is spearheading a plan to acquire foreclosed homes, rehabilitate them and sell them to low and moderate income residents; and he is working through a myriad of administrative issues the agencies face to make DHCD, the Housing Authority and the Redevelopment Authority operate efficiently and effectively as they deliver services to low and moderate income residents and families in Prince George's County. Because of his direction and guidance, DHCD was awarded the prestigious HAND Award for Best Government Housing Initiative for its My HOME Homeownership Program by the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) in June, 2013.

"As I have worked with Eric over the years, he has exemplified true character and is very deserving of this award," said Ivy Dench-Carter of Pennrose Properties, a real estate development company with projects in Maryland and D.C.

ESFCU from A1

Educational Systems FCU. "The DRB Step Squad created a unique routine that was centered on the Credit Union's values of integrity, competence, commitment and respect. Their performance was outstanding and made our Employee Conference memorable. We wanted to give a donation to thank the team for their contribution to our Employee Conference and to help sup-

port them as they continue to perform and compete."

Educational Systems FCU (esfcu.org) has proudly served the education community for 60 years. With \$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.



PHOTO COURTESY ESFCU

The DRB Step Squad performing at the Credit Union's Employee Conference.

Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Frosh, Civil Rights Groups and Law Enforcement Discuss Efforts to End Discriminatory Profiling and Move Forward on Criminal Justice Reform

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh (both D-Md.) were joined by representatives from the law enforcement and civil rights communities to discuss federal, state and local efforts to end discriminatory profiling by police and enact meaningful criminal justice reform. Today's briefing follows a recent national poll signaling strong and crosscutting support for a national ban on discriminatory profiling. Despite popular opinion and data proving that the practice is inefficient, there is no national prohibition against discriminatory profiling. A video of the briefing can be streamed here and Senator Cardin's and Maryland Attorney General Frosh's remarks are available for download.

"Your constitutional rights should not change based on where you live or where you travel. This is what is happening to millions of law-abiding Americans without a nationwide ban on discriminatory profiling. The reason for ending discriminatory profiling should be clear: it is against the values that we as Americans stand for and fight to defend. It's counterproductive. As we've seen, it also can be deadly," said Senator Cardin. "We need a single national standard to define what constitutes racial and discriminatory profiling and to outlaw practices that waste resources and damage relationships between law enforcement and the communities they protect. I thank the diverse group of pan-

elists and observers who gathered today to help make progress on this issue. I extend special thanks to Attorney General Frosh for making Maryland a national leader in ending discriminatory profiling."

"Those of us in public office have a responsibility to rebuild trust between our communities and the law enforcers who keep them safe. It is sadly clear that those relationships have become badly frayed — particularly in black communities, but also in many other places," said Maryland Attorney General Frosh. "I firmly believe that ending discriminatory profiling means better police work, better police work means stronger and safer communities. I am proud to have led the effort to end racial profiling in Maryland and strongly support Senator Cardin's efforts to do the same nationwide."

Speaking in support of the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, Prince George's County, MD Sheriff Melvin C. High said, "Excellence in policing within the boundaries of the Constitution is not in opposition to the idea that policing can be effective, smart and compassionate, and 21st Century policing must always occur in an environment that promotes ethical behavior."

"While issues of mistrust and accountability from law enforcement have plagued communities

See JUSTICE Page A7

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The Higher Education Act: 50 Years of Making College Achievable

"This act means the path of knowledge is open to all that have the determination to walk it. It means a way to deeper personal fulfillment, greater personal productivity, and increased personal reward ... It means that a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or any university in any of the 50 States and not be turned away because his family is poor ... So to thousands of young people education will be available. And it is a truism that education is no longer a luxury. Education in this day and age is a necessity."

—President Lyndon B. Johnson, Remarks on Signing the Higher Education Act of 1965, November 8, 1965

There is good news coming from the halls and classrooms of our nation's high schools.

High school graduation rates are on the rise, which means the dropout rate has fallen and continues to fall. For the first time since states began uniformly calculating graduation rates in 2008, the nation's overall graduation rate reached a high of 81 percent for the 2012–2013 school year. While deep achievement gaps remain the norm, preliminary data from the Department of Education for the 2013–2014 school year also reveals a narrowing of the graduation gap between white students and students from low-income families, students of color, students with disabilities and English language learners. As we usher greater numbers of high school graduates into the workforce, are we prepared to ensure that—for those who want it, but cannot afford it—their journey in education does not end on a high school graduation stage?

Today's technology-fueled, fast-paced, global economy was not our nation's reality when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Higher Education Act of 1965 into law half a century ago, but even then, Johnson had the foresight to recognize the value of a post-secondary education, understanding that our nation would ultimately, "reap the rewards of their wiser citizenship and their greater productivity for decades to come." In its 50 years of existence, the HEA has offered

financial aid, grants, federally guaranteed loans and work opportunities to millions of high school graduates. It has opened the once closed doors to higher education to low-income families, making college affordable for millions of families who could not afford the necessity.

Like it's legislative companion, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—created to close the education achievement gap between lower- and higher-income children in our nation's public schools—the HEA was a powerful cornerstone in the president's "War on Poverty" initiative. He understood, as we understand, that education continues to play an integral role in future opportunities and success. Our recognition of Johnson's foresight must move beyond appreciation and accolades. We must, and can, continue to build on the success of the HEA. This current generation has both the opportunity and the obligation to be the architect of the next great advance in higher education. We must ensure that colleges are held accountable for skyrocketing tuition hikes. Any reauthorization of the act must address the growing problem of students saddled with outsized student loan debt after graduation. Funding for Pell grants should not be compromised and there are still improvements to the student loan process that need to be made to ensure access to affordable quality education.

Education has always proven to be a wise investment—and an economic imperative. Better educated citizens and a highly skilled workforce will always strengthen our country and our economy and our global economic standing. We know that today there are fewer and fewer viable career options for individuals who only have a high school diploma. To deny our rising numbers of high school graduates the opportunity to climb the ladder of success because of financial disadvantage is unfortunate, unnecessary and unwise. When we ensure equal opportunity to education—regardless of your background—we ensure a stronger America committed to growing its middle-class, and we remain committed to the heart and purpose of the Higher Education Act.

Memorial Peace Cross

The Memorial Peace Cross is an area landmark that has become synonymous with the historic town of Bladensburg.

The Snyder-Farmer Post of the American Legion of Hyattsville erected the forty foot cross of cement and marble to recall the forty-nine men of Prince George's County who died in World War I.

The first enlisted man from Prince George's to die in the line of duty (WWI) was George B. Farmer.

The cross was dedicated on July 13, 1925, by the American Legion.

A bronze tablet at the base of the monument contains the unforgettable words of Woodrow Wilson: "The right is more precious than the peace; we shall fight for the things we have always carried nearest our hearts; to such a task we dedicate ourselves."

At the base of the monument are the words, Valor, Endurance,



Open to the Public

Courage, Devotion. At its heart, the cross bears a great gold star.

The cross towers above the convergence of Baltimore Av-

enue, Bladensburg Road, and Annapolis Road. The Memorial is also situated near the WWI, Korean and Vietnam Memorials for those who gave the supreme sacrifice in Prince George's County for our Country.

The memorial has endured a lot in its time including major floods from the nearby river.

Due to its location at a major roadway junction, pollution and weather have shown some signs of wear to the Memorial. Fortunately, the memorial is maintained regularly and has had some major restoration and repair.

The site is a major landmark in the Maryland, District of Columbia, Bladensburg basin.

But most important of all, is the fact it memorializes those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Big One, (Over Their) World War I. Let us not forget!

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Revising the Undemocratic 'Map of Shame'

"What we know about all of these voter suppression laws is that they have certain populations in their crosshairs, populations who they are trying to prohibit participation in the franchise because they fear that they will vote in a way that's not favorable to the legislators who are enacting the legislation..."

"We've got to really understand the ideology, because as we sit here and we talk about our republic and we talk about democracy, there are people who absolutely don't believe in those principles. They believe that no one has a 'right' to vote. They believe that voting is a 'privilege,' and that privilege only should be conferred upon certain people."

Barbara Arnwine has long been sounding the alarm about twenty-first century efforts to turn back the clock on voting rights. She recently founded the Transformative Justice Coalition after serving for many years as Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and head of its Election Protection efforts, the nation's largest non-partisan voter protection coalition. Under her leadership the Lawyers' Committee created a "Map of Shame" highlighting states where new or pending legislation threatens to suppress the right to vote—which, as she says, remains under attack in 2015 by forces who still believe the right to vote should stay in the hands of a precious few.

Many of the new laws making it more difficult to vote appear to be cynical attempts to blunt the political power of rapidly growing populations of people of color as our nation confronts the changing reality of who is a "minority" and who is a "majority." Others specifically appear to target younger voters, the poor, and the elderly. Alabama made some of the latest headlines for its decision to close a wave of driver's license offices in disproportionately Black, rural areas in October, leaving eight out of the 10 counties with the highest percentage of non-

White registered voters without a Department of Motor Vehicles—making it much more difficult for residents in those counties to get their licenses and fulfill the state's strict photo ID voter requirement. Voter ID laws are just one of the dangerous new kinds of laws threatening to disenfranchise voters. The problem they allegedly address, voter identity fraud, has been documented to be nearly nonexistent. But people of color, immigrants, poor people, and old and young voters, including students attending college away from home, are less likely to have the forms of identifications required by states' laws and more likely to have trouble obtaining birth certificates, paying fees, or going through other hoops.

Not even voiceless children are exempted from assault. The Children's Defense Fund has filed a friend of the court brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Evenwel v. Abbott*, in which some citizens are suing the state of Texas seeking to change the answer to a fundamental democratic question: who gets counted as a person when states determine proportional representation?

There is a constitutional principle that elected officials represent every individual in their district, including non-voters, and the majority of states currently count all people who live in a district when drawing district boundaries. Most people are represented directly because they are voters, but those who can't vote—children, non-citizens, formerly incarcerated people who have not had their voting rights restored, and others who are disenfranchised—are all represented indirectly. But the *Evenwel* case is challenging the state of Texas's current traditional use of total population measure for redistricting in its state Senate, and seeks instead to count only citizens of voting age when drawing districts. Attacking that long-standing practice is part of a broader effort to diminish the rights of certain—especially non-White—groups and powerless groups, including children, reminiscent of other efforts to suppress voting rights. Children's health, education, and economic security depend on healthy state budgets and good public policies. Our nation has a vital stake in the

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The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2015, The Prince George's Post

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Prince George's County, Md. Member National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia Press Association. The Prince George's Post (ISSN 10532226) is published every Thursday by the New Prince George's Post Inc., 15207 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151. Subscription rate: 25 cents per single copy; \$15 per year; \$7.50 senior citizens and students; out of county add \$1; out of state add \$2. Periodical postage paid at Southern Md. 20790. Postmaster, send address changes to Prince George's Post, P.O. Box 1001, Upper Marlboro, Md. 20772-3151.

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Tips For Making Holiday Travel Less Stressful

We're hitting some of the heaviest travel seasons of the year—families getting together for Thanksgiving or making that trek back home for Christmas. And while once upon a time it may have been a pleasant “over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house we go,” today it's more likely to be bad traffic jams, long airport security lines and flight delays over which you will have no control.

While there's no way to eliminate these transportation headaches, there are things you can do to control and minimize the stress they can bring.

First is simply accepting what you can and cannot control. No matter how angry or stressed you get that traffic jam isn't going to disappear, the TSA line won't suddenly shrink, and that big storm delaying your flight won't magically vanish.

Instead, look for things you can control in order to lower your stress level. If it's a traffic jam, start playing a word game or singing silly songs with the family. If driving alone, turn on the radio, count to 10, and realize that soon you'll be rolling again. The idea in any such stressful situation is to re-focus your anger and frustration. Instead of being mad in that TSA line, silently scan those around you and try to guess where they're going, what their job is, or why they dressed like that to go in public.

Airport delays are common, but sometimes planning can help minimize problems. Try booking an early flight, when airports are often less crowded. This also leaves some extra time to handle a delayed, cancelled or over-booked flight.

And if your flight does get cancelled, experts advise using your cell phone to call the airline, or use the airline's app, rather than getting angry as you wait in that long line to the harassed ticket agent.

If you'll be traveling with kids, whether by plane or car, a little pre-planning can help avoid hungry, complaining, unhappy children adding to the stress. Bring along snacks, reading materials, maybe a game or two to keep them fed and occupied.

And learn the rules. In today's world of extra security check what can go in carry-on luggage and what can't. Know that wrapped presents may have to be opened at security. Holiday travel doesn't have to be high stress, even if that holiday dinner with Uncle Ed probably will be anyway.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org

Hogan from A1

in turn makes cuts and restrictions. The General Assembly must approve the budget bill in April, one week before the end of the session to avoid going into extended legislative session, according to the Department of Budget and Management. The budget year runs from July 1 through June 30.

In September, eight state agencies reduced more than 200 fees, which, according to the Hogan administration, are expected to save taxpayers approximately \$10.2 million per year over the next five years.

Hogan has helmed the announcements of additional windfalls for Maryland residents—though they would have taken place regardless of who was in Government House—including a reduction to taxes businesses pay to fund unemployment insurance, and up to \$200 million in local-tax refunds.

“We've been through a process of making large and small adjustments now for most of the last decade,” said Deschenaux. “There could still be more room for the budget to economize,” looking at “what can and cannot be accomplished with the resources that have been devoted.”

Most businesses in Maryland will pay between \$25.50 and \$127.50 less per employee per year because of growth to the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. The rate changes were triggered by a formula calculated at the end of September.

Hogan also touted in September that some residents can

apply for tax refunds as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision, which said it was illegal for taxpayers to pay local income tax in both Maryland and other jurisdictions.

Agencies' fee changes that were at Hogan's discretion will have varying levels of impact on Maryland residents.

For example, in the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, fee changes are expected to affect approximately 59,000 individuals, based on the number of licensees or applicants. According to Summar Goodman, a spokeswoman with the department, those affected are expected to save a total of more than \$1 million a year. For example, broker and salesperson license fees paid to the Maryland Real Estate Commission were each reduced by \$20.

Fee changes in the Department of Natural Resources are expected to benefit approximately 4,500 people, from tree experts to game husbandry license holders and those who qualify for a Golden Age Pass for launching boats in state parks, according to Karis King, a spokeswoman with the Department of Natural Resources.

Though the administration has reduced and eliminated numerous agency fees, “the people of Maryland, I'm sure, have not noticed any reduction in services or quality of what the state does,” said House Minority Leader Nicholas Kipke, R-Anne Arundel.

Following cuts to spending and fees, Delegate Tawanna Gaines, D-Prince George's,

USDA Invests in New Market Opportunities in Local and Regional Food Systems

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

Over the course of the Administration, USDA has created new economic opportunities in the growing market for local and regional foods for new and established farmers, ranchers and small food business entrepreneurs. Through investments at the farm level in the form of production research, credit and conservation assistance; infrastructure investments that connect farmers and consumers; and strategies to increase access to healthy foods in rural and urban communities, USDA has helped the market for local food grow to an estimated \$11.7 billion in 2014. Between FY 2009 and FY 2014, USDA invested more than \$800 million in more than 29,100 local and regional food businesses and infrastructure projects.

Helped Farmers and Ranchers Tap into New, Local Markets

- Increased support for farmers and ranchers developing new products to sell locally. Between 2009 and 2014, the number of Value Added Producer Grants awarded to local food projects jumped by more than 500 percent. During the 2013–2014 funding cycle, USDA dedicated nearly \$11 million—nearly half of the awarded funds—to 116 unique local food projects through this program.

- Helped producers construct nearly 15,000 high tunnels on farms around the country between 2010 and 2015. These low-cost greenhouses extend the growing season, reduce input costs, conserve natural resources and make locally-grown produce available for a greater portion of the year.

- Provided nearly 15,000 microloans to farmers and ranchers in all 50 states, many of whom take advantage of local marketing opportunities, since the program was launched in January 2013. This program provides smaller loans of up to \$50,000 for small-scale, diversified producers. 70 percent of these loans have gone to beginning farmers.

- Expanded consumers' access to information about local food through our National Farmers Market Directory, which now lists nearly 8,500 farmers markets nationwide. USDA has also launched several new Local Food Directories for Community Supported Agriculture enterprises, food hubs, and on-farm stores.

- To provide better pricing data to industry, lending institutions and insurers, USDA launched a new program through the Agricultural Marketing Service's Market News to gather and report prices for local food and organic products. USDA is working to ensure that this data can be used by Farm Service Agency loan officers and in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program risk protection program to provide the right level of coverage for farms selling into these premium markets.

Improved Infrastructure to Connect Producers with New Markets

- Made over 900 investments in local food infrastructure between FY 2009 and FY 2015—including food hubs, local processing facilities and distribution networks—to help connect farmers and consumers through strong regional supply chains and create jobs along the way.

- Supported a near doubling of the number of food hubs between 2009 and 2014, with more

than 300 now operational around the country. USDA investments help plan, design and build hubs, while USDA research informs best practices and helps lenders understand how to work with these unique businesses. Food hubs aggregate products from small and midsize farms and distribute them to large-volume buyers, such as grocery stores, in the local region. On average, each food hub supports 20 jobs and generates nearly \$4 million in annual sales.

- Invested in direct sales opportunities like farmers markets that keep more of the food dollar in farmers' pockets and improve consumer access to fresh, healthy and local food. The number of farmers markets has grown by 81 percent nationally since 2008. Since 2009, USDA has helped more consumers connect directly with farmers through the Farmers Market Promotion Program, providing \$60 million in assistance for over 900 projects nationwide between FY 2009 and FY 2015 to grow and expand farmers markets and other direct marketing opportunities. The 2014 Farm Bill expanded FMPP to include the Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP), which supports other local food marketing channels like food hubs, distribution networks and CSAs. LFPP has funded over 350 projects totaling nearly \$25 million since it launched in 2014.

Improved Access to Healthy, Local Food

- Expanded access to healthy foods in underserved communities by increasing the number of farmers markets that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Over 6,000 farmers markets and direct marketing farmers now accept EBT, and SNAP redemption at

farmers markets nationwide rose from \$4 million in 2009 to over \$18 million in 2014.

- Invested in 221 projects in 49 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands over the past three years that help to create new marketing opportunities for farmers and ranchers in schools through the Farm to School grant program, which began in 2013 and is funded through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. According to preliminary data from USDA's Farm to School Census, schools spent nearly \$600 million on local food purchases during the 2013–2014 school year.

- Supported communities that use local food as a strategy to reduce food insecurity. Between FY 2009 and FY 2014, USDA has provided \$28 million to 154 Community Food Projects in 48 states to help communities improve access to healthy, local food.

Sharing USDA's Tools That Support Local Food Systems

The Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative (KYF2) coordinates this work across the Department, ensuring that USDA's programs and policies are evolving to meet the needs of this growing sector of agriculture. The KYF2 website is a one-stop shop for resources and information about USDA programs and support for local and regional food systems. In addition to featuring information about relevant grants, loans, research and other tools, the KYF2 website features the Compass, which maps over 4,500 federally funded local food projects on the Compass Map from USDA and 11 other federal agencies between FY 2009 and FY 2014. All of the data on the map are downloadable, searchable and updated annually.

Gerard Evans, an Annapolis-based lobbyist and adjunct lecturer of public policy at the University of Maryland, College Park. “I still think he's getting resistance from the bureaucracy, from the government.”

“But even in this short period of time, I sense a whole new mood in the state and the bureaucracy,” Evans said. “It's still a young administration. It does take time.”

Under Hogan's leadership, Kipke said, state agencies were required to find savings in their departments, cutting fees and using resources more wisely.

When he proposed the budget in January, Hogan cut all state agency spending by 2 percent to disrupt “the ongoing cycle of excessive spending and borrowing” from tax hikes.

“He's not Mr. Politics, he's Mr. Action,” said Kipke. “He's actually doing it.”

The state budget is based on a mandated spending formula, according to Delegate Kathy Szeliga, R-Baltimore and Harford County, and the House minority whip.

Less than 20 percent of revenue generated from within Maryland falls under non-mandated spending, which the governor has some discretion to allocate.

Out of the total revenue generated in-state last fiscal year—a combination of general, special and higher education funds—\$23.4 billion, or 81.1 percent, was mandated spending. That left about \$5.5 billion in general funds that the governor had some flexibility with, according to the Department of Legislative Services.

Delegate Eric Bromwell, D-Baltimore County, said, “I think (Hogan's) absolutely doing a lot of things he said he wanted to do” and has taken steps to identify taxes and fees that can be cut without the involvement of the legislature.

Bromwell, personally, said he has always voted against tax increases, advocating for spending more wisely and creating a more efficient government.

Hogan has not been in office for a full year yet, but he has worked with his new administration to set priorities in reducing fees and taxes, including changes to the “rain tax,” Szeliga said.

The General Assembly passed the stormwater management fee—nicknamed the “rain tax”—in 2013 to help fund federally mandated programs for environmental cleanup caused by polluted water runoff in urban areas.

The “rain tax” repeal, passed in April, allows counties to find other ways to meet their requirement without collecting the fee.

“Tax policy makes a difference and Hogan knows it,” Szeliga said. “We're trying to turn it around.”

Hogan's campaign platform was rather general, without much detail, whereas the campaign of former Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown, a Democrat, had a more detailed platform, according to Roy Meyers, a political science professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Though it is too early to tell whether Hogan is living up to

his campaign promises, Meyers said, he has sent signals during the Board of Public Works meetings by being tight with the taxpayer's money and sensible with spending.

Hogan, along with Comptroller Peter Franchot, a Democrat, has questioned how some vendors are spending state funds. Since January, he has criticized several requests to fund sole-source contracts, and has pushed back on requests for retroactive or emergency payments without full explanations.

For example, Hogan questioned requests from Maryland universities for additional construction funding beyond originally approved estimates.

“We're trying to be fiscally responsible... and I hear some people at universities talking about wanting to raise tuition rates, and we're here talking about \$35 million more than you thought you were going to spend,” said Hogan at a Board of Public Works meeting in February. “It just seems out of whack to me.”

“Those statements have more public relations value than dollar value,” Meyers said. Hogan is “reassuring his political base that he is trying to live up to his campaign pledges.”

Hogan is good at establishing a point of view in a simple way, which solidifies public support for his government, Meyers said.

Erin Montgomery, a spokeswoman with the governor's office, said that the platform Hogan was elected on has happened. “We're just getting started.”

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

“The Last Witch Hunter”

The Last Witch Hunter
Grade: D
Rated PG-13, moderate
fantasy violence
1 hr., 46 min

I hold movies to the same standard as people: if you can't be good, you should at least be fun. *The Last Witch Hunter*, starring inarticulate golem Vin Diesel as an immortal Catholic tasked with keeping the peace between witches and regular folk, fails to be either. Instead, director Breck Eisner (“The Crazies,” “Sahara”) opts for chaotic action and half-baked digital effects, all in the service of a thin story with no interesting characters.

Oh, and the film desperately, DESPERATELY wants to be the beginning of a franchise, too. Which is always a great motive for making a movie.

Diesel plays a lumpen marble-mouth named Kaulder, on whom the Witch Queen placed a curse back in the 13th century that he would never die. Then he killed her. (Witch, curse thyself!) Today, he travels the world (but mostly New York City), arresting witches who disobey the rule not to use magic against humans. He's assisted in this by a priest called a Dolan. His new one, Dolan 36 (Elijah Wood), is going to help him solve the murder of Dolan 36 (Michael Caine, who was around just long enough to be an exposition-providing narrator). A collaborator witch named Chloe (Rose Leslie), who is a Dreamwalker (it doesn't matter), is also lending a hand.

The screenplay, by the writers of “Dracula Untold” and “Priest,” is loaded with refer-



ROTTENTOMATOES

The modern world holds many secrets, but the most astounding secret of all is that witches still live amongst us; vicious supernatural creatures intent on unleashing the Black Death upon the world. Armies of witch hunters battled the unnatural enemy across the globe for centuries, including Kaulder, a valiant warrior who managed to slay the all-powerful Queen Witch, decimating her followers in the process. In the moments right before her death, the Queen curses Kaulder with her own immortality, forever separating him from his beloved wife and daughter in the afterlife. Today Kaulder is the only one of his kind remaining, and has spent centuries hunting down rogue witches, all the while yearning for his long-lost loved ones. However, unbeknownst to Kaulder, the Queen Witch is resurrected and seeks revenge on her killer causing an epic battle that will determine the survival of the human race. © Summit

ences to a complex mythology that could make this a fascinating world, if it were developed and those references were explained. But it skips over the more immediate concern: making THIS story and THESE characters compelling. Kaulder cannot be killed, and doesn't seem to be tormented by that fact. (“You know what I'm afraid of?” he says. “Nothing.

It's boring, really.” YEAH, NO KIDDING.) For most of the film, he's trying to regain his memory of the day the Witch Queen cursed him, as he believes he will find clues there regarding the death of Dolan 36. But his reason for believing that is nothing more than a vague clue left by the dying Dolan—hardly enough to hang the whole plot on it.

And so we are disappointed, not because “The Last Witch Hunter” is bad (we sort of expected that), but because it's not even the enjoyable kind of bad. More filmmakers need to learn that we'll go along with any fantasy premise, no matter how ludicrous, as long as you show us a good time. Boring us with random details and dry stories won't cut it.

Park from A1

unteer and employment opportunities so we can grow the next generation of parks and recreation professionals,” said Ronnie Gathers, Director of Parks and Recreation for Prince George's County. “We will also use JA's curriculum to teach financial tools to our young, first-time employees this summer as they earn their first paychecks, which makes our partnership with JA Finance Park unlike any other in the country.”

“JA Finance Park® is about inspiring a generation of Prince George's County youth to be financially capable. It's about giving them the power to make the right financial choices and a new perspective on why staying in school and setting college and career goals is important to their ability to achieve their dreams,” said Ed Grenier, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Greater Washington.

Before students travel to JA Finance Park®, they take part in JA's unique 14-lesson classroom curriculum, split into four main categories, taught by their teacher. This knowledge serves as a foundation in personal finance education and gives them the skills they need to take on their JA Finance

Park® experience with everything they need to be successful. Students' experience culminates at JA Finance Park®, where these young people have the opportunity to put their newly-learned skills to the test in this digital, 21st century, innovative learning environment. The “mini-city” houses a variety of storefronts and kiosks, correlating to the personal budget lines each student must manage during their JA Finance Park® visit.

As students enter JA Finance Park®, they take on a life scenario: an avatar with a career, salary, credit score, debt, a family, and financial obligations. The students make their way through various phases of the day. At the Department of Parks and Recreation, students will encounter:

- A life-size “Padzilla” (giant smartphone) complete with customized apps and web pages geared towards education and to serve a multi-purpose function of getting the children engaged, the ability to share some of the programs and job opportunities we offer, our parks and historic rentals all while combining technology and education.

- A mad-lib style magnetic black board with sentences structured around parks and recreation.

- Large murals that display our parks and amenities along the walls of the storefront, including a picnic table with ADA approved grass alongside a river.

- Spinning “budget disks” that reflect the Department of Parks and Recreation free, payment required, and career or volunteer opportunities for things to do.

- A large Kevin Durant cut out with quotes that showcase his journey to success through Parks and Recreation.

- A ballet barre with mirror that highlights opportunities in the arts.

- And, a wall-sized map with map key that highlight, the facilities, parks, playgrounds, historic sites, and community centers where they might want to visit, work, play, volunteer or bring their families.

JA Finance Park® Prince George's County is Greater Washington's second financial literacy supercenter. In addition to Capital One's signature sponsorship, the JA Finance Park® facility and operations are supported by a broad cross-section of the region's leading businesses and organizations through storefront, kiosk, and educational exhibit partnerships within the facility. Partners include Capital One Investing, Chick-fil-A of Capital Boulevard and Steeplechase, Commu-

nity Foundation of the National Capital Area, Doctor's Community Hospital, E*TRADE, Enterprise Rent a Car, Financial Assurance Corporation, Geico, Lerner, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, PenFed Credit Union, Pepco Holdings, Inc., Prince George's County Community College, UnitedHealthcare, Walmart, Washington Gas, and the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation.

The Department of Parks and Recreation, recipients of an unprecedented six gold medals for excellence, provides comprehensive park and recreation programs, facilities and services which respond to changing needs within our communities. The Department strives to preserve, enhance and protect our open spaces to enrich the quality of life for present and future generations in a safe and secure environment. For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook and Twitter. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

Watch from A4

well-being of its children. But all these efforts to subvert the democratic process continue and we must fight to stop them in every form.

There has never been a safe time in America to drop vigi-

lance about attempts to deny people the vote or fair legislative representation. As Frederick Douglass taught us more than 150 years ago, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” Barbara Arnwine adds: “All of us have to be involved

in this fight, because we are in an entrenched battle. The United States can't do anything about the fact that demographic change is coming. It's a reality, and it's one that we shouldn't run from. Whoever heard of a nation being ashamed of its demographics? ... What's more

beautiful than having people of many multiracial populations and ethnic cultures? What's more beautiful than having the mash-up of all that, and the creativity that flows from it when

See WATCH, Page A12

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Challenging Major League Baseball's New Managerial Color Line



In 1972, just days before his death, Jackie Robinson attended the World Series to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his trailblazing entry into Major League Baseball. Suffering under the weight of failing health and looking decades older than his 53 years, Robinson seized that very public moment to tell a tough truth in front of a television audience of 60 million people. He said that he was grateful to be honored. However, “I'm going to be tremendously more pleased and more proud when I look at that third-base coaching line one day and see a black face managing in baseball.”

One could only imagine what Robinson would say if he was still with us today. At a moment when playoff ratings are on the rise, the sport's statistics on managerial diversity has not been this grim in decades. We have data that MLB and the baseball media seem loath to discuss. We have data that new commissioner Rob Manfred needs to publicly confront. Now.

Last week the Seattle Mariners fired their skipper Lloyd McClendon, putting the number of African-American managers at a big, round zero. There are those who would shrug this off and link these stats to the declining number of African-Americans in Major League Baseball: now roughly just 8 percent of all players. They would point out that Latinos—largely from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela—have come to be 30 percent of all players on MLB rosters and conclude that the managerial numbers merely reflect this cultural shift. They would be wrong. Perhaps even more shocking than the data on African-American managers is the total number of Latino managers: one. There is Fredi Gonzalez of the Braves ... and that is all. This is collectively a mammoth step backwards from just a few short seasons ago. As the 2015 MLB Racial and Gender Report Card by Richard Lapchick and his institute at the University of Central Florida pointed out, there were 10 managers of color as recently as 2009. Lapchick's managerial grade for MLB, released at the start of 2015, was a D, which now seems like it is due for a downgrade.

If there is a symbol of why that D should be an F, it was the news revealed this week that three-time manager-of-the-year Dusty Baker unsuccessfully cold-called the San Diego Padres to see about their managerial opening. This comes after a full season of Baker making clear to the media that he wants to get back in the game. As Howard Bryant of ESPN pointed out on Twitter, the part of this story that makes you shake your head is the fact that it's Dusty Baker calling the Padres for an interview, and not vice versa.

The absence of African-American managers perhaps does reflect the much-debated larger patterns of alienation and marginalization from baseball experienced throughout black America. But, given the number of Latino players, many of whom struggle with English as a new language or have had to overcome searing culture shock to make the journey from the baseball academies of the DR to Major League Baseball, the absence of Latino managers is just gobsmacking. It reflects more than the persistence of racist hiring practices or tin-eared executives. It shows above all else that baseball—despite bathing itself in the history of Jackie Robinson—has no affirmative-action policy with teeth. It has nothing like the National Football League's Rooney Rule that compels owners and executives to interview candidates of color. Let that sink in for a moment: When your racial-justice policies pale in comparison with the NFL, something rancid is happening behind closed doors.

Now that we are in the heart of October, when the spotlight shines brightest, the sport needs to have the courage to face some tough truths: It lacks an organizational commitment to managerial diversity. It lacks—at present—an ownership group with the baseline fortitude of the Steelers Rooney family, willing to stand up and demand change. It especially lacks what yanked the NFL away from an unspoken whites-only coaching carousel: civil-rights attorneys in the tradition of Cyrus Mehri and the late Johnnie Cochran, willing to sue the league back to the Stone Age unless major changes were imminent. This is perhaps what needs to happen if MLB continues to make it patently clear that they won't go there on their own. As Jackie Robinson said so presciently, “I don't think that I or any other Negro, as an American citizen, should have to ask for anything that is rightfully theirs. We are demanding that we just be given the things that are rightfully ours

See BASEBALL Page A7

Calendar of Events

November 26 — December 2, 2015

Black Friday Sale

Date & Time: Friday, November 27, 2015, 10 am-7 pm
Description: This is how holiday shopping should be: calm, friendly, local, and full of beautiful items! One day a year, fittingly the day after Thanksgiving, we reduce our commission on sales and mark down everything in the Fine Craft Store 20%—but still pay the artists the same as with a regular sale.

Come support our local artists!
Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Skate Night

Date and Time: Friday, November 27, 2015, 7-9 pm
Description: Teens will enjoy an indoor skating party at the community center with their friends. There will be a DJ, so get ready to have fun.

Cost: FREE
Ages: Ages 10 & up
Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Teen Choice Night

Date and Time: Friday, November 13, 2015, 7-10 pm
Description: Enjoy a full night of fun, because it's your choice. That's right, whether it's a movie in the gym, games in the lobby, or arts and crafts, it's YOUR choice. you name it. Come early to get the first pick and sign up for other activities.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Luck Community Center
8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Pizza Night

Date and Time: Friday, November 27, 2015, 7-10 pm
Description: Teens will become the chefs in the kitchen as they make personal pizzas.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 13-17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

16th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show

Date and Time: Friday-Sunday, November 27-29;
Friday-Sunday, December 4-6;
Friday-Sunday, December 12-14 12 noon-5 pm
Description: For a sweet treat, come view an amazing display of edible gingerbread houses!

Although tempting, no nibbling allowed! You will have the opportunity to vote for best house in the Viewer's Choice Award Competition.

If you are interested in entering the contest, please contact the museum for further details. The deadline to enter the contest is November 13, 2015. Group entries are welcome by appointment.

Cost: \$1/person; Children 4 & under free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum
14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro
Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Flashlight Hide & Seek

Date and Time: Saturday, November 28, 2015, 7-10 pm
Description: Bring a flashlight to join us for flashlight hide & seek.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Laser Tag

Date and Time: Saturday, November 28, 2015, 7-10 pm
Description: Teens will enjoy a fun night of laser tag with their friends, as they take a trip to Laser Sport in Laurel, MD. Departure is at 7 pm with a return time of 10 pm. Participants must bring the required signed permission slip to attend. Please bring your own spending money.

Cost: Resident: \$20; Non-Resident: \$20
Ages: 13-17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Karaoke Night

Date and Time: Saturday, November 28, 2015, 7-10 pm
Description: Tonight you are invited to a Xtreme Teens karaoke night. Show your talent as you have fun singing along to your favorite songs.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Vansville Community Center
6813 Ammendale Road, Beltsville
Contact: 301-937-6621; TTY 301-699-2544

All Hung Open Exhibition: "Gratitude"

Date and Time: Through Sunday, December 27, 2015, 10 am-5 pm
Description: In the antithesis of a curated show, artists answer a general call for entries inspired by the theme "Gratitude." Bring one piece of art per person and a donation of five canned goods.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages may visit; 18 & older may enter
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Does Monsanto's Roundup Cause Cancer or Not?

Dear EarthTalk:

My neighbor uses Roundup in her yard routinely and tells me it's harmless to people and pets, but I've heard that it is carcinogenic. Can you set the record straight?

—Maise Alexander,
New Hope, PA

Monsanto's Roundup herbicides contain three key components: the active ingredient glyphosate, water, and a soap-like surfactant blend. The agricultural application of glyphosate has skyrocketed over the past 20 years. According to the U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Agricultural Use for Glyphosate" map, in 2012 over 250 million pounds of glyphosate were used on crops in across the country—a substantial increase from the less than 22 million pounds used in 1992.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified the cancer-causing potential of glyphosate as Category E ("evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans"), but the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently re-classified it as a group 2A "probable" carcinogen. IARC's recent evaluation of glyphosate found "limited evidence of carcinogenicity in humans for non-Hodgkin lymphoma" and "convincing evidence that glyphosate also can cause cancer in laboratory animals."

Justice from A4

of color for decades, we are encouraged by the attention and action from Senator Cardin's office and now the state of Maryland to pass legislation that would prevent the use of racial profiling by law enforcement officers; improve data collection at all levels; require training and enforcement measures; and ensure oversight by the Department of Justice," said Lakshmi Sridaran, Director of National Policy and Advocacy, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). "This is especially critical for South Asian communities who have been unjustly targeted, profiled, and surveilled by law enforcement, especially since 9/11."

"Racial profiling not only goes against our Constitution,

Monsanto struck back, stating that the IARC's conclusion "conflicts with the overwhelming consensus by regulatory bodies and science organizations around the world ... which have found no evidence of carcinogenicity." Monsanto added: "Further, the 2A classification does not establish a link between glyphosate and an increase in cancer. 'Probable' does not mean that glyphosate causes cancer; even at 100 times the exposure that occurs during normal labeled use glyphosate is not a human health risk."

In September 2015, in response to the IARC findings, the California EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) announced its intent to list glyphosate as a carcinogen under the state's Proposition 65 law. In California, businesses are required to provide "a clear and reasonable warning" before knowingly and intentionally exposing anyone to a Proposition 65 listed chemical. Once a chemical is listed, businesses have a year to comply with the warning requirements. OEHHA is accepting public comments until October 20 on whether glyphosate should be listed under Proposition 65.

"If they decide to list this chemical [under Proposition 65] and it survives the inevitable legal challenges, I think it's possible that every bottle of Roundup or glyphosate formulation sold in the state of California would have to be labeled

but also our country's values of equality and equal justice under law. It also hinders law enforcement officials from doing their job and using their scarce resources effectively," said Jennifer Bellamy, Legislative Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union. "Congress should make it a priority to end the practice in this country by passing the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA)."

"In order to combat racial bias in its conscious and unconscious forms, it is critical that police receive the proper training and guidelines in order to enhance officers' opportunities and ability to engage meaningfully with the communities they serve," said Dr. Linda R. Tropp, a professor of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Baseball from A6

and that we're not looking for anything else."

Candidates of color have the right to know that they will at least be interviewed for baseball's managerial openings. Dusty Baker has more than earned the right to not be treated like a 22-year-old college grad cold-calling

for jobs. We all deserve the right to enjoy October confident that the ghosts of Kenesaw Landis and his ilk no longer haunt this beautiful game. If the sport truly wants to say that they stand in the tradition of civil rights and the memory of Jackie Robinson, then that can't be done with speeches and commemorations. It has to be earned in the present tense.



CREDIT: GROW FOOD NORTHHAMPTON, FLICKRCC

Protestors worry they might be exposed to potentially carcinogenic glyphosate when neighbors apply Roundup to their driveways, yards, gardens and farms.

as known ... to cause cancer," Nathan Donley, a staff scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, told Pacific Standard. "It would be a huge deterrent for the purchase of this product, at least in that state." He added that Monsanto has created a "false narrative" that glyphosate is safe. "That position clearly can't be maintained anymore ... and I think it will probably be a precursor for hopefully federal action, at least federal acknowledgment that glyphosate does cause cancer."

In addition to the threat of a warning label on their

CONTACTS: Monsanto, www.monsanto.com; EPA, www.epa.gov; IARC, www.iarc.fr; Center for Biological Diversity, www.biologicaldiversity.org.

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

Senator Cardin has been working to end racial profiling and broader discriminatory profiling on the national level for years. In the 114th Congress he has introduced three bills containing provisions to do so. In response to the April unrest in Baltimore, Senator Cardin introduced legislation designed to address many of the core issues that have led to an erosion of trust among communities and law enforcement. S. 1610, officially named the "BALTIMORE Act," would help communities nationwide by "Building And Lifting Trust In order to Multiply Opportunities and Racial Equality" (BALTIMORE). Along with Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.), Senator Cardin reintroduced The End Racial Profiling Act, S. 1056/H.R. 1933, which is de-

signed to enforce the constitutional right to equal protection of the laws by eliminating racial profiling through changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice. It also promotes best practices in community based law enforcement. In October, Senator Cardin introduced the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act (LETIA), S. 2168. The legislation takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of police accountability and building trust between police departments and the communities they protect. This legislation also provides incentives for local police organizations to voluntarily adopt performance-based standards to ensure that incidents of misconduct will be reduced through appropriate management, training and oversight protocols.

It has been an even 40 years since Frank Robinson became the first African-American skipper in Major League Baseball history. It has been 28 years since team executive Al Campanis was fired from the Dodgers for saying on ABC's Nightline—in what was supposed to be a celebration of Jackie Robinson—that black players "did not have

the necessities" to become Major League Baseball managers. It has been 23 years since Cito Gaston became the first black man to manage a team to a World Series title. And now we are all the way back to where we started. It's time for change: a change many thought had already been achieved. Rob Manfred: You're up.

TURN DOWN THE HEAT TURN UP THE SAVINGS

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, water heating is the second largest expense in a home and accounts for 14-18 percent of utility bills. The average household uses 64 gallons of water every day and spends \$400-600 per year heating water. Here are a few tips that may help you conserve water in your home and save money on your energy bill:

- ▶ Wash your clothes in cold water;
- ▶ Set your hot water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or lower;
- ▶ Fix leaks: a leak of one drip per second can cost a \$1 a month; and
- ▶ Wrap your water heater in an insulating blanket. It can help save 4-9 percent in water heating cost.

Source: www.energy.gov/articles/new-infographic-and-projects-keep-your-energy-bills-out-hot-water



Barbara L. Baker, III
Utility Inspector

ENVIRONMENT
New for Green

Prince George's County Second Nature is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Resource Planning, Authority, and Office of Central Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behaviors.