

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 1 January 7—January 13, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

## County \$400,000 EDI Fund Award to Create and Retain 375 Jobs at Kogok Corporation



PHOTO COURTESY MRSPA

Left to Right Ebony Stocks, EDC EDI Fund Manager; Jeffrey Kogok, Kogok Corp. President; Dawn Medley, FSC First VP Business Financing.

By Press Officer  
PGEDC

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation along with FSC First celebrated the official awarding of a \$400,000 loan from the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) to Kogok Corporation. Kogok Corporation is a County-based business that currently has 343 employees and will be adding 32 more positions in the near future. The EDI funding will be utilized to purchase manufacturing equipment to support the company's expansion of its operation.

"We are very pleased that we were able to support this Prince George's-County based business with assistance from our EDI Fund," said Ebony Stocks, EDC's EDI Fund Manager. "The Kogok Corporation is a major contributor to the con-

struction boom in Prince George's County. Having the ability to provide financial assistance to this important community contributor is exactly what the EDI fund was designed to do."

Kogok Corporation manufactures and installs commercial duct work and has been located in Prince George's County since its incorporation in 1995. Kogok provides services to industry sectors such as education, health and industrial, as well as supports commercial and high rise residential properties throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region. In recent years, due to the high volume of construction in Prince George's County, this rapidly growing manufacturing company has plans to move into a larger space by March 2016 in

See KOGOK Page A5



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY NAOMI EIDE

From left to right, Jeffrey Kelly, director of the Field Enforcement Division for the Comptroller of Maryland, Comptroller Peter Franchot and Deputy Comptroller Sharonne Bonardi announced the proposal of the Taxpayer Protection Act on Dec. 1, 2015, in Annapolis.

## Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot Proposes Legislation to Help Curb Income Tax Fraud

By NAOMI EIDE  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland's comptroller on Tuesday proposed legislation to boost penalties for tax-related crimes and increase the state's prevention and enforcement efforts.

"Tax fraud and identity theft associated with it are a growing

concern across the country as personal information becomes more and more available to perpetrators and as schemes become more and more sophisticated," said Comptroller Peter Franchot.

Franchot, a Democrat, is responsible for Maryland's revenues, including tax collection. His proposed Taxpayer Protection Act is designed to allow of-

ficials to better detect and prevent fraudulent tax activity.

In 2007, the comptroller's office stopped 314 fraudulent returns worth approximately \$656,000. As of the end of October 2015, the comptroller's office has stopped 18,709 fraudulent returns totalling more than \$38 million, according to Franchot.

Since he took office in 2007, the comptroller's office has stopped approximately \$152 million in tax fraud, Franchot said.

Franchot did not say how much fraudulent tax returns have cost the state.

See TAX FRAUD Page A2

## Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards Bonnie Curry Brose

By PRESS OFFICER  
MRSPA

Bonnie Curry Brose, a Prince George's County Public Schools retired kindergarten and special education teacher, was honored by the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on October 22 for her extraordinary humanitarian community service.

At the MSCHF luncheon, Brose was presented with the GERI, the geriatric "Nobel Prize" for extraordinary humanitarian community service. Since 1987, MSCHF, a private all-volunteer organization, has publicly recognized and honored individual senior citizens who are at least 65 years of age.

At the October luncheon, 48 nominees were inducted into the Hall of Fame for the year 2015. Only five were selected for the GERI award.

To be inducted into the Hall of Fame, nominees must live in Maryland and have performed outstanding service in their communities.

Brose is an active member of the Prince George's Public Schools Retirees Association



PHOTO COURTESY MRSPA

Awards recipients; Mrs. Bonnie Curry Brose (right) and Mr. Parker Koons (left), who was the recipient of the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame prestigious GERI award for community service.

and the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association and serves on their various committees as well as past president of each.

She is frequently seen volunteering at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and has been an active member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Committee for the

National Symphony Orchestra since 1999.

Voluntarily participating in the Instrument Petting Zoos, Brose assists children in the opportunity to play musical instruments before special concerts at the Kennedy Center.

See AWARDS Page A5

## Prince George's County Council Appreciates Capitol Hill Support for FBI Move to PG County

FBI Relocation to Prince George's Could Bring 11,000 Jobs to Maryland—More than 40% of FBI Employees Already Call Maryland Home

By Press Officer  
PG County Council

The Prince George's County Council greatly appreciates the leadership of U.S. Congress Members representing the state of Maryland and their strong and continuing advocacy for the relocation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to Prince George's County. Two of the three relocations sites under consideration, Landover and the City

of Greenbelt, are in Prince George's County.

Demonstrating solid support from the start of this initiative, U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, together with U.S. Representatives Steny Hoyer and Donna Edwards (all D-Md.), have been steadfast in their leadership on Capitol Hill to bring the FBI headquarters to Prince George's County. Most recently, they joined Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III,

to announce that \$390 million in federal funding has been included in a \$1.1 trillion federal budget bill to begin the initial design, engineering and construction of a new fully consolidated FBI headquarters. County residents can be assured that "We are All In" to bring this critical economic development project, and its 11,000 jobs to Prince George's County and the state of Maryland.

See FBI Page A3

## PG County Planning Department Releases Study Examining Residents Access to Healthy Food

By Press Officer  
MNCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) today presented to the Prince George's County Planning Board a summary of the "Prince George's County Food

System Study," a report aimed at assessing County residents' access to healthy food and recommending policies to help eliminate disparities.

To compile the study results, researchers surveyed hundreds of residents, conducted a number of focus groups, and surveyed County supermarkets and smaller food stores for healthy food availability. Based on the research findings,

the study shows that equitable access to healthy food in the most urbanized parts of Prince George's County continues to be an issue, with residents experiencing difficulty accessing quality, nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food within a reasonable distance from where they live.

See FOOD Page A7

### INSIDE

#### Hogan Administration to Invest More than \$11 Million to Revitalize Downtowns, Strengthen Communities

Funding provides assistance for critical pre-development activities such as demolition and land assembly in order to attract needed public and private investment to revitalization projects. The administration is awarding \$2.075 million to nine projects. Community, Page A3

#### What Will 2016 Bring for Economic and Political Opportunity and Social Justice?

The Court's decision on *Fisher v. University of Texas*, brought by a white woman who claimed she was denied admission to UT because of her race, could put an end to efforts by educational institutions to ensure diversity among their student bodies. Commentary, Page A4

#### Unclaimed Property List Includes State Agencies, Famous Marylanders

The office does not track the average amount associated with the holdings. Last year, an unnamed woman claimed more than \$1 million in stocks and dividends through the unclaimed property program, according to a news release from the comptroller's office. Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*

In our world, the exploits of Luke, Han, and Leia are common knowledge, as much a part of our cultural history as the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In the movie's fictional galaxy, however, the events surrounding the rebellion against the Galactic Empire have passed into myth. Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest in cutting-edge, hyper-efficient solar cells? Are we really moving beyond huge photovoltaic panels anytime soon?

—Michael Williams,  
Hartford, CT

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return next week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### HUNTINGTON

Huntington is your tutoring solution. No matter what subject your child struggles with, Huntington can help. Huntington has highly trained tutors who work individually with students to improve grades, skills and confidence. Their programs are tailored to address each student's need. To learn more about Huntington Tutoring Programs visit [www.HuntingtonHelps.com](http://www.HuntingtonHelps.com) or call 301-705-7100.

#### DeSOUL CAFÉ

DeSoul Café serves real food for your soul. The Café is located at 7651 Matapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, Maryland 20613 in Brandywine Crossing, just behind the Xscape 14 movie theatre. Hours are Monday—Closed, Tuesday—Thursday 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Friday & Saturday—11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Sunday—11:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Sunday Brunch—11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Café is now serving alcoholic beverages. Call 301-782-9752 for carry out orders, seating and catering information.

#### Tax Fraud from A1

The act would increase the statute of limitations for tax-related crimes to six years, allowing officials more time to fully investigate crimes and press charges. The current statute of limitations is three years.

Under the proposed law, people committing certain tax-related crimes would face felony instead of misdemeanor charges, according to the comptroller's office news release.

For those tax preparers under investigation for committing fraud, officials could place injunctions to stop them from filing more returns, according to Franchot.

The act would also provide officers in the comptroller's field enforcement division with additional powers needed to enforce tax law, including issuing subpoenas and signing charging documents, Franchot said.

The comptroller's office has "some authority to issue administrative subpoenas," said Jeffrey Kelly, director of the comptroller's Field Enforcement Division. The legislation would "expand on that slightly but it will

#### 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 fifteen minutes for age 60 & older; free at Prince Georges' Ballroom. Call 301-446-3400; 301-446-3402 for more information.

#### PATUXENT RIVER 4-H CENTER

The Educational Center is open to groups by reservation. The Center is open for group camping, facility rentals, overnight cabins, 4 H activities, environmental education programs, farming programs and canoe launch on site.

The address is 18405 Queen Anne Road, Upper Marlboro Maryland 20774. Telephone number is 301-218-3079; TTY 301-699-2544.

#### RESIDENT TEACHER INFORMATION SESSION

Prince George's County Public Schools will host a Resident Teacher Information Session Wednesday, January 20, 2016

from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School (Cafeteria). The school is located at 12650 Brooke Lane, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

The Resident Teacher Program is a Maryland approved Alternative Program for individuals who have not received any teacher training, but possess at least a Bachelor's Degree. For additional information about the Prince George's County Public Schools Resident Teacher Program please visit the website at <http://www.residentteacherprogram.org>.

#### NEW HOPE FELLOWSHIP CANCER CARE MINISTRY

New Hope Fellowship Cancer Care Ministry will go out into the community to help individuals who are affected by this disease. They will assist in the meeting of physical needs of people referred to this ministry. Their goal is to go on hospital visits and also home visits to offer words of encouragement with Christian love, scripture reading and prayer. Please contact Shonita at 301-888-1316 for more information.

also allow for us to issue criminal subpoenas in certain types of cases, like income tax fraud."

Enforcement Agents, as part of the Field Enforcement Division, are sworn-in police officers who investigate and enforce laws related to state revenue, according to comptroller's website.

The increased authority would allow them to act more quickly in tax fraud cases, Kelly said.

"What we're saying, with this legislation, is that we think there's going to be a lot more sophisticated programs to attack agencies in states like ours and giving us this legislative authority, extra enforcement, will allow us—we estimate—to head off \$20 million in prospective fraud schemes," Franchot said.

The main goal of the act is to protect taxpayer's money and privacy, creating a "very strong initiative going after the bad guys," Franchot said.

According to a January report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, in 2013 the IRS paid out approximately \$5.8 billion in fraudulent tax returns.

"Nefarious people" take real personal information and send it in to receive tax returns, divert-

ing the money from the legitimate taxpayer and into the perpetrator's account, said Kelly.

"It's not difficult to get a whole lot of very private information from public sources," which large criminal organizations, working from different states or internationally, use to file fraudulent tax returns, Kelly said. "We can't keep up with the technology they're employing right now."

To help protect taxpayers, the proposed act would move up the withholding date that employers are required to file their tax returns with the state from Feb. 28 to Jan. 31, according to Deputy Comptroller Sharonne Bonardi.

"Fraudsters tend to file early and unfortunately file often," Bonardi said, so moving up the date so the comptroller's office receives the employer tax information earlier would help deter potential fraud.

Earlier this year, Franchot took additional steps to help curb tax fraud in Maryland. In November, the comptroller's office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IRS to help share information to help detect refund fraud and increase security measures.

ment of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Washington Field Office.

Ashaki Robinson Johns, PhD, President

"AFGE Local 476 is proud to endorse Donna Edwards for the United States Senate. During her tenure as a Congresswoman, Donna has always endeavored to put federal workers first by opposing sequestration from the beginning, advocating for permanent parity in the

mass transit commuter benefit, and fighting for critical pay increases and pension benefits. In the Senate, we can count on Donna to champion federal workers and give Maryland families the good jobs, health-care, and fair and equitable wages they deserve. Donna has never been one to buckle to political expediency as a Congresswoman and we trust that she will continue her steadfast support of federal workers when she is in the Senate."

## Neighborhood Events

### Edwards Statement on Passage of Omnibus Spending Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) issued the following statement regarding the FY2016 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which will keep the federal government funded through September. The legislation passed the House 316-113.

"Today's omnibus legislation is a bipartisan compromise, and is therefore far from perfect. It is certainly not the bill I would have written, as I am deeply concerned that it ends the ban on crude oil exports, includes the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA), provides no financial assistance for Puerto Rico, and further erodes disclosure on political spending requirements.

"However, it does accomplish several important tasks for Maryland and the American people. Namely, it avoids another disastrous Republican government shutdown right before the holidays, makes vital investments for working families, ensures federal employees receive a long-overdue pay increase, and provides critical funding for numerous projects in Maryland. The package includes almost none of the horrendous new policy riders Republicans threatened to include that would have devastated women's access to health and reproductive care, environmental protections, and net neutrality. The bill also avoids a litany of giveaways to numerous Republican special interests.

"I continue to hold out hope that Republicans will end their ongoing practice of creating one manufactured crisis after another and work with Democrats to create jobs, strengthen the middle class, and invest in America's future."

#### BGE Proposes Testing Microgrids at Two Maryland Locations

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company is proposing to develop two electric microgrids—one in Baltimore City and one in Howard County—as part of a pilot program to test the microgrid concept. Microgrids are self-contained, small-scale electric grids with their own power generation source that can power a commercial center independently of the regional power grid when necessary, such as in the aftermath of a severe impact storm.

The BGE application to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) proposes developing pilot public purpose microgrids at Edmondson Village in Baltimore City and at the Kings Contrivance Village Center in Howard County. Both areas meet criteria conducive to the tests, including supporting a mix of community services beneficial to the public, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, clinics, gas stations and public buildings that could potentially be used for emergency coordination and shelters during a regional event affecting the power grid.

"Microgrids are designed to strengthen the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid and provide geographic locations that can maintain power and provide vital community services to our customers when a region in our service territory experiences

widespread outages," said Rob Biagiotti, vice president and chief customer officer, BGE. "We look forward to using the pilot to better understand how microgrids can enhance the electric system serving our customers in the future."

BGE's proposed pilot builds on the Maryland Energy Administration's 2014 Resiliency Through Microgrids Task Force Report that concluded in part that microgrids are in the public interest and electric utilities should apply to the PSC for approval to develop microgrids.

In choosing the initial pilot locations, BGE considered a number of factors, including a mix of community services, urban and suburban locations, and proximity to public transportation or major roadways. In addition, BGE selected areas that will realize electric service reliability improvements from the upgrades to the existing electric system that would be necessary as part of developing the microgrid. Based upon the results of the pilot program, BGE would explore potential future installations throughout the central Maryland service area where microgrids may add value to the surrounding communities.

BGE has filed the proposal with the PSC, including a plan to recover the costs of developing and operating the microgrids, with a monthly charge for electric customers. The charge is estimated to be approximately \$0.04 per month for the average residential electric customer in the first year.

#### Carla A. Reid Appointed New General Manager of WSSC

LAUREL, MD—SSC is pleased to announce that Carla A. Reid has been officially hired as its new General Manager/CEO. Reid previously worked for WSSC for 20 years including serving as Deputy General Manager of the Commission from 2005–2006. The Commission voted to hire Reid last month and subsequently entered into contract negotiations, which have now concluded. She will begin her duties January 4, 2016.

Reid has served as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Office of the County Executive in Prince George's County under Rushern Baker and as Director of Permitting Services in Montgomery County Government under County Executive Isiah Leggett.

"Carla Reid began her career with the Commission straight out of college, and we are pleased she is returning to lead the organization into the future," said Commission Vice-Chair Chris Lawson. "She brings an intimate knowledge of WSSC and our counties to this role, and we believe her leadership and management skills are what the organization needs to carry out its vital mission going forward."

"This is an unbelievable opportunity to come home to lead WSSC, which is so crucial to this community and essential to every aspect of our lives," says Reid. "I look forward to once again serving our customers and providing even greater levels of customer service. And I am pleased to be back working with the men



Congresswoman  
Donna F. Edwards

and women of WSSC who are so dedicated to the work and to our customers."

Reid becomes the first woman in WSSC's 97-year history to serve as General Manager/CEO. In addition to Deputy General Manager at WSSC, Reid also served as Chief of Mission Support, Chief of Customer Care, Meter Services Division Manager, Northern Meter Operations Section Head, Meter Maintenance Head, Field Operations Supervisor and Civil Engineer. She replaces Jerry N. Johnson who is retiring after six years in the position.

#### Edwards Statement on Opposing Tax Extenders Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (MD-4) released the following statement today after opposing the tax extenders legislation. The bill passed the House 318-106.

"Once again, Republicans forced a last-minute deal with this tax extenders package that is awful fiscal policy for the nation and is a holiday giveaway to their corporate friends' interests. Yes, this package makes the child tax credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent, all of which I support to help working families' make ends meet and reduce poverty. However, these family-focused tax credits should all be indexed to inflation to come close to meeting future needs.

"When taken in totality this unpaid-for package will cost an estimated \$803 billion, including interest, over the next decade, with sixty percent of the tax cuts going to corporate special interests. The costs of making many of these extenders permanent is expected to add approximately \$2 trillion to the debt and deficits over the next 20 years. While Republicans send billions of dollars in tax cuts to corporations, they have forced massive cuts to discretionary spending, threatening the government's ability to invest in and protect the American people. This legislation makes things even worse, and is simply unacceptable.

"By permanently extending many of the tax policies without offsetting their cost, Congress is reducing the "revenue baseline for the future. This would make it less costly, and therefore easier, to reduce tax rates in the future as part of a revenue-neutral, comprehensive tax overhaul and would likely increase pressure to cut spending in order to reduce future debts and deficits. We need more revenue coming into the federal government, not less, to fund critical investments in education, health care, research, security, and infrastructure. I urge President Obama to veto this legislation, so Congress can work on fair, comprehensive tax reform that helps working families in Maryland and across the country move ahead."

## The Prince George's Post

Your Newspaper of Legal Record

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Americans Spend an Annual Average of \$2,746 on Lunch

If you want to uncover new ways to save money, start by thinking about what you spend on lunch every day.

A new Visa survey shows that American consumers are spending nearly \$3,000 on mid-day meals each year. But don't lose your appetite—this is actually a great opportunity to budget and save.



Visa's 2015 survey, intended to call consumers' attention to opportunities to save and budget in their discretionary spending, reports that the average American consumer spends roughly \$53 a week or \$2,746 per year on lunch. For meals out, that's an average of \$20 per week or \$1,043 per year. Additionally, Americans eat lunch out an average of nearly twice a week and spend more than \$11 per outing compared with only \$6.30 a day preparing their own.

Who are the biggest spenders on average in the lunch-out crowd? The survey shows that men outspend women by a whopping 60 percent. Men pay an average of \$24.93 each week on meals out, while women dole out \$15.56 by comparison. As for the biggest spenders, the survey found that 1 percent of diners spend \$50 or more lunching out for an average of more than \$9,000 spent a year. Meanwhile, 32 percent of respondents reported they don't buy lunch out at all.

Additionally, students eat out most often and spend the most with a weekly average of \$27.47; retirees spend the least at \$13.92. One worrisome number is that unemployed Americans purchase lunch out more than once a week on average, spending over \$15 weekly.

The most popular spot to eat lunch in America is at home, according to the Visa survey. Forty-two percent of American consumers report that they typically eat lunch at home. The second most popular location to eat lunch? Work. While 53 percent of office workers report they eat lunch at work, 26 percent say they do so right at their desks.

As for regional preference, Southerners lead the nation in frequency of lunches out and overall amount spent on lunch. The average southern resident spends \$1,240 a year on lunches out and an overall \$2,953 between lunches out and those made at home. Northeasterners came in second with highest amount spent on lunching out—\$1,001. Midwesterners followed at \$896 and Americans in the western states at \$866 spend on meals out.

To help Americans monitor their spending on the midday meal, Visa Inc. has developed a new free Lunch Tracker iOS app (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lunch-tracker-1.0/id1049899081?mt=8>) that calculates monthly and annual spend and helps you adjust your spending habits to save money. Users can take the 30-Day Challenge to start saving, learn cost-cutting tips and share photos of meals with family and friends.

Paying attention to lunchtime spending habits—whether making lunch at home or eating out—can greatly impact your annual finances. Though lunch is a healthy expense, at least some of the close to \$3,000 could be reallocated for other money-smart funds. For example, it could be a great start for an emergency fund, (<http://www.practical-moneyskills.com/emergencyfund>) rent or mortgage, education funds or maybe an affordable holiday.

Bottom line: Small choices can have a big impact on your wallet. Adjusting and tracking your lunch spending habits can be a surprisingly large source of savings.

#### FBI from A1

We are particularly thankful to the "Dean of the Senate," Senator Barbara Mikulski, the longest serving woman in the history of Congress with more than 40 years on Capitol Hill, and the only woman to have chaired the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Even as she approaches her well-deserved retirement, Senator Mikulski continues her untiring fight for the residents of the great state of Maryland, including those here in Prince George's County.

The County Council remains committed to attracting transit-oriented development opportunities that create jobs and grow

our local economy, and we are deeply grateful to Senator Mikulski, Senator Cardin, Representative Hoyer and Representative Edwards and the entire Maryland Congressional Delegation, as well as Governor Hogan and former Governor O'Malley for their enthusiastic leadership and partnership as we continue to work together to welcome the FBI headquarters to a new home in Prince George's County.

We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to continuing our work with all stakeholders in the months ahead as the General Services Administration moves closer to a final decision on the FBI relocation site.

## Hogan Administration to Invest More Than \$11 Million to Help Revitalize Downtowns, Strengthen Communities

By PRESS OFFICER  
DHCD

NEW CARROLLTON, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today announced the award of more than \$11 million to local jurisdictions through three of the state's most effective job creation and neighborhood revitalization programs—Community Legacy, the Strategic Demolition fund and the Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative.

"My administration is committed to revitalizing Maryland's older communities," Governor Larry Hogan said. "These grants will help local communities make necessary improvements while paving the way for additional public and private investments in their neighborhoods and along their streets."

Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt added, "The Hogan administration is committed to providing restoration and operational capital to those older communities across Maryland whose infrastructure requires immediate attention and repair. We will rely on community leaders and organizations to indicate their most pressing needs and we will respond with quick and effective support."

The **Community Legacy** program provides local governments and community development organizations with resources for essential projects aimed at strengthening communities through activities such as business retention and attraction, encouraging homeownership and commercial revitalization. Fifty-five projects in 19 counties and Baltimore City received a total of \$6 million in Community Legacy grants in fiscal year 2016.

The **Strategic Demolition** fund is aimed at providing a catalyst to projects that accelerate economic development and job production in Maryland's sustainable communities. Funding provides assistance for critical pre-development activities such as demolition and land assembly in order to attract needed public and private investment to revitalization projects. The administration is awarding \$2.075 million to nine projects.

The **Baltimore Regional Neighborhoods Initiative** is aimed at bringing back the vitality and increasing the ability of older neighborhoods to attract new homeowners and businesses. The awards will advance the comprehensive revitalization plans and strategic partnerships put in place by local neighborhood leaders and stakeholders. The awards of over \$3 million for fiscal year 2016 will leverage an estimated \$49 million in public, private and philanthropic investments.

#### Community Legacy Awards FY 2016

##### ALLEGANY COUNTY—\$350,000

Awardee: City of Cumberland  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: Upper Story Redevelopment Program  
Description: Continuation of a program targeting the central business district providing forgivable loans for upper story redevelopment.

Awardee: City of Cumberland  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Downtown Cumberland

Centre Street Parklet Improvements  
Description: Infrastructure improvements to enhance the visual and architectural significance of the parklet within the Main Street District.

Awardee: City of Cumberland  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: Leasehold Improvement Program  
Description: Provide forgivable loans targeted for leasehold improvement for businesses located in the Central Business District.

Awardee: City of Frostburg  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: SC Building Improvement Program  
Description: Provide upper story and/or façade grant funding to building owners within the Sustainable Community.

Awardee: City of Frostburg  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Frostburg Museum Building Reuse  
Description: Rehabilitation of historic St. Michael's Catholic Church School building on Main Street for reuse as new location for the Frostburg Museum.

##### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY—\$200,000

Awardee: Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.  
Amount: \$200,000  
Project: Brooklyn Park Acquisition/Rehabilitation and Homeownership Program  
Description: Continue successful acquisition and rehabilitation activities within the Brooklyn Park Sustainable Community.

##### BALTIMORE CITY—\$1.3 million

Awardee: Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development  
Amount: \$500,000  
Project: Revitalizing the Gilmore Community Center  
Description: Renovation of a Community Center in Sandtown to support an integrated model of community services.

Awardee: Central Baltimore Partnership, Inc.  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Greenmount West Homeowner Façade Improvements  
Description: Implementation of a façade program that will benefit low-income residents of the neighborhood.

Awardee: Central Baltimore Partnership, Inc.  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: 201 W Lorraine Avenue  
Description: Rehabilitation of an important corner row house that is part of the rezoning of 14 similar properties in Remington.

Awardee: Downtown Partnership of Baltimore  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: Downtown Partnership's Façade Improvement Program (FIP)  
Description: Continue the Façade Improvement Program that reimburses property and business owners for improvements made to their storefronts.

Awardee: Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake, Inc.



PHOTO COURTESY DHCD

#### Demolition in Hyattsville, Maryland

Amount: \$150,000  
Project: Revitalizing Sandtown-Winchester  
Description: Transform blighted vacant properties to increase homeownership and engage residents in neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Awardee: Strong City Baltimore  
Amount: \$150,000  
Project: Waverly Market Reset  
Description: Assisting in the production of a supply of rehabilitated homes intended to raise housing values in the Waverly area.

Awardee: TRF Development Partners  
Amount: \$250,000  
Project: East Baltimore Revitalization II  
Description: Infrastructure and stabilization improvements for a 10-unit rental project in East Baltimore's Broadway East neighborhood.

##### BALTIMORE COUNTY—\$250,000

Awardee: Baltimore County Department of Planning  
Amount: \$250,000  
Project: Winters Lane Housing Rehabilitation Project  
Description: Rehabilitation of ten historic homes in the historic African-American community of Winters Lane in Catonsville.

##### CAROLINE COUNTY—\$160,000

Awardee: Town of Denton  
Amount: \$160,000  
Project: Crouse Park Visitor and Heritage Center  
Description: Funding to assist with the construction of the Crouse Park Visitor and Heritage Center.

##### CARROLL COUNTY—\$50,000

Awardee: Town of Sykesville  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Façade Improvement Program  
Description: Implement a Façade Improvement Grant Program to offer commercial property owners an incentive for exterior and ADA-compliant improvements.

##### CECIL COUNTY—\$250,000

Awardee: Town of Elkton  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Elkton Downtown Façade Grant Program  
Description: Continuation of a successful façade improvement program targeting commercial and mixed-use properties in the downtown area.

Awardee: Town of Port Deposit  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Port Deposit Façade Improvement Program  
Description: Implement a Façade Improvement Program for structural and

exterior repair, and renovations to improve the historic community.

Awardee: Town of Port Deposit  
Amount: \$150,000  
Project: Jacob Home Gas House Restoration  
Description: Restoration of historic gas house for reuse as a Visitor and Research Center.

##### DORCHESTER COUNTY—\$600,000

Awardee: City of Cambridge  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Cambridge Façade Improvement Program  
Description: Continue a Façade Improvement Program that fosters enhancements of commercial and residential properties to revitalize neighborhoods and business corridors.

Awardee: Dorchester County  
Amount: \$500,000  
Project: Hearn Building  
Description: Stabilization of the historic Hearn Building in the City of Cambridge due to the recent collapse of the south masonry wall.

Awardee: Town of Hurlock  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Hurlock Façade Improvement  
Description: Improve façades in the downtown area to improve the deteriorating appearance of the area.

##### FREDERICK COUNTY—\$200,000

Awardee: City of Brunswick  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Brunswick Main Street—Façade Program Grant  
Description: Continue the Façade Program that provides for façade improvements while enticing private investment to revitalize downtown.

Awardee: Town of Emmitsburg  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Façade & Restoration Program  
Description: Continue the Façade Program that will undertake exterior restorations and façade improvements in the Sustainable Community Area.

Awardee: City of Frederick  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: Façade Improvement & Building Reuse Program  
Description: Continuation of the successful Frederick Façade Improvement Program within the Patrick Street Corridor Community, and pilot a Building Reuse Program within the Main Street Area of Downtown Frederick.

See REVITALIZE Page A4

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!**  
in *The Prince George's Post*  
Call Brenda Boice  
at 301 627 0900

# COMMENTARY

**Cong. Steny H. Hoyer**  
House Democratic Minority Whip



## Hoyer Announces Fifth District Investments in FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) today announced that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 (H.R.2029) passed by the House of Representatives included a number of investments that benefit the Fifth District and Maryland. The bill will also fund the Federal government through September 2016.

“While this is not a perfect bill and there are a number of provisions in it I do not support, I’m pleased that Democrats and Republicans compromised and came together on an agreement that will keep the federal government operating,” said Congressman Hoyer. “This bill includes some important investments in Maryland’s future, ranging from education to modernizing our transportation infrastructure needs. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make stronger investments that benefit the Fifth District, our state and country, and to give budgetary certainty for the federal government.”

### Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the General Services Administration (GSA)

• Includes \$390 million to begin the initial design, engineering and construction of the new consolidated headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Prince George’s County has two sites that are on the shortlist of eligible sites for the new home of the FBI headquarters.

### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

• Includes a provision to provide federal employees who were impacted by the Office of Personnel Management data breaches with 10 years of protection and up to \$5 million in identity theft insurance.

• Also includes a 1.0 percent pay raise for federal employees in 2016 and a 0.3 percent locality pay adjustment. Congressman Hoyer represents 62,000 federal employees in the Fifth District.

### TRANSPORTATION

• Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA): Restores the federal commitment of \$150 million for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) to help improve safety and the

• quality of service for the many Fifth District commuters who ride Metro each day.

• Purple Line Transit Project: Includes \$100 million for the Purple Line transit project that will connect Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties.

### EDUCATION

• Department of Education’s Preschool Development Grant program: Contains \$250 million for the grant program, which supports states in building, developing, and expanding voluntary, high-quality preschool programs in high-need communities to ensure greater success of children across the country. Maryland is one of only 18 states to receive this grant.

**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
National Urban League



## What Will 2016 Bring for Economic and Political Opportunity and Social Justice?

*“Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.”*

—James Weldon Johnson,  
*“Lift Ev’ry Voice And Sing.”*

The 2016 Presidential election still is more than 10 months off, but already it promises to serve as a referendum on social justice and racial reconciliation, in a year when national attitudes are changing faster than ever—and not always for the better.

Pending U.S. Supreme Court decisions and legislation before Congress 2016 will profoundly impact racial consideration in college admissions, voting rights, collective bargaining and criminal justice reform.

The Court’s decision on *Fisher v. University of Texas*, brought by a white woman who claimed she was denied admission to UT because of her race, could put an end to efforts by educational institutions to ensure diversity among their student bodies.

The Constitutional principal of “one person, one vote,” established in 1964 in *Reynolds v. Simms* could be undercut by the Court’s decision on *Evenwel v. Abbot. In Reynolds*, the Court determined that legislative districts, both state and federal, must contain roughly equal numbers of people, guaranteeing fair representation. The plaintiff in *Evenwel* claims that “one person, one vote” refers only to the total voting population. That would mean that urban districts, which contain more children, immigrants and other disenfranchised persons, would be dramatically under-represented while suburban and rural populations would be grossly over-represented.

The rights of public-sector unions are at risk in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*. Under current law, unions may collect dues from non-members for collective bargaining but not political activity. *Friedrichs* argues that even collective bargaining activities, from which non-members benefit, are political so non-members shouldn’t have to contribute. Public-sector unions have been a driving force in bringing African-American workers into the middle class; *Friedrichs* could turn back the clock on that progress.

Congress has an opportunity in 2016 to correct one of the most egregious blows to voting rights in the 20th century. The Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* gutted a key

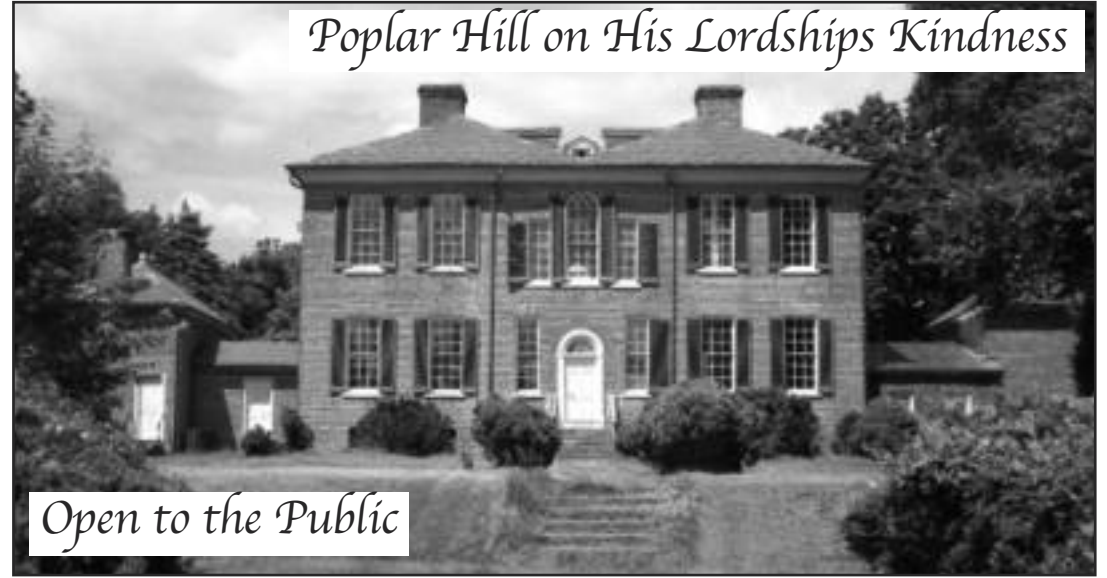
provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Jurisdictions with a history of discriminatory voting practices no longer would be required to seek pre-clearance with the U.S. Justice Department before making changes to voting laws. Immediately following the *Shelby* decisions, states rushed to enact voter suppression laws targeting people of color, students and senior citizens. The bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act would restore pre-clearance and safeguard the rights of vulnerable citizens whose voices are being silenced.

Heading into 2016, the national outcry against police brutality seems to be reaping results, with officers in Chicago, North Charleston, S.C., Baltimore and elsewhere at last facing criminal charges for apparently racially-motivated violence against people of color. This could be the year for a full turnaround if the National Urban League’s 10-Point Justice Plan is adopted. Congress should enact a national comprehensive anti-racial profiling law, mandate uniform FBI reporting and audits of all lethal force incidents involving law enforcement, and create incentives for police departments to use body and dashboard cameras, review and revise deadly force policies and tighten hiring standards.

Perhaps most importantly, the economic recovery from the Great Recession has left many urban communities behind. The overall Black unemployment rate remains twice the rate for Whites, with rates as high as 25% for young black men. Many people working even two or three jobs can’t make ends meet because of dismally low wages. Several Presidential candidates have promised, if elected, to pursue a national minimum wage hike, which would be a significant step toward reducing poverty. Tired pledges to slash taxes on the wealthy, which we’re hearing from many of the candidates, will do nothing to create jobs. Congress has an opportunity to create thousands of jobs and revitalize the national economy by enacting a surface transportation bill that guarantees employment for workers in low- and moderate-income communities and ensures access to contracts for minority businesses.

As our nation grows more diverse year by year, the social structures of the past are challenged. We in the National Urban League Movement will continue to be at the forefront of those challenges, and we pray for guidance as we rise to meet them in the coming year.

## Poplar Hill on His Lordships Kindness



Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMAPIA

### POPLAR HILL ON HIS LORDSHIPS KINDNESS

This National Historic Landmark derives its name from a 7,000 acre land grant from Lord Baltimore to a relative. It has been the home of justices of the county and levy courts, a U.S. Senator, and a U.S. ambassador. The property contains historic outbuildings such as a privy, a dairy, slave infirmary, and smoke house. Open Mar–Dec, Fri, 1 to 4 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Sun, 12 noon to 4 p.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m. Group tours and alternate visiting hours welcome by appointment.

### Revitalize from A3

#### GARRETT COUNTY—\$25,000

Awardee: Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.  
Amount: \$20,000

Project: Oakland Welcome Sign Project

Description: Installation of a new “Welcome to Oakland” sign at the north end of town.

Awardee: Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.  
Amount: \$5,000

Project: Oakland Façade Program

Description: Façade work on one of the centerpiece properties downtown.

#### HARFORD COUNTY—\$360,000

Awardee: City of Aberdeen  
Amount: \$50,000

Project: Aberdeen Façade Improvement Program

Description: Financial assistance to businesses to improve their building façades, that are located in the Transit Oriented Development Areas.

Awardee: Bel Air Downtown Alliance  
Amount: \$50,000

Project: Façade Improvement Program

Description: Provide funds to commercial and residential properties for building improvements.

Awardee: Harford County  
Amount: \$60,000

Project: Edgewood Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative

Description: Acquisition and rehabilitation of Harford Square home as part of a revitalization program that includes affordable homeownership opportunities.

Awardee: City of Havre de Grace  
Amount: \$200,000

Project: Opera House Renovation—Phase 2

Description: Rehabilitate a historic City-owned building to facilitate a state-of-the-art theater venue for public use.

#### KENT COUNTY—\$150,000

Awardee: Town of Chestertown  
Amount: \$150,000

Project: Sultana Education Foundation Education Center

Description: Construction for a LEED Platinum Education Center at 200/204 South Cross Street.

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY—\$100,000

Awardee: City of Gaithersburg  
Amount \$100,000

Project: Olde Towne Park Plaza Phase 2

Description: Construction at the intersection of Summit and Diamond Avenues, the crossroads of Old Towne Gaithersburg.

#### PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY—\$1.28 million

Awardee: Town of Bladensburg  
Amount: \$150,000

Project: PG Municipal Healthy Homes

Description: Provide weatherization and structural improvements to homes of LMI residents to enhance health, community and environmental conditions.

Awardee: Town of Bladensburg  
Amount: \$100,000

Project: Port Towns Clean and Green Initiative

Description: Acquisition of Bigbelly compacting solar powered trash bins that will augment and serve as support in clean-up and education efforts.

Awardee: Central Kenilworth Avenue Rehabilitation CDC  
Amount: \$90,000

Project: Edmonston Road Rain Garden

Description: Establish a rain garden that includes plantings, benches, signage, sidewalks, permeable paving and lighting.

Awardee: City of College Park  
Amount: \$100,000

Project: Environmental Remediation of Former Calvert Road School

Description: Environmental remediation and removal of interior systems of a vacant 1930s school building to position for productive re-use.

Awardee: Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc.  
Amount: \$250,000

Project: Kentland/Palmer Park Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI)

Description: Purchase and renovate vacant homes for sale to first-time homebuyers and provide façade improvements to qualified homeowners.

Awardee: Hyattsville Community Development Corporation  
Amount: \$45,000

Project: 4314 Farragut Street Rehabilitation

Description: Rehabilitation of a building to support the property’s adaptive reuse as a nonprofit incubator and artist live/work space.

Awardee: City of Hyattsville  
Amount: \$50,000

Project: Commercial Façade Improvement Program

Description: Continue the Façade Improvement Program which assists small businesses in upgrading the quality of their building’s façade.

Awardee: City of Hyattsville  
Amount: \$75,000

Project: Public Placemaking Project

Description: Create a public space that will use the character of the City to encourage a strong business environment and improve quality of life.

Awardee: City of Mount Rainier  
Amount: \$100,000

Project: Mount Rainier Business Toolbox Program

Description: Interior and exterior improvements to target investment in the commercial districts through business retention and attraction programs.

See Revitalize, Page A5

## The Prince George’s Post

The Prince George’s Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: pgpost@gmail.com  
Contents © 2016, The Prince George’s Post

**Publisher/Senior Editor**  
Legusta Floyd

**Editor**  
Michal W. Frangia

**General Manager/  
Legal Advertising Manager**  
Brenda Boice

**Typesetter/Page Layout**  
Jennifer Sheckels

**Staff Writer**  
Christina Williams

**Legal Advertising Assistant**  
Robin Boerckel

**Web Manager**  
Kyler Quesenberry

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

### How "Helping" Someone Lose Weight Might Actually Not Help

It's a certainty that the number one resolution again this year will be about weight loss. While it's a good resolution it's not an easy one to accomplish. And that's why friends and family are often very eager to jump in and "help."

Unfortunately, a great deal of the help offered actually can have an opposite effect. The wrong approach in trying to assist someone in losing weight can sometimes instead result in adding additional pounds.

Why? Because when the person being "helped" begins to feel targeted with negative messages, a series of destructive feelings can be triggered. When someone is constantly reminded he or she is overweight and needs your help, it can leave him or her feeling ugly, hopeless and unlovable simply because of those pounds. Such negative emotions often will pull a person to the comforts of food or drink as a way to temporarily squash those feelings.

Seemingly innocuous help, like simply reminding someone to eat healthier, can feel like nagging. Other less-than-helpful actions include buying the person exercise equipment, offering multiple suggestions of new diets, or trying to act as the food police. Spouses will often try to "help" by controlling or restricting what can or can't be eaten. Other non-helpful actions include focusing on the person's weight through constant health warnings and updates, or suggesting how easy it will be to lose weight because it's simply "a matter of willpower."

So what really does help? One starting point is simply to encourage the person you wish to help to talk about his or her feelings. Let them identify any negative messages you may have been sending and also try to respond to negative feelings they may have. If the person says he or she feels ugly because of being overweight, focus on all the aspects of his or her beauty as a whole person, and be sure that you're giving sincere, positive messages.

Another way to help is to set an example. Try to eat healthier yourself, skip that extra dessert and, after a time, begin a simple exercise program and invite the other person to join in.

Weight loss is never easy. Do offer your love and support, but in many cases there may be emotional or psychological issues contributing to the problem. That may be when a professional counselor can offer help that really will make a difference.

*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*

### Kogok from A1

order to accommodate the number of projects they are involved in.

The entire process for getting EDI Funding from Prince George's County has been very pleasant," said Jeffery Kogok, President of Kogok Corporation. "From the beginning, EDC and FSC have been helpful in identifying the best financing we needed to support our expansion. Everyone we have met with has been extremely professional and made our expansion in the County very easy."

The County's Economic Development Incentive Fund was created by County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III in 2012 as a \$50 million fund designed to create jobs, increase the commercial tax base and at the same time, create a "wow" factor to attract businesses and investments in Prince George's County. Companies eligible for the EDI Fund are businesses that are expanding within the County or are considering relocating to the County and are

seeking financial assistance with construction costs, relocation costs, acquisition costs or leasehold improvements.

There are currently 24 deals in the EDI pipeline that represent over the next 12 months, a total of \$18 million in EDI Fund requests. If approved, these deals will result in \$445 million in capital investment in Prince George's County and the retention and creation of more than 9,000 jobs, not including construction jobs. To date, the projects approved for EDI funding will generate more than \$20.4 million in commercial tax revenue over the next 10 years and have substantially contributed to Prince George's County's ability to compete more effectively with its neighboring jurisdictions for companies looking to locate and relocate to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

For more information about the Economic Development Incentive Fund, contact Ebony Stocks, EDC EDI Fund Manager at 301-583-4650 or visit [www.pgcedc.com](http://www.pgcedc.com)

### Awards from A1

Also at the Kennedy Center, she helps maintain the Welcome Center, assists ushers to Young People's Concerts, drives students to lessons and performances during the Summer Music Institute, and serves on the committee that provides free tickets to needy children and their parents to attend Family Concerts.

In addition, Brose volunteers for the national, state and local programs of the Daughters of the American Revolution and assists with activities of the Children of the American Revolution.

Her wide range of other volunteer activities includes Delta Kappa Gamma, her high school alumni association, the alumni board of Indiana University, and other local community projects.

**Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932**

## Unclaimed Property List Includes State Agencies, Famous Marylanders

By DARCY COSTELLO  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Ray Rice, Nancy Kopp, the University of Maryland and Carmelo Anthony aren't just famous Maryland entities—they've all left behind valuables or cash in banks or financial organizations, and the state can't find them to return it.

These unclaimed property items, which all together total more than \$1 billion, were returned to the state by financial institutions, businesses or banking organizations after owners failed to claim their property. The comptroller's office, as required by state statute, holds them and makes an effort to reunite owners with their lost property.

Peter Franchot, the state comptroller since 2007, has a campaign advertising his efforts to reunite Marylanders with their money. It has featured him wearing a deerstalker as Sherlock Franchot and in a tuxedo as 0033, playing off of Sherlock Holmes and James Bond, respectively.

"First thing's first, I'm going to find your money," Franchot says in the 0033 video. "And then, I'm going to return it to you."

Despite these efforts, the list includes more than one million entries: property sitting unclaimed in the government's possession, available for spending by the state.

Some surplus funds that aren't returned to the owner are sent to the state's General Fund, which the General Assembly appropriates annually in connection with the state budget, a spokeswoman from the comptroller's office said.

Over each of the past four fiscal years, the state received an average of \$142.5 million in unclaimed property and was able to return an average of \$54.1 million to owner—roughly a third of what financial organizations and businesses sent in to the state.

There are no limits placed on how much or how little the value of each unclaimed asset holding must be, a spokeswoman from the comptroller's office said, and the office does not track the average amount associated with

the holdings. Last year, an unnamed woman claimed more than \$1 million in stocks and dividends through the unclaimed property program, according to a news release from the comptroller's office.

Maryland law currently requires banks and holders of assets to declare property as unclaimed after a period of three years. That timeframe was accelerated following the 2001 recession, as the state looked for ways to increase revenues in the General Fund, said David Juppe, operating budget manager at the Department of Legislative Services.

To increase the money flowing into the General Fund, the state could cut spending, raise taxes or turn to other special funds, he said, like improving tax compliance, boosting state gambling revenue—or increasing funds from abandoned property.

In 2003, the period of time to declare property as unclaimed was accelerated from five years to four and in 2004, it was set at three. Juppe called this timeframe "pretty aggressive" and added that "it doesn't seem like very long before it's claimed abandoned."

Prior to the change, the average annual income from abandoned property was around \$30 million to \$40 million, Juppe said. In 2003, that amount rose to \$72 million, then \$103 million in 2004 and \$156 million in 2005. Since then, it's leveled to about \$70 million to \$80 million in unclaimed assets, he said.

Whereas cutting funds to a program with wide constituent support could alienate voters, changing the timeframe for unclaimed property allowed for increased revenue without much blow back.

"When Program Open Space lost funding, environmentalists were very upset," Juppe said. "Abandoned property, though, seems pretty innocuous. I can't believe anyone would be too upset over that."

Maryland isn't the only state to rely on revenue from unclaimed property. An Associated Press report found that in total, state governments are holding \$41.7 billion in unclaimed prop-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

At the Maryland Board of Public Works meetings, Gov. Larry Hogan sits between Comptroller Peter Franchot (right), and Treasurer Nancy Kopp.

erty, and cited a growing trend toward using such revenue to patch holes in their budgets.

Delaware, for example, turned unclaimed property into its third-largest source of revenue, bringing in \$514 million in 2014, according to the AP report.

### FAMILIAR NAMES

In Maryland, the unclaimed property database includes dozens of entries with easily identifiable addresses that are clearly state organizations.

A database search for the word "university" turns up at least 45 entries including the address 22 South Greene St., spelled and abbreviated in a variety of ways. That address corresponds with the University of Maryland Medical Center.

An additional 30 are listed under P.O. Box 17017, also affiliated with the University of Maryland Medical Center. These items are listed under "University of Maryland Med," "University of Maryland," "University of Md" and "University Care" to name a few.

Two items—"University of Maryland" and "University of Md"—are listed under 351 Campus St., the University of Maryland, College Park's Stamp Student Union.

Those aren't the only University System of Maryland institutions included on the unclaimed property list. Included in the database are the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, the

University of Maryland, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

According to the comptroller's office, though, officials conduct a search for agencies annually to return the money.

"We do a yearly search for other agencies (and) departments affiliated with the state that have money in Unclaimed Property and return it to them," a spokeswoman wrote in an email.

Dinah Winnick, director of communications for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, said the university last claimed an item noted in the property listing in October 2012 worth \$150.

"Based on our past experience with the unclaimed property listing, UMBC items aren't noticed very often, they are typically small in value and research sometimes shows items are mistakenly attributed to UMBC," Winnick wrote in an email following a Public Information Act request from Capital News Service. "Completing the procedure to claim these items does cost significant staff time."

She said she had no information available on the items under the university's name currently on the list, and added that for financial reasons, the university completes the process "periodically, typically every few years."

See **PROPERTY** Page A6

### Revitalize from A4

Awardee: Town of North Brentwood  
Amount: \$35,000  
Project: Rehabilitation of 4516 41st Avenue  
Description: Rehabilitation of a vacant property historically known as Sis Tavern and turning it into a community asset.

Awardee: Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County  
Amount: \$250,000  
Project: Net Zero Energy District—Fairmount Heights, Maryland  
Description: Construction of seven Net Zero Energy Houses Prototype for sustainable and energy efficient development.

Awardee: Town of Upper Marlboro  
Amount: \$35,000  
Project: Façade Improvement Program  
Description: Continue to implement a Façade Improvement Program for the Central Business District.

**SOMERSET COUNTY—\$50,000**  
Awardee: Town of Princess Anne  
Amount: \$50,000

Project: Princess Anne Façade Rehabilitation  
Description: Undertake façade rehabilitation in the downtown district in order to attract additional shoppers.

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY—\$100,000

Awardee: Saint Mary's County Housing Authority  
Amount: \$100,000  
Project: Essential Capital Improvements to South Shangri-La Way Neighborhood  
Description: Rehabilitation of ten town homes that support permanent housing for homeless families within the South Shangri-La Way neighborhood.

### TALBOT COUNTY—\$50,000

Awardee: Town of Oxford  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Façade Grants for Commercial Businesses  
Description: Implement a façade program for commercial properties in the Sustainable Community Area.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY—\$200,000

Awardee: City of Hagerstown  
Amount: \$150,000  
Project: Acquisition/ Rehabilitation of Properties

for Homeownership  
Description: Acquisition and rehabilitation of residential properties within targeted areas for homeownership in the Sustainable Community Area.

Awardee: City of Hagerstown  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Façade Program  
Description: Renovation of storefronts in the Main Street Area.

### WICOMICO COUNTY—\$50,000

Awardee: City of Salisbury  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Salisbury Neighborhood Intervention Program  
Description: Purchase dilapidated houses and demolish if rehabilitation is not cost effective.

### WORCESTER COUNTY—\$275,000

Awardee: Town of Berlin  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: Façade Renovation Program  
Description: Continuation of a Façade Grant Program.

Awardee: Ocean City Development Corporation  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: OCDC Façade Improvement Program

Description: Enhance the exterior appearance of older buildings in downtown Ocean City.

Awardee: Ocean City Development Corporation  
Amount: \$50,000  
Project: OCDC Green Building Initiatives Program  
Description: Provide energy-efficient materials to business related buildings in downtown Ocean City.

Awardee: Town of Snow Hill  
Amount: \$125,000  
Project: Snow Hill Building Improvement Program  
Description: Implement a program designed to improve the physical appearance of both the interior and exterior of commercial and residential buildings.

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!**

*The Prince George's Post*



**301 627 0900**

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Star Wars: The Force Awakens  
Grade: B+  
Rated PG-13, sci-fi violence,  
droid nudity  
2 hrs., 15 min

Nerds who panicked over Luke Skywalker's absence from the trailers for *The Force Awakens* will be relieved to read the first sentence in the new *Star Wars* sequel's opening crawl: "Luke Skywalker has vanished." You see, the reason his whereabouts weren't given in the advertising is that determining his whereabouts IS THE WHOLE POINT OF THE MOVIE, YOU CHUCKLEHEADS.

It's been 32 years since *Return of the Jedi* came out, and that's about how much time has passed in *The Force Awakens*, which kicks off a new trilogy of *Star Wars* films with which *Star Wars* creator George Lucas will have no involvement (possibly due to a restraining order). J.J. Abrams, director of *Mission: Impossible III* and those shiny new "Star Treks," is at the helm for this chapter, and unlike those franchises, he didn't try (or wasn't allowed) to reinvent anything. He has made a swift, entertaining, and comfortable *Star Wars* movie, one that will feel familiar to fans of the original trilogy.

In our world, the exploits of Luke, Han, and Leia are common knowledge, as much a part of our cultural history as the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In the movie's fictional galaxy, however, the events surrounding the rebellion against the Galactic Empire have passed into myth, believed by some but otherwise forgotten or dismissed. The First Order, another stormtrooper-based government that rose from the ashes of the Empire, has seen to that. Its leader, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), another black-clad mask-wearer, is like a skinny, ill-tempered Darth Vader, one who is not as certain of his own evilness as Herr Vader was. Kylo Ren wants to find Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill)—the last of the Jedi—and kill him before he can instigate another up-



ROTTENTOMATOES  
The *Star Wars* saga continues with this seventh entry—the first under the Walt Disney Co. umbrella. The film will act as the start of a new trilogy set after the events of *Return of the Jedi*. J.J. Abrams directs from a script by Michael Arndt.

rising. (Why is it only dictators who ever learn from history?)

But fear not! There is a robust Resistance. On the desert planet Jakku, a rebel pilot named Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), a scrappy scavenger named Rey (Daisy Ridley), and a conscience-stricken stormtrooper called Finn (John Boyega), are all drawn into the search for Luke, joining forces with Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew), General Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher), and an adorable cat-like droid called BB-8 that has some crucial information in its files.

If you're noticing parallels to the plot of the original *Star Wars*, just you wait. History is repeating itself in the galaxy, and that means not just plot points but old themes and ideas are popping up again, too. No doubt aware that he was at risk of turning the sequel into a rehash, Abrams is careful to let these familiar elements occur naturally, the way they do in the real histories of real republics. In a similar vein, he also avoids any egregious callbacks or fan-pleasing nonsense. Characters refer

to the events of the original trilogy as needed without any winks or nudges to the audience. It's a *Star Wars* movie that doesn't barge around yelling, "OMG I'M A 'STAR WARS' MOVIE!" You have to admire the restraint.

The screenplay is credited to Abrams and two men who were well-suited to the job: Michael Arndt, whose *Toy Story 3* was another franchise film in which the passage of time between sequels factored significantly into the story; and Lawrence Kasdan, who wrote *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. What they came up with might be nothing special in the story department, but it has the best dialogue of any movie in the franchise. Without being jokey or ironic (earnestness is a core *Star Wars* principle), the script brings the new characters to life by giving them sparkling, well-crafted things to say, and by giving everyone (even the villains) a hint of nuance and backstory. You get the impression there's a lot to explore here, and the infrequently charismatic performances by all the newcomers make you eager to dig in.

As with anything that goes on this long, new installments are bound to feel less special than their predecessors, even when they're better. For *Star Wars*, this is not only the seventh episode, it's the third beginning—the third time we're introduced to new heroes, a new enemy, and a new mission. As elegantly as Abrams and his team handle it, it doesn't really feel new anymore. Nothing in *The Force Awakens* is dazzling to see for the first time, and except for BB-8, there isn't much visual imagination on display. (Say what you will about the prequels, but those things were full of awesome creatures and alien worlds.)

Then again, if it felt TOO new, it would be deemed blasphemous and J.J. Abrams would be burned for heresy. Considering the strictures he had to work under, this all turned out remarkably well: a rousing adventure that fits the aesthetic of the original trilogy without merely copying it, while starting a new saga that blends familiar old characters with promising new ones. And not a Jar-Jar in sight!

#### Property from A5

##### FAMOUS MARYLANDERS

Treasurer Nancy Kopp, who sits on the Board of Public Works along with Comptroller Peter Franchot, the manager of the unclaimed property list, has an item listed in the database.

Kopp said the holding was from her first home with her husband, dating to the late 1960s, and told Capital News Service that she intended to claim it.

According to the comptroller's office, unclaimed property list items are run against state databases in an effort to match recipients by Social Security number and addresses filed with state taxes. Additionally, the agency employs third-party companies to prove information and previous addresses.

Individuals with unclaimed property listings are run through an automated matching process, the Comptroller's Office said. When a match is made, a letter is sent to the owner along with the payment.

But, those property owner—including state official—might not be successfully matched and informed of the holdings if Social Security numbers are not attached to the name in the database, the

Comptroller's Office said.

"There are no exclusions, so if the State Treasurer was a match, the claim would be paid," a spokeswoman wrote in an email.

Aside from Kopp, the database also includes listings for U.S. Rep. John Delaney (MD-6th District), former Gov. Robert Ehrlich, former Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice, current NBA player Carmelo Anthony and the parents of State Sen. Rich Madaleno and actor Ed Norton, a Columbia native.

Even Kirk Bloodworth, the first American to be exonerated from Death Row by DNA evidence, has two listings in the unclaimed property database, one of which was tied to an address where he told Capital News Service he hadn't lived in "22 years," or 1993—the year he was released from a Maryland prison.

Former Gov. Robert Ehrlich said he was aware that the state "kept a list" for unclaimed assets in its possession, but that he had "no idea" he was on it.

The property listed under his congressional campaign, he told Capital News Service, would have been from roughly 13 years ago, but he believed the address associated with the listing was one of his offices between 10

and 15 years ago—located "right around the corner" from where Ehrlich lived at the time.

Other familiar names on the state database include Edgar Poe (listed with no address, though it's safe to say it most likely isn't the famous author); the University of Maryland, College Park's independent student newspaper *The Diamondback*; Cal Ripken's wife, Kelly; a business named Ripken Professional (the famous Orioles family ran a baseball organization by this name); the chairman of Special Olympics and Kennedy cousin Tim Shriver; and that of convicted killer Benjamin Sifrit, who is currently housed in the Roxbury Correctional Institute in Hagerstown.

Sometimes, the names may be the same, but relatives may be the intended recipient, as in the case of the Prince George's County Executive. There's a Rushern Baker on the list, but no identifying numerals; he is Baker III.

And, though Donna Edwards, Barbara Mikulski, John Waters and Harry Hughes also appear in the listings, representatives for the congresswoman, senator, screenwriter and former governor told Capital News Service the property listings were not as-

sociated with them—and perhaps instead belonged to someone with an identical name.

The Town of Aberdeen, while not a famous Marylander, had unclaimed property in the state's database, and in response to a public information request from Capital News Service, Monica Correll, the city clerk, shared that the finance department was in the process of claiming the item.

In an email from the Comptroller's Office, the Unclaimed Property Unit wrote that attached to claim number 01582159, under the Town of Aberdeen, was \$175 in a check from a private company dating back to 2008.

And, Mary Bohlen, administrative services director for the town of Berlin, Maryland, shared that it was practice for Berlin administrators to review the comptroller's records "at least annually" to determine whether they had any unclaimed property.

"Typically, we undertake this review at the end of the calendar year," Bohlen wrote in an email. "As of our last review, no property was indicated to be unclaimed by the Town of Berlin."

Bohlen said she was unable to share details about the city's current property listings.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### The Fraternal Order of Police Wants Off-Duty Cops to Be Armed Inside a Stadium Near You



After the horrific mass shooting in San Bernardino, we have reached a point in 2015 where there have been more mass shootings in the United States than there have been days in the year. We don't know as of this writing what pushed the alleged shooters to kill so many. We do know that the guns were bought legally. This glorified gun culture, backed by the NRA and their political labradoodles on Capitol Hill, has brought us to a frightening place.

In this light, it is revealing to look at the letter earlier this week from the National Fraternal Order of Police to the National Football League. In a classic "not *The Onion*" moment, the FOP suggested that off-duty police officers be allowed to carry concealed guns inside NFL stadiums. In a formal missive to Roger Goodell, FOP President Chuck Canterbury said that armed cops are our nation's best defense for stopping a terrorist attack inside a stadium. Canterbury wrote:

Today, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to urge you to rescind this policy, which weakens the safety and security of NFL players, personnel and fans. The terrorist attacks and threats of attacks from organizations like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are selecting targets based on the amount of death and injury they can inflict—mass murder and casualty events.

For everyone with a working brain stem—including NFL commissioner Roger Goodell—the belief was that this is a comically stupid idea. As Vice pointed out, off-duty police officers tend to commit violent crimes—a lot of violent crimes. The number-one contributing factor during these criminal acts was alcohol intoxication. In 10 percent of these cases, a concealed firearm was brandished or fired.

Now let's take that statistical knowledge and apply it to an NFL game. If you have never had the pleasure, spending your Sunday immersed in the NFL fan experience certainly varies from city to city. In my experience, Denver and Seattle—with clouds of legal weed over the tailgates—tend to be mellow affairs, but only relative to everywhere else. In other cities there is a level of agro-rage among men shelling out a small fortune for tix. Yet, whether it's the munchies in Seattle or the punchies in Baltimore, there is one common factor at every NFL game, and it's not hot dogs. It's booze.

Alcohol turns NFL contests into working class or even prison yard—level identity politics for middle-class fans. Put away the tie that strangles you all week, wear ripped jeans with a \$150 jersey, and look for someone to hit. This article at *Sporting News* offers a damning data dive about violence at NFL games. To take one example, San Francisco saw 201 fights and 23 felony arrests last season (over 25 fights per home game). Replace "fight" with "glock" and see what collateral damage can really look like.

Introducing guns into this is a recipe for more tragedy and more funerals.

This should all be obvious. But in the wake of the shootings in San Bernardino as well as Colorado Springs, and in the aftermath of the video of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald being gunned down by Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke, the FOP's motivations become clear. They did not release this letter because they thought the NFL would ever take it seriously, or because they think that armed, inebriated off-duty cops can fight terrorism. Instead, the letter exposes the ugly opportunism of the Fraternal Order of Police. The FOP's number-one job at the moment is not fighting terror but fighting the perception—seen so clearly in too many cities—that police are off the leash and inflicting lethal force with impunity. The Laquan McDonald tape has opened a national window onto one police department that appears to be a gang unto itself. But, as we have seen with every tragic hashtag, no city is immune from this. The "bad apple" argument loses some of its weight when we have orchards of awfulness.

The FOP is not only using the terror attacks to rehab its image but also to advance the 0 percent gun-restriction agenda of their compatriots in the NRA. (The order would not respond to repeated requests for comment.) It is also exposing the way we view the terror of ISIS versus the terror of living in a country where mass shootings happen with a numbing regularity. The right-wing idea that brandishing a gun represents freedom from tyranny ignores that it creates a new tyranny, a tyranny of the armed against ideas and legal institutions they oppose. Ask people in Colorado Springs or San Bernardino how they would define terror.

Lastly, it is worth noting that in Paris the bomber never entered the stadium because security personnel—some of whom were Arab and Muslim—did their job. Let the security personnel here do the same. As for off-duty police officers, they should not be armed inside NFL games. Hell, after watching that video from Chicago, they should not be armed outside of NFL games either.

## Calendar of Events

January 7—January 13, 2016

### Exhibition: Ulysses Marshall

Date and Time: Friday, January 8—Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 8:30 am

Description: An exhibition of the work by Ulysses Marshall, an artist who works principally in paper and mixed media collage.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Publick Playhouse

5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3251; TTY 301-699-2544

### G.E.A.R.: Fun & Fitness Friday

Date and Time: Friday, January 8, 2016, 3:30-4:30 pm

Description: Girls will learn how to use the fitness room and how to start a healthy workout routine.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Bladensburg Community Center

4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD

Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-445-4512

### G.E.A.R.: Bird Feeder

Date and Time: Friday, January 8, 2016, 6-10 pm

Description: Design your own bird feeder, then place it outside and watch the birds enjoy their new cafe.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Beltsville Community Center

3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD

Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

### G.E.A.R.: Health & Wellness

Date and Time: Saturday, January 9, 2016, 7-10 pm

Description: Tonight ladies will participate in a health and wellness seminar by looking at healthy choices and learning basic stretching techniques.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: College Park Community Center

5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park, MD

Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512

### Three Kings Day Celebration

Date & Time: Saturday, January 9, 2016, 10 am-1 pm

Description: Celebrate the Hispanic tradition of the Three Kings Day Celebration! Enjoy music, refreshments, and other fun activities.

Cost: Free

Ages: 10 & under

Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center

6122 Sergeant Road, Chillum, MD

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

### "Re-Invention" by Winston Harris

Date and Time: Saturday, January 9—Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10 am-5 pm (Daily)

Description: By combining printmaking techniques, digital manipulation, hand-colored processes and recycled past artwork, Winston Harris seeks to produce images that provoke and promote self-awareness and spiritual enlightenment.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### G.E.A.R.: Glam Bargain Shopping

Date and Time: Saturday, January 9, 2016, 7:30-10 pm

Description: The ladies at Berwyn Heights Community Center are teaming up with a maximum of \$10 to shop for items at local discount stores in Laurel, MD to create their new look for the new year!

Bring a friend and let's bond, have fun and work together to buy the best bargains.

A signed permission slip is required.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10-17

Location: Berwyn Heights Community Center

6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights, MD

Contact: 301-345-2808; TTY 301-445-4512

### Black History Month Exhibition

Date and Time: Saturday, January 9—Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10 am-5 pm (Daily)

Description: Montpelier Arts Center is proud to honor Black History Month through this exhibition celebrating African American heritage.

Cost: Free

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Arts Center

9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD

Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Opening Reception: What is it? Exhibit

Date and Time: Sunday, January 10, 2016, 2-4 pm

Description: Back by popular demand! See all kinds of gizmos, gadgets, whatchamacallits and thingamajigs! Your job is to guess, what is it?

Parents and grandparents will see things that were commonplace when they were growing up.

Kids will marvel at the nifty items of those bygone eras. Regular admission fees to the museum apply.

Cost: \$3/person (Adults); \$2/person (60 & better);

\$1/person (children 6-18); Free (children 4 & under)

Ages: All ages welcome

Location: Montpelier Mansion/Historic Site

9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

Contact: 301-377-7817; TTY 301-699-2544;

montpeliermansion@pgparks.com

## EARTH TALK ... What's on the Horizon in Terms of Solar Power Technologies?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest in cutting-edge, hyper-efficient solar cells? Are we really moving beyond huge photovoltaic panels anytime soon?

— Michael Williams,  
Hartford, CT

Many people still consider environmentalists' favorite black panels as the cutting edge of renewable energy. However, the burgeoning solar industry has spent the last four decades refining these original photovoltaic panels, giving way to an entirely new generation of solar technology.

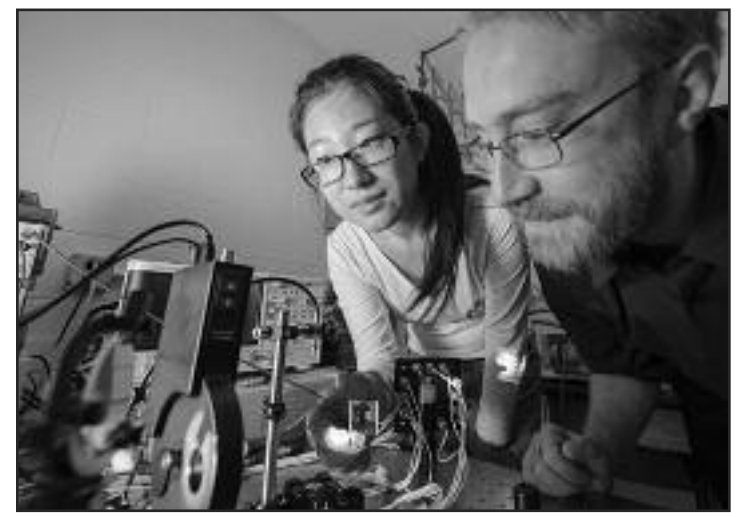
Most of us could hardly recognize some of the new solar collectors. Researchers at Michigan State University specifically responded to the aesthetic critics of solar panels by creating transparent solar cells. Well, not totally transparent—they actually have thin strips of traditional solar panels to convert the infrared light being reflected by the entire panel. This technology could effectively turn any sheet of glass into a solar energy producer, from the windows of your office building to the screen of your cell phone.

This could spell the end for space-intensive solar plants. Currently the cells cannot convert light into electricity at efficient enough levels to be productive, but researchers hope to

achieve efficiency closer to that of existing photovoltaic panels in coming years. Though less effective than older technology, the sheer scale of utility of the new model makes it a much more substantial potential energy source.

Beyond the collection of solar energy, storage continues to be a problem. Modern batteries are typically inefficient and expensive, making solar energy only useful during daylight hours. Researchers at Ohio State University are working to solve this problem and recently debuted a photovoltaic panel with a built-in battery. If the new design is successful, fusing the battery and panel into one could be a game-changer. The design has already shown to make batteries 20 percent more efficient and 25 percent less expensive.

Another area of solar innovation has been ingenuity of application. Thinking outside the box has helped establish potential ways to industrialize the production of solar energy without consuming an excessive amount of acreage in the process. The Dutch have already pioneered solar roadways, in which highways are lined with solar panels. This saves clearing more land and makes use of land that is otherwise entirely unproductive. Another effort to limit land use involves constructing solar plants in the 70 percent of the planet that is covered by water.



CREDIT: G.L. KOHUTH, THE STATE NEWS

Researchers Richard Lunt and Yimu Zhao test cutting edge transparent solar cells at their Michigan State University lab.

Experiments have already begun in France, England, India and California.

And while seemingly far-fetched, generating solar power from space is another area being examined. Satellites could capture significantly more sunlight than earthbound panels, as they could be positioned to collect solar radiation all the time. The first proposal and tests of this idea began over 40 years ago. The challenge is to create satellites that can capture sunlight, convert it to microwave energy, and beam it back to Earth. The exciting potential of this idea has led to large-scale investment by India, China and Japan.

No doubt we are only at the beginning of the age of alternative renewable energy, and the next few years and decades will be an exciting time to follow the

growth of solar power from a fringe sector to a dominant player in the global energy mix.

CONTACTS: "The World's First Solar Road is Producing More Energy Than Expected," <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/05/11/3657220/solaroad-producing-energy/>; "New design brings world's first solar battery to performance milestone," <https://news.osu.edu/news/2015/08/03/%E2%80%8Bnew-design-brings-world%E2%80%99s-first-solar-battery-to-performance-milestone/>.

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.

## Statewide Order Issued for Pharmacies to Dispense Overdose Reversal Drug

Naloxone Can Be Dispensed Now Without a Prescription Under Department Program

By PRESS OFFICER  
DHMH

BALTIMORE, MD—To help further combat the heroin and opioid epidemic gripping the state, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene announced today a statewide standing order allowing pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription under the State's Overdose Response Program.

Naloxone is a prescription medication that safely and effectively reverses overdoses related to opioids, a class of drugs that includes heroin and such prescription pain relievers as oxycodone, hydrocodone, morphine and methadone. Expanding access to naloxone is an important component of Maryland's strategy for reducing overdose deaths, which increased 60 percent statewide between 2010 and 2014. Eighty-six percent of all overdose deaths in 2014 were opioid-related and potentially could have been prevented had naloxone been administered in a timely manner.

The order was issued by Dr. Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services at Health and Mental Hygiene, using authority granted by a new law. The order allows all Maryland-licensed pharmacists to dispense naloxone without a prescription to anyone trained and certified under the department's Overdose Response Program. The department has authorized 41 organizations to conduct naloxone trainings and to issue certificates, including all local health departments and a number of treatment programs, community organizations and law enforcement agencies. Nearly 13,000 people have been certified by these organizations since Health and Mental Hygiene's Overdose Response Program began in March 2014. The program provides specialized, in-depth, hands-on training on opioid overdose response and naloxone administration.

To assist pharmacists with naloxone dispensing under the standing order, the department

is faxing copies of the order, a guidance document for pharmacists and other materials to every pharmacy in the state. Pharmacists immediately may begin dispensing to anyone with an Overdose Response Program certificate. Certificate holders still must pay for the naloxone through their insurance, with cash or another method.

In addition to expanding access to naloxone through the Overdose Response Program, the new law also allows physicians, advanced practice nurses, dentists and other healthcare providers to prescribe naloxone to a patient who they believe might be in a position to assist someone experiencing an opioid overdose. This means that Marylanders can go directly to their trusted provider to get naloxone and can be educated on how to use it to save someone's life.

Health and Mental Hygiene encourages pharmacists, other healthcare providers and anyone interested in obtaining naloxone to visit the Overdose

Response Program webpage at <http://goo.gl/TdGm3v>. The website contains copies of the standing order, pharmacist guidance, brochures for certificate holders and patients, and other useful information. In October, the department helped sponsor a healthcare provider training on best practices for prescribing medications to patients with chronic pain, in an effort to stem the tide of opioid abuse.

Anyone who needs help finding substance abuse treatment resources in Maryland should visit our webpage at <http://goo.gl/ayIQ3O>.

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the state government agency that protects Maryland's public health and also works to help Marylanders make better health decisions for better health outcomes. Stay connected by visiting [www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH](http://www.twitter.com/MarylandDHMH), or check out our page at [www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH](http://www.facebook.com/MarylandDHMH).

### Food from A1

The study also found that County Public School meals could be much healthier; the number of people in the County who participate in federal food and nutrition assistance programs and local programs and food pantries is on the rise; and unequal access to affordable fresh foods has a direct effect on the health of the County's

residents, who experience higher than average rates of diet-related chronic diseases than other residents of the State of Maryland.

To address these and other identified disparities, a number of policy recommendations and strategies are included, such as: creating a food charter for the County; expanding health and nutrition education and partnerships; encouraging

local food consumption and supporting the local food economy; establishing a food hub in the County to support local and regional food distribution and marketing; allowing and promoting mobile healthy food markets and food trucks to provide healthy food options in underserved communities; creating a floating grocery store zone to permit healthy food retailers in resi-

dential zones; and improving school meals through the purchase of local foods.

Copies of the "Prince George's County Food System Study" are available on the M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department web site: <http://www.pgplanning.org/> For more information, contact the M-NCPPC Countywide Planning Division at 301-952-3680.

# IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!



## The Prince George's Post

### Call Brenda Boice at 301 627 0900

Proudly Serving  
Prince George's County Since 1932