

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 8 February 25—March 2, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY LEO TRAUBHEY

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, left of the American flag, and state Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery, left of Frosh, listen to Vinton Cerf, vice president of Google and keynote speaker at this year's first meeting of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council on Thursday, February 4, 2016.

Cybersecurity Council is 'Critical' to the State, Says Google VP

By GRACE TOOHEY
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland must use its status as a hub of technological resources to ensure its own cybersecurity, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google Vinton Cerf told state legislators and industry experts Thursday.

Speaking at this year's first meeting of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, an advisory panel of government officials and private-sector security professionals, Cerf said the commission's local collection of experts can help address data vulnerabilities on every level, from corporate to public.

"Maryland has made an enormous amount of progress and shown leadership in the cybersecurity space, so you have a lot to be proud of," Cerf said. Even the simplest data can expose your privacy, Cerf said, and in a time when every person who owns a smartphone is carrying around hundreds of millions of lines of code in their

pocket, security is more important than ever.

"I can't think of anything more critical to our future than figuring out how to secure ourselves in cyberspace," Cerf said.

One reason that data is vulnerable is because software al-

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PG County Council Confirm Two New Appointments

By Press Officer
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council confirmed the appointments of H.P. "Hank" Stawinski, III as Chief of the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) and Gevonnia R. Whittington as Director of the Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security. Following the County Council confirmation, Chief Stawinski and Director Whittington were sworn-in during a ceremony in the Office of the County Executive in Upper Marlboro, MD. To view this swearing-in ceremony on YouTube, go to the web page

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrlkQ3oeKBk>.

"The Prince George's County Council confirmed two incredible leaders to continue our public safety progress throughout the County," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, III. "I want to congratulate Hank Stawinski and Gevonnia "Gee-Gee" Whittington on their new and critical leadership positions and look forward to being kept apprised through their counsel as well as their service to the citizens of this County. I also want to thank Chairman

See CEREMONY Page A3

PGCPS Teacher Receives \$25,000 and is Named 2015-2016 Milken Educator

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On Wednesday, February 17, 2016, Oxon Hill Middle School teacher Angela Malone received the surprise of a lifetime when she was presented a cash prize of \$25,000 and was named a recipient of the 2015-16 Milken Educator Award. She is the only educator in the state of Maryland to receive the honor this season.

Ms. Malone was presented the award by Dr. Jane Foley,

senior vice president of the Milken Educator Awards. Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford, Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Interim Maryland State Superintendent Dr. Jack R. Smith, Prince George's County Board of Education Chair Dr. Segun Eubanks, Board Member Edward Burroughs III and Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell were also present for the presentation.

See MILKEN AWARD Page A2

PGCPS Takes Action in Response to Child Sex Case

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is working closely with county partners and taking immediate actions to support the community and improve processes following the arrest of an employee from Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School who was charged with multiple counts of child sex abuse.

"As a father, grandfather, and educator that has dedicated my life to the education and safety of students across the state of Maryland, my heart goes out to the families and victims at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School and the entire Glenarden community," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer, during a press conference on February 10. "I, like many, was shocked, appalled, disgusted, and disheartened by the allegations that a former PGCPS employee harmed students and vulnerable children."

The news conference provided an update on the case, as well as how the FBI and county agencies would partner throughout the investigation. Joined by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III; Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) Interim Chief Hank Stawinski; Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks; and Prince George's County Board of Education Chair Dr. Segun C. Eubanks, Dr. Maxwell outlined a number of actions the school system has taken to immediately support victims and the school community, and what will be done moving forward to ensure the safety of students.

At the administrative level, PGCPS leaders met with the Judge Sylvania Woods community to share information on the incident and review policies and procedures for reporting abuse and suspicious activity. Counseling and psychological sup-

See PGCPS Page A3

State Department of Commerce Experts Team Up with EDC to Sell Prince George's County, Attract High-Wage Jobs

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Today, top executives at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) met with the chief economic development experts from Maryland's Department of Commerce to conduct a high-level strategy session to collaborate on how to attract high-wage jobs to Prince George's County. The group determined that financial incentives are less impactful in attracting and retaining businesses than selling the county's assets such as an educated workforce, prime location and Class A office space at a 40% discount. All three advantages are at the top of the list for any corporation looking to increase revenue and must be properly communicated to decision makers in the county's existing and targeted companies.

"85% of what closes the deal is excitement," says Jim Coleman, President and CEO



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: Faye Njaka, Senior Business Development Specialist at the Maryland Department of Commerce; David Lewis, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, EDC Business Development Director; Ebony Stocks, EDC Economic Development Incentive Fund Director; John Mason, EDC Business Development Director; Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; Britta Vander Linden, EDC Chief of Staff; Larry Hentz, EDC Business Development Director; Steve Pennington, Managing Director of Business and Industry Sector Development for the Maryland Department of Commerce.

of the EDC, also known as the EDC's Chief Excitement Officer. "If we could just help our organization sell the facts, we could close a lot of deals

and make a lot of people multi-millionaires."

Coleman's team of Business Development Directors and executives met with a

high-level team from the Maryland Department of

See JOBS Page A3

INSIDE

HUD Awards \$25 Million to Improve, Preserve Public Housing in Maryland

The grants announced are provided through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which offers annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities across the country to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. Community, Page A4

Ending a Lifetime Sentence: Maryland Restores Voting Rights to Ex-Offenders

Maryland now joins 13 other states, plus the District of Columbia, in immediately restoring the voting rights of ex-offenders upon their release. There are nine states that permanently bar certain ex-offenders from voting at all. Commentary, Page A4

Economic Development Corporation and Asian Business Committee Welcome New Chair

Sharon Jackson, Acting Executive Director of the Supplier Development and Diversity Division also spoke to the Committee about the power and importance of being a Prince George's County Certified Business. Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Chi-Raq

Chi-Raq is a modern day adaptation of the ancient Greek play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. After the murder of a child by a stray bullet, a group of women led by Lysistrata organize against the on-going violence in Chicago's Southside creating a movement that challenges the nature of race, sex and violence in America and around the world. Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Why is the Arctic such a crucial area to focus on in efforts to stem global warming

—Joseph Constabile,
Dedham, MA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will not run this week

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

IVY LEAGUE ACADEMY FAMILY CHILDCARE

Quality Child Care is located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland near brown Station Road, Suitland Parkway, 495 Old Marlboro Pike, Woodyard Road, Pennsylvania Avenue & RT 301. The Academy is open Mondays-Fridays from 6:00 AM-12:00 PM is now accepting ages 2-9.

This Academy provides a structured age-appropriate educational and learning curriculum that promotes early educational and social development and growth. Program includes ABeka, The Learning Box, ABCmouse, social, emotional and physical development, math, social science, Religion, science and technology, creative arts, literacy and communication and weekly library visits.

Summer Registration starts March 1, 2016. Don't delay because space is limited. Summer Enrichment Program includes meals, summer tutoring, weekly library, museums, movies, amusement parks, water parks, etc. Call 240-481-7345 for more information.

EARLY VOTING

You can vote at your convenience. Early voting begins April 14, 2016 through April 21, 2016 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Voting is convenient, accessible and on your schedule. Important Dead Lines: Voter Registration Deadline is Tuesday, April 5, 2016-9:00 PM, Absentee Ballot Application Deadline is Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 8:00 PM (Mail) or 11:59 PM (fax/e-mail). For more information contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections is at (301) 341-7300. Primary Election Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

BAGLEY-MITCHELL MARRIAGE

Shanelle Bagley and Jeremy Mitchell were married Sunday, January 3, 2016 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Bagley of Tampa, Florida. The groom is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Larry Mitchell of Rio Vista, California and grandson of Mrs. Ruth Turner who resided in Brandywine, Maryland.

Keyelli Bagley, the bride's sister was maid of honor. Avery

Jackson, and Grant Jackson, great grandchildren of Mrs. Ruth Turner, were the flower girl and ring bearer respectively. Jason Mitchell, the groom's brother was best man.

The bride is a United States Army Sergeant, Dental Specialist. The groom is a United States Army, MOS 74D, Chemical Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Specialist. The couple is residing in El Pasco, Texas where they are stationed at Fort Bliss Army Base.

WHML (31st ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON)

Join us at Marin's Crosswinds—7400 Greenway Center Drive Greenbelt, Maryland—on March 16 at Noon to honor women in Prince George's County government and public service. Featuring Gladys Noon Spellman Award presentations, The Women in Government Award and a special tribute to the Honorable Barbara Mikulski, United States Senator.

There will be live music and vendors. Sponsorships available. Cost is \$50 per person. For more information call 301-952-3755 or LRTTHOMAS@CO.PG.MD.US.

Milken Award from A1

Surrounded by fellow educators, students and Oxon Hill Middle School Principal Wendell Coleman, Ms. Malone was lauded for her exceptional work that serves as a model for the state and the nation. Ms. Malone is the science department chair at Oxon Hill Middle School and she also teaches seventh and eighth grade Honors Science.

"We've known all along that we have exceptional teachers in PGCPSS and it is outstanding to be recognized on a national scale by such a prestigious organization. Congratulations to Angela Malone on this wonderful honor. It is well-deserved

and I am very proud of her and all of the hard-working educators in our district," said Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPSS.

"Angela is a pro at marrying the arts with science," said Dr. Foley. "As a trained actor, singer and dancer, she brings unique talents to her classroom and can relate to all students." Dr. Foley added, "She is also respected as a leader at Oxon Hill in its transition from STEM to STEAM. We are thrilled to welcome her into the Milken Educator family. I anticipate a wonderful future for this charismatic educator."

Ms. Malone is among up to 40 educators who will receive the prestigious national honor

during the Milken Family Foundation (MFF) coast-to-coast tour across the country during the 2015-16 Awards season. The Milken Educator Awards, conceived by the MFF to attract, retain and motivate outstanding talent to the teaching profession, is the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program, dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by *Teacher* magazine. Since 1987, the MFF has devoted more than \$137 million in funding to the Milken Educator Awards, including over \$66 million in individual Awards to more than 2,600 recipients, plus powerful professional development opportunities and networking with leading education stakeholders.

Cyber from A1

ways has bugs and programmers have not yet figured out a way to write perfect code, Cerf said. Additionally, he said, education is key to helping individuals secure their own data.

Home to federal agencies like the National Security Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as well as university cybersecurity programs, Maryland needs to take advantage of its resources and get ahead of the next large-scale breach, said state Sen. Susan Lee, D-Montgomery.

"We shouldn't be responding. We need to be proactive," said Lee, who was the primary sponsor for the bill that established the council last year.

The council's goal is to make recommendations about how best to ensure that Maryland residents, business and governments are "as free from cyberattacks as we can make them," said Attorney General Brian Frosh, the council's chair.

"You've got folks out there who want to do everything they possibly can to steal technology, to disrupt services, and to steal money," Frosh said.

The council's membership list includes state legislators, representatives from state and federal agencies, attorneys and private security analysts, university pro-

gram directors, and members of the military and police.

Lessons about cyber-technology should begin as early as elementary school so that every person understands the importance of data security, he said.

Shortages in the technology workforce have become a "tremendous" issue for private-sector firms, but universities have been stepping up their cyber-education programs to fill those vacancies, said John Abeles, president and CEO of cybersecurity consulting group System 1 Inc.

"I can't find enough qualified people to do the work I'm doing," Abeles said.

Sometimes called "The Father of the Internet," Cerf has had a prestigious career in the cyber world. Before becoming vice president of Google, Cerf worked at the United States Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency where he helped develop the early stages of what would eventually become the Internet and was awarded the U.S. National Medal of Technology in December 1997.

Lee, co-chair of the council's policy and legislation subcommittee, has previously sponsored cyber-security laws that prosecute hackers who attack state infrastructure.

Maryland sees thousands of cyber attacks every day that range in size and design, said

Maryland Secretary of Information Technology David Garcia, who serves as chair of the council's incident response subcommittee. Though these attempts are common, they are typically smaller scale, such as phishing attacks or denial-of-service attacks, he said.

"We see those every single day. How often do they get through? Garcia said. "Sometimes, we may have to change an IP on a machine, we may have to redirect service."

In 2014, the University of Maryland was hit with a massive data breach in which the personal information of more than 309,000 students, alumni and staff was compromised. According to an email sent by campus President Wallace Loh, the information included names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth.

The University of Maryland breach was a "very unique" level of compromise, Garcia said.

Most people will get hacked at some point, he said, and his subcommittee will address at what point government officials or agencies like the attorney general or the FBI will need to get involved.

"There's a saying in the community. There's two types of people: Those who know they've been hacked and those who don't know they've been hit," he said.

Neighborhood Events

Edwards' Amendment On Gun Violence Research Considered as Democratic Motion to Recommit

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards' (MD-4) amendment was considered as the Democratic motion to recommit to H.R. 3293, the Scientific Research in the National Interest Act. Rep. Edwards' amendment would add "increasing the understanding of the causes and prevention of gun violence" to the list of topics considered to be in the national interest in the underlying bill. The motion to recommit was defeated by the Republican majority by a vote of 177-241.

Below is an excerpt from Rep. Edwards' statement as prepared for delivery:

"We have a gun violence problem in the United States. According to *The American Journal of Medicine*, compared to other rich countries, Americans are: 25 times more likely to be violently killed with a firearm; 6 times more likely to be accidentally killed with a gun; 8 times more likely to commit suicide using a firearm; and 10 times more likely to die from a gun death overall. To address it, Americans deserve the facts and Congress needs the breadth and data of the epidemic."

"Just think if we were able to use the public health approach to address our gun violence epidemic. This is a small, yet powerful step that could lead to significantly reducing the number of Americans killed by firearms. Innocent victims like second-grade teacher NeShante Davis, her daughter Chloe, and all Americans deserve nothing less. Even if we are able to save just one life, it will have been well worth it."

"PEOPLE OF LAUREL: SHARE and CONNECT"

The Laurel Arts District Committee and the Laurel Historical Society are collaborating in a unique effort to introduce neighbors and collect Laurel's community history.

LAUREL, MD—The Laurel Arts District Committee and the Laurel Historical Society announced a "Call to the Laurel Community" to participate in a creative interactive exhibit that will introduce individuals to their unique neighbors located in all 4 corners of Laurel. Once the project is completed, the accumulative individual records will go into the permanent collection of the Laurel Museum in Laurel, MD.

"PEOPLE OF LAUREL: SHARE and CONNECT" is an invitation to the Laurel community to participate in a project that will introduce individuals to their community. This project will also provide historic information to add to the Laurel Museum's constantly growing collection recording life in Laurel.

In a town this large one of the best ways to "own" the collective history is through visual documentation. We plan to do this via modern technology by the use of "Selfies." The project is open to all who consider themselves a part of Laurel's story. Individuals are asked to submit a selfie and a brief story about their life, work, or whatever other detail they wish to focus on as their story relates to Laurel. Selfies



Congresswoman
Donna F. Edwards

and stories will be collected from through March 15th.

From April 15th through May 31st the pictures and stories received will be artistically posted at participating businesses. PEOPLE OF LAUREL: SHARE and CONNECT coincides with a new exhibit at the Laurel Museum "Behind the Bricks: Twenty Years of the Laurel Museum." Behind the Bricks explores the evolution of the Laurel Museum's 20 year history as a community organization displaying Laurel's history in a different way each year.

Laurel Arts District Committee and the Laurel Historical Society are delighted to host an event that is fun, inclusive, culturally enriching and historically valuable.

WSSC to Estimate Customer Bills Due to Difficulty Reading Meters in Aftermath of Recent Blizzard

LAUREL, MD—The recent blizzard, which left many outside meters covered in snow and remote reading devices inaccessible, has caused a significant delay in WSSC's regular meter reading schedule. As a result, many residential customers will receive estimated bills. Additionally, the billing period will be 10 days longer than usual and may result in approximately 100,000 of WSSC's 430,000 residential customers receiving higher than normal bills.

Customers affected will get a notification on their bill. Customers, who receive paper bills in the mail, will also receive a special billing insert. All affected customers will be given a 45-day due date extension.

An estimated bill, which is labeled as such, is based on each customer's average daily consumption (ADC) during the same time last year. Customers should pay the estimated charges. During the next billing cycle, when WSSC can take an actual meter reading, the account will be reconciled with the customer being charged only for the water actually used during the extended billing cycle.

Inside meter customers can receive an actual bill sooner by providing a meter reading. The inside water meter is usually located near the hot water heater or washer and dryer. It is read from left to right and the 7- or 8-digit reading includes one stationary zero. The reading can be submitted by calling our 24/7 Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at 301-206-4001. Customers should have their account number available when submitting the reading. Check out our How to Read Your Water Meter video for more details.

Some of our customers' water meters are located outside, under the ground. For safety reasons, customers should not attempt to access these meters.

Monica Johnson Named WSSC's Deputy General Manager for Strategic Partnerships

LAUREL, MD—WSSC General Manager/CEO Carla A. Reid today announced Monica Johnson has been appointed WSSC's new Deputy General Manager for Strategic Partnerships, effective February 16, 2016. In this newly-created position, Johnson will oversee WSSC's Customer Relations Team as well as its Communications & Community Relations, Human Resources, Fair Practices and Intergovernmental Relations offices.

Johnson is the former Director of Prince George's County's Office of Central Services. Prior to that she was Assistant Secretary for Mission Support at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Johnson's appointment marks her return to WSSC, where she began in 1998 as an attorney in the General Counsel's Office. She was promoted to other positions, most notably Intergovernmental Relations Director and Acting Team Chief for Mission Support, before moving on to DNR in 2007.

"I am thrilled Monica has accepted this important new role at the Commission," said Reid. "She has experience running virtually every aspect of a government agency. And with WSSC's role in environmental stewardship, her experience at DNR will be invaluable to us. We are fortunate to have her coming back to the WSSC family."

As Director of Central Services, Johnson administered centralized support services for Prince George's County's facilities operation and management, contract administration and procurement, fleet management, real estate, business development, graphic and reproductions services and logistics. At Maryland DNR, she provided strategic leadership and guidance on business operations and managed several critical business functions including, finance, procurement, audit, information technology, licensing & registration, human resources and fair practices.

"Being able to return to WSSC and support Carla's vision of ensuring excellent customer service and solutions is a wonderful opportunity for me," said Johnson. "I also look forward to working with the dedicated employees at the Commission. When you work for WSSC, you know the importance of what we do. Our role in our community is critical."

Johnson is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland. She holds a law degree from Boston University and a MBA from Johns Hopkins University. She is a member of the Maryland Bar, District of Columbia Bar and Federal Court. She has served on The Training Source Board of Directors and she is the former chair of the State Open Meeting Compliance Board.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Sharing Money Problems with Kids

Kids are surprisingly resilient in the face of a crisis. But even so, serious family money troubles can potentially affect a young person's home life, education and outlook on money management down the road.

While my wife and I don't have kids, children under the age of 10 who are particularly mature—and particularly observant—often can immediately pick up on a parent's stress over money or other issues.

How can you be honest about your finances with a child under the age of 18 without spreading confusion or stress? The American Psychological Association points out (<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/children-economy.aspx>) that kids can often deal with a crisis fairly well but most aren't yet keenly aware of tension in the household. When sharing money problems with your kids, here are a few ideas from the APA and other resources you can use:

- **Tell the truth, but watch how you tell it.** You want to spare your child from hardship and worry, but it's important not to say things are great when they're clearly not. Try to explain in brief but truthful detail about what's happening and leave time for questions. Any child, no matter how sophisticated, can become worried if his or her parents reveal extreme fear about money concerns. Keep in mind there's a great opportunity in these conversations to understand your child's thoughts and attitudes. Make it a kind, understanding conversation, and listen for clues.

- **Keep the discussion age-appropriate.** Teens may be more aware of general financial circumstances because they can spot different behavior at home or because their friends' parents might be going through similar circumstances. However, younger kids generally have less knowledge and experience to process what's going on. Tell kids what they need to know, but don't overload them with information.

- **Set an example.** It may be difficult, but demonstrate grace under pressure. Be calm and reasoned. If you are looking for work, discuss that with your children and even share what that process is like. Remember, kids learn by example. If they see their parents dealing sensibly with adversity no matter how long it takes to right the ship, that's a very important lesson. Communicate behaviors that they will need to learn if they're going to successfully deal with money problems as adults.

- **Introduce or reinforce money lessons.** Whatever the problem, reinforce smart spending and savings behavior no matter what the child's age. However old they are, (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/EducateKids/>) kids should get regular lessons in the relationship between money and the things in their life.

- **Make it educational.** Communicate behaviors that kids will need to successfully manage money in the future. Whatever the problem, reinforce smart spending and saving behavior no matter what the child's age. Teaching kids about money can be fun by introducing educational games. The Practical Money Skills website offers a collection of games (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/games/>) kids can play to learn how to save money. Talk to them about important financial concepts such as budgeting—and bring them to life using real-life examples like planning an affordable family vacation or outing.

- **Introduce the emergency fund.** One of the essential building blocks of personal finance, the emergency fund exists to protect savings and keep borrowing to a minimum. Older children might embrace the value of an emergency fund as a way to offset the financial loss of a lost bike or smartphone or some other personal item. For adults, the general rule of thumb on emergency funds is to have at least three to six months of savings on hand in case of a lost job or expensive repair. The key is to talk with the teen about the parallel financial risks in their lives that might benefit from the existence of emergency savings.

- **Focus on things more important than ... things.** Parents can use a tough financial stretch to focus on the positive, such as time spent enjoying family, friends and pets, which doesn't cost much at all. Good health and healthy behaviors are essential elements of correcting problems, overcoming tough times and living a full life. In short, use this moment in time to help your child put money in the proper perspective.

Bottom line: A money crisis can truly test the strength of a family. Should you find yourself in a financial bind, use it to teach your kids some very important money lessons.

Jobs from A1

Commerce led by Steve Pennington, Managing Director of Business and Industry Sector Development.

"Economic development is a team sport," said Pennington. "We want to collaborate to tell the Maryland story and the



Nathaniel Sillin

Prince George's County story to help companies find the place that fits their needs."

To learn how to grow your revenue, activate your prosperity and become supernaturally wealthy, contact John Mason, EDC Business Development Director at (301) 583-4646 or jmason@co.pg.md.us.

HUD Awards \$25 Million to Improve, Preserve Public Housing in Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER HUD

PHILADELPHIA, PA—U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro announced that HUD is allocating \$25 million to public housing authorities in Maryland to make needed capital improvements to their properties.

The grants announced are provided through HUD's Capital Fund Program, which offers annual funding to approximately 3,100 public housing authorities across the country to build, repair, renovate and/or modernize the public housing in their communities. These housing authorities use the funding to complete a range of large-scale improvements from replacing roofs and making energy-efficient upgrades to replacing old plumbing and electrical systems.

"HUD has a responsibility to provide public housing residents with a quality and safe roof over their heads," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "This funding, in addition to assistance from the private sector through HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration Program, will help housing authorities address longstanding capital improvements and preserve and enhance America's affordable housing." "Across the Mid-Atlantic region, \$197 million in grants will refuel the efforts of public housing authorities as they work to modernize their prop-

Public Housing Authority	Allocation
College Park Housing Authority	\$ 106,143
Elkton Housing Authority	\$ 185,709
Frederick Housing Authority	\$ 579,515
Glenarden Housing Authority	\$ 78,556
Hagerstown Housing Authority	\$ 1,444,568
Havre de Grace Housing Authority	\$ 72,142
Housing Authority of Allegany County	\$ 94,230
Housing Authority of Baltimore City	\$ 16,807,969
Housing Authority of Cambridge	\$ 250,088
Housing Authority of Crisfield	\$ 417,006
Housing Authority of Prince Georges County	\$ 404,505
Housing Authority of St. Mary's County, MD	\$ 24,956
Housing Authority of The City of Annapolis	\$ 1,599,373
Housing Authority of The City of Cumberland	\$ 560,025
Housing Authority of The City of Frostburg	\$ 104,789
Housing Authority of The Town of Easton	\$ 78,090
Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County	\$ 1,159,410
Housing Opportunity Commission of Montgomery County	\$ 593,944
Queen Anne's County Housing Authority	\$ 33,972
Rockville Housing Enterprises	\$ 135,152
St. Michaels Housing Authority	\$ 88,149
Wicomico County Housing Authority	\$ 365,193
Total	\$ 25,183,484

erties, focusing on needs that are well beyond routine maintenance," said Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region. For more than 75 years, the federal government has been investing billions of dollars in developing and maintaining public housing—including providing critical support through Capital Fund grants. Nevertheless, there has been a net loss of over 135,000 public housing units since fiscal year 2000, representing an average

loss of approximately 9,000 units annually.

In 2011, HUD released Capital Needs in the Public Housing Program, a third-party independent study that estimated the capital needs in the U.S. public housing stock. The study found the nation's 1.1 million public housing units are facing an estimated \$25.6 billion in large-scale repairs.

Since Congress authorized the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) in November 2011, early results show it is

generating significant additional capital for public and assisted housing. HUD has made awards to 60,000 public and assisted housing units in more than 340 different projects across the country. Through these awards, housing authorities have proposed to generate approximately \$3 billion in capital repairs by leveraging private debt and equity, which will preserve or replace distressed units and support local jobs in their communities—all without additional federal resources.

PGCPS from A1

port will be provided to students and families upon request, and those services will remain in place as long as they are needed. A second meeting will take place at the school this evening.

Dr. Maxwell will also convene a taskforce of internal and external partners to review current policies and procedures and identify areas of immediate improvement. The district will also consult with national experts in

this field to ensure the taskforce recommendations are aligned with best practices from across the country.

Next week, staff from the PGCPS Office of General Counsel will address principals during a systemic principals' meeting and review all laws, policies, and procedures related to an employee's obligation to report abuse and suspicious behavior.

At the school level, principals will hold mandatory meetings with staff to review the

August 2015 training materials and October 2015 memorandum on procedures for reporting abuse and suspicious activities. Professional school counselors will reach out to students and conduct lessons in the classroom that address the differences between appropriate and inappropriate physical contact; personal body safety rules and when to use them; and how to identify trusted adults to whom they can report when they feel unsafe.

"We will work closely with our community partners and use all possible resources to foster a safe and supportive environment for all students and families," added Dr. Maxwell. "It goes without saying that these type of acts are intolerable and unacceptable."

If parents or community members have any additional information regarding this case, they should call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).

Ceremony from A1

Derrick L. Davis and the Members of the Prince George's County Council for their support of these appointees. Hank and Gee-Gee are County residents who also represent the next generation of County leaders who will continue to transform public safety in Prince George's County."

"The Council congratulates County Executive Baker on his two solid choices for public safety leadership before the Council," said Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis. (D-District 6) "We are pleased to unanimously confirm the appointments of both Chief Hank Stawinski and Homeland Security Director Gevonnia Whittington. Safe communities is a top priority and with these appointments, Prince Georgians are assured of grassroots, experienced, long-serving public safety leaders."

Established originally in 1931, the Prince George's County Police Department serves approximately 900,000 citizens throughout the County. The Department answers over 500,000 calls for service per year and has an authorized strength of over 2,000 officers and 300 civilians. Over the past 5 years, PGPD has reduced crime over 40% and violent crime over 30% while trail blazing innovations in community policing, communications, and

the use of data to curb negative crime trends.

"At the end your life, you add it all up and it all comes down to a few moments and this is one of them for me," said PGPD Chief Hank Stawinski. "The most fundamental reason why I would like to continue my tenure and lead what I refer to as the family business in the future is sitting right here (my daughter)—ensuring her safety and the safety of all the children in Prince George's County into the future."

In 2003 Prince George's County Government established the Office of Homeland Security to plan and coordinate the County's domestic preparedness and emergency response efforts. The Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security is comprised of three functions, combined to ensure the safety and security of the citizens and residents of this County. Homeland Security is comprised of an administrative office and two operational divisions, the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Public Safety Communication. Furthermore, over recent years Prince George's County has grown its homeland security apparatus by building a more robust Office of Emergency Management as well as investing in public safety infrastructure with the opening of a new 9-1-1 dispatch center in 2010 and Public Safety Complex in 2015.

"I want to again thank Mr. Baker for such an awesome opportunity," said Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security Director Gevonnia Whittington. "I appreciate that he has chosen me and has the faith that I will lead the Office of Homeland Security to new heights. Homeland Security is such a critical component in the County and in the Country. I look forward to working with the men and women of the Office of Homeland Security, while striving to keep our community safe. I will seek to earn this position every day."

Bio of Prince George's County Police Department Chief Stawinski

Henry P. Stawinski III, known as Hank, was appointed to the position of Deputy Chief of Police on September 11, 2011. He began his law enforcement career in 1992 with the Prince George's County Police Department which serves 486 square miles and nearly one million residents along the eastern border of Washington D.C. Since July of 2013, Hank has been responsible for the Bureau of Patrol to which approximately 1100 of the Department's 1700 sworn members are assigned. Within the Bureau are the six current district stations with a seventh district under construction and set to open in the Fall of 2015. Also within the Bureau is the Special Operations Division which in-

cludes Aviation, Canine, Collision Analysis and Reconstruction, three Emergency Services Teams, and the Marine Unit. The Bureau of Patrol manages a budget of \$138 million, nearly half of the Department's total annual budget.

His three prior assignments include serving as the Deputy Chief for the Bureau of Forensic Science & Intelligence, Chief of Staff to the Chief of Police, and Deputy Inspector General for the Department. In his 23 years of service, he has played a key role in the Department's seven successful bids for accreditation, founded and supervised the Behavioral Sciences Services Unit, and led the "Arrive Alive" officer driving safety campaign.

Hank holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Boston College and a Master of Science in Management from the Johns Hopkins University. He is an alumnus of both the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association Police Executive Leadership Institute. He has also attended the negotiation program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is a member of the Police Executive Research Forum, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, and the Police Chief's Association of Prince

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COMMENTARY

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator for Maryland



Mikulski Statement on Zika Virus

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today participated in a Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Appropriations subcommittee hearing entitled “Emerging Health Threats and the Zika Supplemental Funding Request.” The hearing covered the Zika virus and the Obama Administration’s supplemental funding request of \$1.8 billion to combat the growing global health emergency.

“The Zika virus once again shows that the defense of the nation doesn’t only rely on the Department of Defense. We might be fighting ISIL with airstrikes, but we could be protecting America with mosquito eradication. We need to be able to be prepared and we need a reliable infrastructure along the way. I am deeply concerned about the outbreak of the Zika virus. This is a serious situation that requires an all-hands on

deck response from the federal government working in partnership with the World Health Organization and affected nations. I have three principles for the federal government’s response to Zika. First, the response must be driven by science and not panic. Second, Zika must be fought at its epicenter, which is the best way to limit its spread here. Finally, the development of a vaccine and treatments must be a top priority. I will be evaluating the President’s supplemental funding request to ensure that it both meets the criteria for emergency spending and provides the resources necessary to stop the spread of this virus,” Senator Mikulski said.

The panel of witnesses testifying during the hearing included Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Anthony Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).



The National Capital Trolley Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO BY FRANK HICKS

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TROLLEY MUSEUM

The National Capital Trolley Museum preserves and interprets the heritage of electric and interurban railways of Washington, D.C. and environs for the benefit of present and future generations, while supplementing its collections with significant national and international objects to enhance its interpretive programs. The National Capital Trolley Museum was founded in 1959 after the abandonment of streetcar service in the District of Columbia had become a certainty. The Museum opened to the public in 1969 at its present location in Northwest Branch Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, Noon to 5pm and Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm (March 15–May 15; June 15–July 15; and October 1–November 15). Admission is \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children (17 and under) and Seniors (65 and over). For more information, visit <http://www.dctrolley.org/>.

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Ending a Lifetime Sentence: Maryland Restores Voting Rights to Ex-Offenders

“Apart from being a fundamental democratic right, voting is essential to a formerly incarcerated citizen’s rehabilitation. Ex-felons who have been released from prison, and are living in our neighborhoods, are a part of our community. These individuals who have paid their societal debts are unduly barred from being fully re-integrated back into society by being denied the right to vote. These restrictions serve only to further alienate and isolate millions of Americans as they work to regain normalcy in their lives.”

—Rep. John Conyers, April 10, 2014

A wrong has been made right in the state of Maryland.

In a long overdue reversal led by the state’s legislature, ex-offenders in Maryland—citizens who have done the proscribed time for their crime—will automatically regain the right to vote once they have been released from jail. Prior to this vote, Maryland required all individuals with past felony convictions to complete all terms of their probation and parole before their access to the polls could be restored through what many described as a lengthy and confusing process. The previous policy—which disproportionately impacted communities of color—was unduly punitive; delaying and denying men and women who paid their debt to society and completed their prison sentences the quintessential right of any citizen who lives in a democracy. Such tactics of voter disenfranchisement must not be tolerated or become an acceptable policy option in a nation that professes to be governed by democratic tenets.

Once the Maryland bill becomes law, an estimated 40,000 men and women currently on felony probation or parole will have their right to vote restored—many of them in time to vote for their local and national leaders, including our nation’s new president. While there is much to applaud, we must recognize that this victory is a drop in the proverbial bucket. Today, in the United States of America, almost six million citizens are effec-

tively locked out of the democratic process because of laws that disenfranchise citizens convicted of felony offenses. Maryland now joins 13 other states, plus the District of Columbia, in immediately restoring the voting rights of ex-offenders upon their release. There are nine states that permanently bar certain ex-offenders from voting at all. Two states, Maine and Vermont, do not restrict voting rights to any citizen with a criminal conviction, even those still in prison, but this is a battle that must continue to be fought around our nation.

Among other benefits, voting promotes public safety. When we allow citizens to fully re-integrate back into society that must include more than securing employment or housing. While those pursuits and others are important, civic engagement can establish a vested interest in the well being of the communities where ex-offenders make their homes, work and pay taxes.

Because of the enduring tangle of race and the criminal justice in our nation, the majority of convicted felons disproportionately come from racial and ethnic communities, effectively disenfranchising not only individuals but entire communities. The restoration movement is therefore a movement to confront racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. Throughout our nation, nearly one in 13 African-American adults are banned from voting because of these laws. And it should come as no surprise that the states that have the harshest policies just happen to be those states with legacies of slavery, segregation, discrimination, voter suppression and the denial of the right to vote. Felon disenfranchisement is a tactic to suppress the vote, as much as voter ID laws, and it must be stopped.

America should not be in the business of denying individuals the right the vote. We are a stronger and truer democracy when we offer all citizens this fundamental right. Denying an ex-offender the right to vote serves no real purpose other than to undermine the democratic principals on which our nation is founded.

Ceremony from A3

George’s County. He is a past President of the Maryland Association of Police Planners. Hank lives in Prince George’s County with his wife of 15 years and their daughter.

Bio of Department of Homeland Security Director Whittington

Gevonia (“Gee-Gee”) Whittington entered the Prince George’s County Government in 1989, starting as a civilian station clerk with the police department.

She entered the police academy in 1993 and retired from the police department in December of 2015, as a Deputy Chief. She was the second African American female appointed to the rank of Deputy Chief in the Department’s history and the longest serving. She has served in numerous capacities throughout her career to include patrol, investigations, canine (handler and supervisor), patrol shift commander, internal affairs, and assistant commander of the Special Operations Division.

She was the second female to hold the position and was responsible for the management of the Aviation Section, Canine Section, Tactical Section (Emergency Services Teams and Tactical Teams), Special Events Section (FedEx), Traffic Section and the Marine Unit (National Harbor). In addition, she was an assistant commander of the District II (Bowie) station and the first and only female commander of the District III (Seat Pleasant)

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Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Winifred Green: An Unsung Warrior for Racial and Economic Justice

Transforming movements towards social justice depend on the work of a core group of committed and persistent and not always frontline soldiers—women and men who seize the moment and choose to stand up for what is right. My beloved friend and longtime Children’s Defense Fund (CDF) board member Winifred Green, who died February 6, 2016, was one of those unsung heroines. Born White and privileged in Jackson, Mississippi, I first met her during Freedom Summer 1964, when I was a young civil rights lawyer and she was one of a handful of prominent White women who were supporting school desegregation and working tirelessly to keep public schools in Jackson open. Her stance alienated her from many family members and friends. Winifred recounted: “Once my mother said to me, ‘What did we do wrong?’ I remember saying to her, ‘Granny taught me, ‘Red and Yellow, Black and White, they are precious in his sight,’ and I didn’t know that she didn’t really mean Black people.”

Winifred Green’s family worshiped in an all-White church but she reached an early turning point at age fourteen when she was a youth delegate to a national Episcopal convention in Boston. The mixed race conference was her first time interacting with Black people as peers and equals, and she had an epiphany when she suddenly realized the segregation her entire culture in Mississippi was built on was wrong: “It was revolutionary. I knew somebody had not been telling me the truth.” After learning the truth for herself she was unwavering in standing up for racial justice the rest of her life.

She became politically active at Millsaps College and shortly after graduating in 1963 organized Mississippians for Public Education, a group of women who effectively protested the Mississippi legislature’s attempts to close the public schools to avoid integration. She soon became a participant along with her good friend Patt Derian in the Wednesdays in Mississippi movement, a moral witness of prominent White and Black

northern women who traveled to Mississippi on Wednesdays to create bridges of understanding between northern and southern women across racial and class lines in Mississippi’s closed society. Wednesdays in Mississippi, organized by Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women and her friend Polly Cowan, wife of the former president of CBS television network, recognized the need for privileged women to speak up for and with less privileged ones.

Working with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Winifred Green traveled throughout the South to recruit civil rights activists, including Black families willing to enroll their children in White schools. She was one of the few homegrown, grassroots White activists in the Mississippi movement. She spoke up and marched and did whatever it took working with her Black sisters in the movement including Unita Blackwell, who became the first Black woman mayor in Mississippi after a life of cotton picking, Fannie Lou Hamer, and lesser known but equally courageous women like Mrs. Mae Bertha Carter, who with her husband Matthew Carter enrolled

seven of their thirteen children in local White schools in Sunflower County, Mississippi in the fall of 1965. I was privileged to be their attorney. The owner of the local plantation where the Carters lived and worked as sharecroppers ordered the Carters to withdraw their children or be evicted. The Carters did not back down and were evicted and harassed and shot at. Winifred Green stood with Mrs. Carter to give those children support to achieve a better future. Eight of the Carter children graduated from what had been all-White schools in Sunflower County. Eleven of them graduated from college—seven from the once rigidly segregated University of Mississippi.

Winifred never hesitated to do whatever task was needed however challenging. In a vivid example of unsung servant leadership she was the person charged with finding and purchasing the mules for the Mule Train that left Marks, Mississippi in May 1968 to be part of the Poor People’s Campaign in Washington, D.C. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was planning at

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The Prince George’s Post

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 Contents © 2016, The Prince George’s Post

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Retirement: Maybe Not What It Used to Be

Not that long ago, retirement for almost everyone meant the end of that daily commute and free time to take up hobbies, travel or simply enjoying life at home. While many retirees are still doing such things, there has also been a considerable change in how and when people retire.

Some of that is due to financial necessity. The age to collect Social Security benefits has risen and the private retirement savings of many were reduced by the recession of 2008, which also helped lower the value of many homes, most folks' biggest financial investment.

But it isn't always financial factors that have kept millions of Americans over the age of 65 in the workforce.

For many, the reality of retirement can be challenging, even frightening. Retirement usually means losing or limiting contact with former colleagues. It can also make one feel like there is less direction to one's life. Whatever one's job, there was always things to be accomplished, even with self-set goals. With retirement such goals can disappear. A person may also feel a loss of identity since he or she is no longer a teacher, or an office manager or whatever the profession was.

For some people none of that is a problem, but for others it's helpful to take steps to ease the way into retirement. If money and emotional issues are going to be a problem, part-time work might bridge the gap. Car services such as Uber and Lyft now provide many older drivers a means to earn extra money while staying active and involved with people.

Or past work experience might be helpful to a local business as a part-time employee or as a consultant. And if extra money isn't your motivation, volunteer opportunities are always available with local schools, libraries, city governments, senior centers and civic groups.

Is staying active in retirement a good idea? It sure is, whether it's continuing to work or taking up a hobby. Staying active can help you feel productive and give direction to your retirement years. And it may even help you stay healthier and avoid elderly disabilities, according to several studies.

If facing retirement is something that has you nervous and scared, you might also consider visiting a professional counselor. A counselor can help you examine the options open to you, and can assist you in understanding your feelings, desires and goals for your retirement.

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

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Ceremony from A4

station. She also served in the capacity of executive officer, assistant to the bureau chief several times before becoming a bureau chief herself. In her last position as bureau chief in the Bureau of Administration (BOA), she oversaw the Training and Education Division, Personnel, Recruiting and Background, Fiscal Management, Risk Management and sat as the Agency's EEO Coordinator. Gevonias also served on the Promotional Committee and represented the Agency in labor negotiations for both the Police

Civilian Employee Association (PCEA) and Crossing Guards. Gevonias holds a bachelor of science in organizational leadership from Mountain State University and is an alumni of Leadership Prince George's, Inc. In addition, she is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police and the founder of W.O.M.E.N (Women, Organizing and Mentoring the New), a group of women who strive to support one another in the area of law enforcement. Lastly, but most importantly, Gevonias is a wife and the mother of two beautiful children.

Christmas in April • Prince George's County URGENT NEED FOR ALL SKILLED TRADES PEOPLE

To Repair 83 Homes, Saturday April 30, 2016

Christmas in April • Prince George's County will be repairing the homes of 83 disadvantaged homeowners with the help of approximately 3,000 volunteers

In order to assist our neighbors, we are in urgent need of all skilled trades people (such as carpenters, painters, plumbers, roofers, and contractors).

If you can help us, contact Mary Kucharski, Executive Director of Christmas in April • Prince George's County, at 301-868-0937, or email us at cinapp@aol.com.

Economic Development Corporation and Asian Business Committee Welcome New Chair and Provide Opportunities for International Growth to Local Companies *County Positions for Korea Friendship Agreement*

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—Members of the Asian Business Committee (ABC) gathered at the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to induct their new chairman, to connect the 30 Asian business owners in attendance to billions of dollars in business resources and contracting opportunities, and to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The Honorable Li Bin, Counselor of Commerce from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and Rosa Hong, Assistant Director of the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) addressed the ABC and highlighted their respective countries' economies and the importance of the work the EDC does to connect businesses, locally and abroad, with County resources.

"It is not enough for the County to only rely on business opportunities in our own backyard to increase our economy," said Jim Coleman, President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. "This County is on fire with possibilities and we are focused on expanding our reach to all parts of the globe. Our 'Activate Prosperity' initiative, coupled with County Executive Baker's International Business Development Plan provides our residents with the skills necessary to become multi-millionaires within the next three years."



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE
EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman with members of the Asian Business Committee, The Honorable Li Bin, Counselor of Commerce for the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Rosa Hong, Assistant Director of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency, and the EDC Team.

Sharon Jackson, Acting Executive Director of the Supplier Development and Diversity Division also spoke to the Committee about the power and importance of being a Prince George's County Certified Business.

"There are goals attached to specific minority certifications, and this information is power," said Ms. Jackson. "Companies who are registered as County businesses and principally located in the County can have access to contracts that are specifically available for County businesses. We are here to help you maximize your opportunities through certification."

Nabee Yi, head of JMF, LLC and new chair of the Asian Business Committee emphasized the importance of the EDC's efforts to inform and attract Asian business to Prince George's County.

"As an Asian business community, we should participate in the explosive business growth that is taking place in Prince George's County within the next four to five years," said Ms. Yi. "With projects on the horizon totaling \$6 million to \$10 million, we see this opportunity as a win/win for both the Asian business community and the County."

As part of County Executive Baker's long-term international business development

plan, the EDC has been tasked with executing 12 locally hosted international development summits and to prepare local businesses to export goods and services. This event is the first step in operationalizing this plan and provided the framework for a Friendship Agreement between Prince George's County and Korea.

To learn more about exporting, be sure to attend County Executive Baker's County Export Forum on February 17th at 10 a.m. at EDC Headquarters, 1801 McCormick Drive, Suite 140, Largo, MD 20774. Please contact Crystal Ballard at 301-583-4650 or cballard@co.pg.md.us to reserve your seat.

Kettering-Largo VFW Select PGFD Firefighter/EMT's of the Year

By Press Officer
PG County Fire/EMS

Congratulations are in order for two members of our Fire/EMS Department. Duane J. Hull, Chief of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department and Acting Assistant Fire Chief Sayshan L. Conner-White have been selected by the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post 7757, Kettering-Largo, as Firefighter/EMT's of the Year.

Volunteer Chief Hull was selected for his rescue of another firefighter that had fallen through a burned out staircase while battling a townhouse fire in Howard County on July 12, 2015. Chief Hull was able to pull the firefighter out of the burned out stairwell to safety



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS
Fire Chief Bashoor, Laurel Volunteer Chief Hull and Fire Captain Donny Fletcher

by himself. The firefighter sustained burn injuries to his hands and if it had not been for the quick and heroic actions of Chief Hull the firefighter surely would have sustained more serious injuries.

Assistant Fire Chief Conner-White was selected for her Safety Officer accomplishments including but not limited to Chairing the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments Safety and Health Committee, Co-Chair of the Maryland Emer-

gency Services Life Safety Task Force and being chosen as the National Safety officer of the Year in 2015.

In congratulatory letters from Mr. Peter L. Moore, VFW Awards Chairman, he writes, "You make your family, department and community very proud." Indeed they have.

"I could not be more proud of Laurel Volunteer Chief Hull and Assistant Chief Conner-White," stated Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S.

Bashoor. "They both demonstrate professionalism and what it takes to be an outstanding individual and member of the Fire/EMS Department."

Volunteer Chief Hull and Assistant Chief Conner-White have been invited to attend the VFW Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 11:00 am. The award ceremony will be held at the Kettering Community Association, 11801 Chesterton Drive in upper Marlboro, MD.



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS
Battalion Chief
Sayshan L. Conner-White

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review
Chi-Raq

Chi-Raq
Grade: B+
Rated R, strong sexuality, some
nudity, much profanity and
vulgarity, pervasive rhyming
2 hrs., 7 min

Whenever there is an uproar over an unarmed black man being killed by police (once a month or so), there is a backlash from people who say the outrage is misplaced. "What about the black-on-black murders that happen every day in Chicago?" they say. "Why isn't anyone concerned about THAT??" (This is the only time they ever bring it up.)

Well, Spike Lee is concerned about it (evidently), and *Chi-Raq* is his incendiary, satirical take on the subject of gun violence in Chicago's gang-ridden black neighborhoods. A retelling of the ancient Greek comedy *Lysistrata*, *Chi-Raq* doesn't offer practical solutions but is instead a venue for Lee and co-writer Kevin Willmott (*CSA: The Confederate States of America*) to vent their anger, frustration, and sorrow in an effort to achieve something else borrowed from Greek theater: catharsis.

The film's style is appropriately theatrical, with choreographed movement, a musical number, color-coded sets and costumes, and other constant reminders that we are watching a performance. Much of the dialogue (including almost everything spoken by Samuel L. Jackson as the narrator and one-man chorus) is written in rhyme, delivered like a cross between street poetry and Shakespeare, peppered with cultural references both ancient and modern. Whether it works or not (and it mostly does), this creative choice gives the film a rhythmic energy and an even greater sense of theatricality, reinforcing the idea that we're watching not real life but a fable inspired by it.

The title (pronounced "shy-rack") is a portmanteau reflect-



Chi-Raq is a modern day adaptation of the ancient Greek play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. After the murder of a child by a stray bullet, a group of women led by Lysistrata organize against the on-going violence in Chicago's Southside creating a movement that challenges the nature of race, sex and violence in America and around the world.

ing Chicago's descent into an Iraq-like war zone. It's also the stage name of a rapper named Demetrius Dupree (Nick Cannon), a leader of the purple-clad Spartan gang that is forever at war with the orange Trojans. After yet another drive-by shooting leaves yet another innocent bystander dead, Demetrius' girlfriend, Lysistrata (Teyonah Parris), follows in the footsteps of her ancient namesake and proposes that all women—Spartan, Trojan, and unaffiliated—end the war by withholding sex from their men until peace is achieved. "No peace, no [um, vagina, let's say]!" is their chant.

It's a silly plot, not a serious policy suggestion, and Lee lets it play out humorously, getting broad and clownish at times, almost campy. (You'll enjoy Wesley Snipes as a giggly gang leader named Cyclops, and Dave Chappelle in his brief

turn as a nightclub owner whose business is off because of the sex strike.) The story structure probably has other inspirations, but it reminded me most of the *South Park* formula, where a local movement gains worldwide traction in an improbably short amount of time, culminating in a "what have we learned" speech from Stan or Kyle or Lysistrata, all of it meant as commentary on current social conditions.

But while the story is exaggerated and unrealistic, it's conveyed through authentic characters who speak of real pain. Teyonah Parris' sexy, fierce Lysistrata is well-matched with Angela Bassett's Miss Helen, a respected authority figure in the Spartan community who has suffered much loss. Nick Cannon is respectably serious as a gun-loving rapper, and John Cusack shouts himself hoarse as the

white priest at a black church who must preside over too many funerals. The rawness of the emotions is palpable, inflamed by Lee's penchant for provocation and overstatement.

It has plenty of Lee's loopy indulgences, too, like a bizarre tangent with a Confederacy-obsessed National Guard commander (David Patrick Kelly), and a cameo by Isaiah Whitlock Jr. that's just long enough for him to deliver his catchphrase from *The Wire*. There are jokey references to other Greek plays; some invective aimed at highly specific targets (Darren Wilson; George Zimmerman; the entire state of South Carolina); and an abundance of angry rap, often with the words printed on the screen so we can follow along. In short, it's a Spike Lee film, and one of his best in a long time—earnest, flawed, idiosyncratic, and unforgettable.

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's Beautiful Mind



Last week, I traveled from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles to sit down for an hour with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: the NBA's all-time leading scorer and an iconic figure during what in the 1960s was called "the Revolt of the Black Athlete." (We are going to have the full interview up on the Edge of Sports Podcast this week and video at TheNation.com.)

This was a hell of a journey to make for one hour but it was done without a second thought for two reasons. The first is that the 68-year-old Kareem Abdul-Jabbar continues to fascinate. In recent years, he has become a widely read political commentator, writing columns on Black Lives Matter, Bernie Sanders, and Islamophobia with a unique voice that's sharply literary, gently radical, and deeply humane. Kareem has adopted this persona after being famously tight-lipped about politics for decades. I wanted to understand why he decided to break his silence.

The second reason is that I had questions for Kareem, saved up over decades. I arrived in Los Angeles with my near-30-year-old, fraying, dog-eared copy of Kareem's now out-of-print memoir *Giant Steps*. I first read it when I was 11 and still had an 11-year-old's questions from that initial reading.

Following the interview, I am not sure I can truly answer why Kareem has decided to break his long silence. It's not that I didn't ask the question or Kareem didn't answer. It's more that Kareem's mind operates in its own unique way. He was curt on the subject, less interested in himself, his own personal motivations, than everything operating in the world around him. Kareem is certainly, as teammate James Worthy once said, "a different kind of cat." In today's sports world, branding and self-promotion have been fetishized, Kareem has no use for that. There is no broadcast deal he is trying to land. There is no job he is angling for. There is just the world, past and present, and his desire to use his utterly eclectic, culture-vulture brain to comment on it.

Below is a short list of some of the topics we discussed:

- Debating Donald Trump
- Islamophobia today compared to the 1970s
- Bernie Sanders
- Black Lives Matter
- Comparing the 1960s Black Freedom Struggle with what we see today
- His friendship with Bruce Lee
- Why he's fascinated by Sherlock's brother, Mycroft Holmes
- The Spenser novels of Robert B. Parker
- His friendship with Gil Scott-Heron
- His favorite political jazz album
- John Lewis
- What he would do if in charge of the NCAA
- "The Muhammad Ali Summit" with Jim Brown, Ali, and Bill Russell
- The Missouri Tigers "strike against racism"
- The 1968 Mexico City Olympics
- Brazil
- The film *Airplane*
- What he would tell his younger self

To find out what Kareem had to say as we zig-zagged from subject to subject, please tune in later this week. But notice that out of the above 18 subjects, what's missing: any conversation about basketball. Make no mistake, I had my questions ready to rumble on the game in which Kareem was almost without peer. (I have Michael Jordan as the only player who breathes Kareem's air. Six MVPs, six titles, and that skyhook.) I was going to ask Kareem about Kobe Bryant's last season, players he loves to watch today, and what he thinks of the Golden State Warriors style of ball. But those questions went out the window, because his eyes only lit up when the conversation strayed from sports.

By the time we were done with our hour, I felt like I somewhat understood what makes Kareem that "different

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Maryland Rises to Fourth in the Nation for School Breakfast Participation

By Press Officer
Maryland Hunger Solutions

BALTIMORE, MD—More low-income children in Maryland are starting the day with a healthy morning meal at school, according to a new national report released today, further demonstrating the positive impact of the community eligibility provision (CEP). In school year 2014–2015, Maryland rose from 9th to 4th in the nation in connecting low-income children to the health and educational benefits of school breakfast.

The School Breakfast Scorecard (http://frac.org/pdf/School_Breakfast_Scorecard_SY_2014_2015.pdf), a report released annually by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), found that Maryland served 64 low-income children breakfast for every 100 that received lunch during the 2014–2015 school year, an impressive increase of 10.5 percent from the 2013–2014 school year, making Maryland fourth out of all 50 states for breakfast participation.

This success can be attributed to the Maryland Meals for

Achievement Act (MMFA), the inclusion of alternative serving models, such as breakfast in the classroom and breakfast after the bell, and the Community Eligibility Provision.

Community Eligibility allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without the need for individual applications, and has greatly expanded breakfast participation in 227 participating schools throughout the state.

"Community Eligibility is a proven way for states and schools to create hunger free environments that promote student health and learning," said Michael J. Wilson, Director of Maryland Hunger Solutions. "Maryland Hunger Solutions led the effort to get CEP legislation passed in the General Assembly, and as a result more than 97,000 students receive free breakfast every day. Maryland has risen to number four, but—but we're not satisfied. Maryland can get to number one."

Nationally, FRAC's *School Breakfast Scorecard* finds that

on an average school day in 2014–2015, nearly 12 million low-income children participated in school breakfast, an increase of 475,000 from the previous year. The 2014–2015 school year saw 54 low-income students participate in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 in the National School Lunch Program, an increase from 53 during the 2013–2014 school year.

Although Maryland improved its ranking from 9th to 4th out of all 50 states in school breakfast participation and has more students eating school breakfast, there is still room for improvement. There are still eligible students who are not participating in the School Breakfast Program. Increasing participation to reach 70 low-income children with breakfast for every 100 that eat lunch would lead to an additional 17,000 low-income Maryland children eating breakfast each day, and more than \$4 million in additional federal child nutrition funding.

Expanding participation in school breakfast boosts learning

and test scores, improves attendance and student behavior, and improves overall student health. The FRAC report notes that more schools are embracing proven strategies designed to increase participation, like offering breakfast in the classroom after the start of the school day.

Maryland Hunger Solutions is working with schools throughout the state to increase awareness about school breakfast through its annual Hear The Crunch event on Thursday, March 10, 2016. Hear The Crunch is a state-wide event in which thousands of Marylanders bite into an apple simultaneously to support access to healthy school breakfast.

Maryland Hunger Solutions is the lead research, public education, and advocacy group in Maryland, dedicated to using public programs to end hunger in Maryland. Maryland Hunger Solutions is an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center (www.frac.org). To learn more about Maryland Hunger Solutions, click here (www.md-hungersolutions.org).

Calendar of Events

February 25,—March 2, 2016

Furs & Fros: Trailblazing on the Red Carpet

Date and Time: Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6:30–8 pm
Description: Celebrate, learn and view the evolution of African American fashion!

Has history influenced fashion or has fashion influenced history? Has African American fashion started or followed the trend? Do you want to contribute to the visual exhibit? Does your closet have history in it?

We ask that you wear fashions that reflect your favorite/memorable decade.

*Participation with period attire is NOT required.

Cost: Free
Ages: 18 & up
Location: Newton White Mansion
2708 Enterprise Road, Mitchellville 20721
Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Makeup Tutorial/ Fashion Discussion

Date and Time: Friday, February 26, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: Ladies join us for some helpful makeup and fashion tips from makeup artists. Afterward, engage in an open forum about the latest makeup and fashion trends.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10-17
Location: Langley Park Community Center
1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

Cheer, Dance, and Step Show

Date and Time: Friday, February 26, 2016, 6–9 pm
Description: Step teams from local schools, churches, colleges and community organizations will perform in the spirit of the African American experience.

Cost: Residents \$5; Non-Residents \$6
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Potomac Landing Community Center
12500 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-292-9191; TTY 301-699-2544

"Celebrating Our History" ... a Family Day Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, February 27, 2016, 11 am–4 pm
Description: Join us as we close out the month for a celebration of our history! Enjoy an African Dance class, watch a movie, or stop by for various workshops, performances, storytellers, food, crafts and more! Vendors will be on-site selling a variety of reasonably-priced items.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-583-2582; TTY 301-699-2544

Tribute to the Music of B.B. King

Date and Time: Saturday, February 27, 2016, 8–10 pm
Description: Experience the music of the King of the Blues when the BRENCORE BLUES ALLSTAR BAND comes to the Playhouse with a sensational and heartfelt musical tribute.

Cost: \$30/person (general admission) \$25/person (students, seniors and groups of 20 or more)
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center
5445 Landover Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Deep River: Celebration of Black Classical Composers

Date and Time: Sunday, February 28, 2016, 4 pm
Description: In a musical tribute to Black History Month, enjoy an afternoon of classical music honoring the works of Black Classical Composers including: Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, H.T. Burleigh, Hall Johnson and others, as well as a variety of classical music and narration.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

GEICO Gecko Series - The Right to Dream

Date and Time: Monday, February 29, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Description: The story of a young African-American's coming of age in Mississippi during the 1950s and 1960s is vividly told in this compelling production, offering the audience an individual, inside view of this tumultuous, challenging period of American history.

Curriculum Connections: Civil Rights, Human Rights, Civics (Government), US History, African American History.

This performance is supported by the GEICO Philanthropic Foundation.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more;
Free to Title I Schools in Prince George's County
Ages: Recommended for Grades 5 and up
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

Concert: Junkman

Date and Time: Thursday, March 3, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon
Description: Donald Knaack is The Junkman. Played 100% on recycled materials, Junk Music has gained audiences from rock and jazz to classical and world-fusion.

"He introduced the students to new and relevant information about percussion, music, acoustics, the environment and construction."—Seabrook Middle School, Seabrook, NH.

Curriculum Connections: Music, Dance, Visual Arts.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more
Ages: Recommended for all ages
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Why is the Arctic Such a Crucial Area to Focus on in Efforts to Stem Global Warming?

Dear EarthTalk:

Why is the Arctic such a crucial area to focus on in efforts to stem global warming

—Joseph Constabile,
Dedham, MA

The image of a polar bear standing on a shrinking iceberg has become one of the most iconic symbols of global warming, yet few of us realize just how important the Arctic's ice is, wherever we may live on the earth. Researchers consider the Arctic to be an "indicator region" for the rest of the planet, given that even small differences in temperature there can have profound ecosystem impacts and can give us a better idea of the types of problems we can all expect down the road.

Of course, the effects of global warming have been under scrutiny in the Arctic for decades already. Since 1979, the extent of the Arctic's permanent ice cap has shrunk by upwards of 20 percent. Even worse, the remaining ice has thinned by as much as two-thirds in some parts of the Arctic. Recent models suggest this ice loss will only accelerate in the next several years due to a global warming feedback loop called the "albedo effect," whereby less ice means less reflection of the sun's radiation back into space and thus more warming at the Earth's surface.

And not only is the ice shrinking—parts of the ice cap are also rupturing: The Ward Hunt Ice Shelf, the largest block of ice in the Arctic and intact for some 3,000 years, finally cracked in 2000, and within two years split all the way through.

These changes up north are already starting to have ripple effects elsewhere. For starters, the entire Arctic ecosystem is being forced to shift with the changing climate. Animals like polar bears, whales and seals are changing migration patterns, in turn impacting native people who depend on them for sustenance. Meanwhile, other organisms are overpopulating, given all the new habitat opening up. Rising temperatures have allowed the spruce bark beetle to add an extra reproduction cycle each year. As a result the pesky little beetles decimated 3.4 million acres of Alaska's forests over just 10 years.

And then there's the issue of sea level rise. Thanks in large part to melting Arctic glaciers, sea level is expected to rise some three feet on average around the world in the next century, flooding over 22,000 square miles in the United States alone. This pressing issue threatens island nations especially. Countries like the Maldives, precariously perched just six feet above sea level, are as concerned as anyone about melting glaciers in the Arctic. And warming in the Arctic



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The Arctic is an "indicator region" for the rest of the planet: small differences in temperature there can have profound ecosystem impacts—and can give us a better idea of the types of problems we can all expect down the road.

also affects weather patterns vital for food production all over the world. Cold water from the melting ice could also potentially halt the Gulf Stream, which brings warm weather to Europe. This would result in a steep drop in temperature for much of northwestern Europe and would affect weather patterns far beyond.

While it may seem futile for us to try to stop Arctic ice melting, we do in fact have the power. We can all work to reduce our carbon footprints by flying and driving less, turning down (or off) the heat or air conditioning, speaking up to our elected officials, and even divesting from companies that support the continued development of fossil fuels.

CONTACTS: NOAA Arctic Change website, <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/detect/climate-strat.shtml>; EPA Carbon Footprint Calculator, <http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>.

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.

PGCPS Now Accepting Applications for Rigorous IB Program

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is now accepting applications for its International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme. Applications are available online at www.pgcps.org and must be submitted by March 14, 2016.

The IB diploma programme is an academically challenging and balanced course of study that prepares students for college and beyond. Stu-

dents who apply to this rigorous program should demonstrate:

- a strong ability, aptitude, and genuine interest in learning
 - an intellectual curiosity and self-motivation
 - the highest academic and personal integrity
 - an aspiration to become a member of a community of lifelong learners
- A complete application includes:
- three teacher recommendations
 - grade reports from seventh and eighth grades

- documentation of extra-curricular activities, student service learning, and awards
- a written personal statement

The number of seats available for the IB diploma programme is limited and there is no guarantee of admission. Parents should submit one application per student.

To submit an online application, please visit www.pgcps.org. Please contact Parfait Awono, IB Programme District Coordinator, via email at academics.IB@pgcps.org for more information.

Kareem from A6

kind of cat." As sublimely gifted as Kareem was with a basketball, this is someone who was pretty much drafted to play as a small child because of his startling height as well as the discipline to practice alone in a gym for hours until his gangly adolescence was forged into precocious grace and coordination. If Kareem had been born to be five foot ten, he would have been perhaps a New York City librarian, content amidst the stacks of books and fulfilled by showing that one troubled kid how to find joy in the written word. Librarian Kareem would also have written crime thrillers with a social justice bent after work, just as a hobby. He would have written online editorials about New York's need to invest in public education and seek racial justice with stinging, literary, and unobvious turns of phrase. In other words, he would have been who he is now at age 68 only he would have started a hell of a lot sooner.

By the time the interview ended, it wasn't as if we had become best buddies but it went well enough that I was able to ask Kareem to sign my moth-eaten copy of *Giant Steps*. He wrote, "I hope you can continue to enjoy what's left of this book." I will and I won't be alone because the book is still being written.

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 Saturday, April 30, 2016
 Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro, MD
 8:00 AM Registration • 9:30 AM Walk Begins

For more information, call (571) 257-2324
marchofdimes.org/marylandmetrodc

Local Sponsors:

Premature birth is the #1 killer of babies.