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PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Jim Coleman (far left), President & CEO of the EDC, with Industrial Bank Representatives.

Jim Coleman, Team EDC and Industrial Bank Kick Off Activate 'Prosperity Banking Tour'

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On Thursday, April 7, 2016, the Prince George's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President & CEO, Jim Coleman along with members of Team EDC including Ebony Stocks, EDI Fund Business

Development Specialist, met with Industrial Bank to kick off a partnership that will enhance distribution of the Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Fund to county businesses in order to create more jobs. The \$50 million EDI Fund provides low interest loans with the goal to expand the county's tax base, create

jobs and develop growth in key industry sectors.

This is the first in a series of meetings to create partnerships with local banks to expand access to capital through the EDI Fund in order to create more jobs in Prince George's County.

"Our goal at the EDC is to partner with our local banking

community to better support and satisfy the financing needs of all of our local businesses in Prince George's County," said Mr. Coleman. "We are committed to growing our County's economic base by offering all of our

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United Way of the National Capital Area Gives \$100,000 to Prince George's County Non-Profits

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On March 29, 2016, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III joined Rosie Allen-Herring, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the National Capital Area (NCA) in the Media Room of the County Administration Building (CAB) in Upper Marlboro to award seven grants totaling \$100,000 to community-based nonprofit organizations serving Prince George's County. Grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc.
- St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families
- House Of Ruth Maryland, Inc.
- Food & Friends, Inc.
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Community Support Systems, Inc.
- National Center for Children and Families

To watch video of this presentation, visit the web page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pgcfamilyservices/sets/72157666504447856>.

"Prince George's County is stronger thanks to the efforts of our incredible non-profit community. This support from the

United Way will assist seven organizations to continue or expand their work around the county," said Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I want to thank Rosie Allen-Herring and the United Way of the National Capital Area for once again working with the employees of the Prince George's County government to raise these much needed funds. Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated staff, as well as those who donated to the Community Impact Fund, the United Way is able to continue its investment in our great county."

The funds came through designations to the Prince George's Community Impact Fund in United Way NCA's annual workplace giving campaign. Each of the grants directly addresses program needs within United Way NCA's focus areas of education, income (financial stability) and health. Overall, the United Way NCA has provided more than 250 community impact grants totaling \$650,000 to nonprofits in the County from 2012–2015.

"United Way NCA's Community Impact grant process helps us to focus our investments to create maximum impact in the areas of greatest need

See GRANTS Page A3

City of Bowie Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary

By PRESS OFFICER
City of Bowie

BOWIE, MD—It may seem like only yesterday to some, but this month, the City of Bowie government will turn 100 years old. The City kicks off a yearlong celebration of the Centennial with a ceremony at City Hall on April 16, 2016 at 11 a.m. at City Hall.

The program will feature the Bowie Police Department Honor Guard, local digni-

ties, a short speech by Mayor G. Frederick Robinson, and performances by the Bowie High School Band and the Tulip Grove Elementary School Chorus. Ms. Fannie Basim, a 94-year resident of Old Town Bowie, will lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

"The Centennial celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Bowie government, but it will also be a reason to showcase

See BOWIE Page A7

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman Speaks at Prince George's Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Forum Breakfast

By LORI VALENTINE
Capital News Service

LARGO, MD—March 21, 2016, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and his team met in their Largo headquarters with top executives of the Better Bladensburg Block by Block and Business by Business Roundtable (B5 Roundtable), a group of local businesses committed to the economy and enhancing the quality of life within the Town of Bladensburg. The group discussed how the Economic Development Corporation can utilize its resources to revitalize this historically important port town and bring increased prosperity to its residents and businesses. Today's meeting was a continuation of a stakeholder meeting the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) attended with Bladensburg Mayor Walter James, Council member Walter Ficklin and the B5 Roundtable earlier this month, in which Mr.



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: David Hillman, President of Southern Management Corp.; Logan Gaskill, Vice President of Human Resources, MGM National Harbor; Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO; and Ed Fleming, Chief Operations Officer, Walton Development and Management. Block by Block and Business by Business Roundtable at Bladensburg Town Hall meeting.

Coleman committed to partnering Bladensburg to revitalize its business community.

"Bladensburg is a shining town on a hill with a long and rich business community, dating

See BREAKFAST Page A5

Disgraced Journalist Apologizes for Plagiarism

By ALANA PEDALINO
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Jayson Blair returned to the University of Maryland's journalism school to discuss ethics Wednesday for the first time since his 2003 plagiarism and fabrication scandal rocked the nation, resulting in his resignation from *The New York Times*.

"It kills me personally that (my plagiarism and fabrication) damaged the profession," Blair said when prompted by university lecturer Sharon O'Malley. "The part that really kills me are the people that I hurt in my personal and professional life who had done

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INSIDE

Agencies Issue Final Rule Extending New Religious Liberty Protections to Beneficiaries

These regulations build on widespread agreement that we can and should do more to protect the religious liberty of beneficiaries and provide greater clarity and transparency about applicable church-state rules.

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Rejecting the Freedom to Discriminate

Religious liberty, as valuable and necessary as it is, cannot be used to break the law, should not be twisted to oppress a class of people, and cannot be tolerated as a means to freely discriminate in a nation whose goal, since its founding, has been to create a more perfect union and establish justice.

Commentary, Page A4

Maryland Voters May Get Opportunity to Have State Regulate Daily Fantasy Sports

Even though The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling hasn't had any documented clients seeking help for addiction specifically related to daily fantasy sports, Rugle said that cases are beginning to be reported around the country.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Zootopia

It's consistently cheerful and funny, never heavy-handed, even when serious issues are being hinted at. Kids will undoubtedly enjoy it (what brightly colored entertainment with talking animals DON'T kids enjoy?), but this one seems meant more for adults who can appreciate its ingeniously fabricated world and its big-hearted ideals.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that home rooftop solar only makes sense in certain parts of the U.S. with proper incentives as opposed to where the sun shines the most?

—Esther Knox,
Wilton, NH

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Primary Election April 26— or vote early April 14-21

We'll be voting for President, U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Judge of the Circuit Court, and Delegates to the National Convention in the Primary Election on Tuesday, April 26, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. I'll cast my vote at Skyline School (maybe for the last time, since Skyline is closing).

I may vote early, since eight sites will be open for "convenient, accessible and on your schedule" voting before the Primary. The dates are April 14 through April 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For us in the Morningside/Skyline area, the closest place is the Suitland Community Park School Center at 5600 Regency Lane.

Other polling places are: Baden Community Center, Bowie Gymnasium, College Park Community Center, Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex, Upper Marlboro Community Center and Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center.

Neighbors

Kenny Clark, formerly of Woodland Road, has moved from Florida to Virginia to help his mom, Joanne (Clark) Bunch, who has suffered several strokes.

Two longtime Morningsiders have died recently, Lois McMickle and Patricia Speier. If you can give me some information about either of them I'd appreciate a call or an email (muddmm@aol.com).

Coming up

The Surratt House, in Clinton, is offering three John Wilkes Booth Escape Route Bus Tours, on Saturdays, April 16, 23 and 30. Tours begin at 7 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. Call 301-868-1121 for availability and cost. I've made this outstanding all-day tour several times.

Skyline will host a Flea Market at the Morningside Firehouse on May 21. Details later.

The Morningside monthly Town Meeting will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m. Go, and learn more so you're better prepared to vote in

the Town election May 2. Three are running for Mayor!

Changing landscape

County Exec Baker delivered remarks at the Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting of the Prince George's County Police Department's new Police Academy on April 7. The Academy is located at 8905 Presidential Parkway in Upper Marlboro.

Suitland Road boasts new sidewalks and curbing from the apartments to Henson Creek and the 7-Eleven, which means you can now walk (or jog) sidewalks all the way from Morningside to Silver Hill Road in Suitland.

New once-a-week trash, recycling, and yard matter collection days begin in May. Trash and recycling will be picked up on the same day each week; yard matter will move to Mondays. Customers will be notified about their trash and recycling day, and will receive a free, new, wheeled trash-toter.

Ramona recommends ...

I had a recent call from Ramona Britt, who used to live in Suitland and is now in Laurel. She's a regular reader of my column (thank you!) and wanted to report on two shows she highly recommends:

An outstanding *My Fair Lady* at the Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg, Va., through May 8. Tickets are \$45-\$60 (child and senior discounts available). For information, call 540-370-4300.

Samson, a Sight & Sound production in Lancaster, Pa., now through Dec. 31. Tickets for adults, \$54 Tuesday thru Friday and \$74 on Saturday; children, \$21 and \$25. Discounts available for 15+. For information, call 800-377-1277.

Sight & Sound Theatres, the largest faith-based live theatres in the country, have been described as "Christian Broadway." Last year, Sight & Sound productions in Lancaster and Branson, Mo., drew nearly a million people from around the world.

Morningside Memories: 1951 tragedy

Sixty-five years ago, on April 8, 1951, a pilotless World War

II B-25 bomber passed low over the I.C.E. Club and crashed into a house at 302 Lombardy Road. The two young daughters of MSgt. Samuel and Dorothea Snyder, and Dorothea's visiting brother-in-law, died in the explosion and the fire.

The pilots, who had bailed out, were tried for manslaughter. I don't know what the verdict was. The Snyders' house was rebuilt. But they moved away; they never had more children.

Crossland alumna, Dianne Overby Hakenson, dies

Dianne Gail Hakenson, 65, of Alexandria, a 1968 graduate of Crossland High School, died Dec. 14. She was the daughter of the late Richard O. and Betty Overby, and grew up in a home on Suitland Road before moving in 1964 to Skyline Terrace.

She started school at Morningside Elementary and went on to Crossland for grades 7 to 12. (Yes, back then Crossland started out as a junior high.) She worked for 30 years for a county school board in Virginia, retiring only months before she died.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Harry Hakenson; three children, Harry M. "Butch" Hakenson III, Pamela G. Goforth and Richard M. "Ricky" Hakenson and six grandchildren. She was the sister of Richard L. "Cook" Overby, Frank W. Overby and the late Donald "Donny" Overby.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Bill Ward, Eva Hay and Les Bornman, April 15; Tara Destiny Bucker, Edna Ducote, April 16 and Wanda Brooke, April 16; Eloise Carnes, Ruby Cunningham and Veronica Frostbutter, April 17; Cameron Trexler, April 19; Mary Lou Wise and Devaughn Branham, April 20; Jill Gilmartin Booth and Tiffany Jackson, April 21.

Happy anniversary to John and Emily Tierney, their 66th on April 15; Edward and Jane (Martin) Talbert, their 67th on April 16; Larry and Jody (Bowman) Nyers, their 36th on April 18; and Jim and Pat Conlon, their 42nd on April 20.

celebrating their wedding anniversary in April.

10th ANNUAL CHARLESTON FASHION WEEK

10th Annual Charleston Fashion week launches 2016 Model Search. Cleo Turner Mitchel, daughter of Mrs. Ruth Turner of Brandywine, was chosen out of 450 applications, to be a volunteer participant working backstage at the 10th Annual, South Carolina Fashion Week held March 15-19, 2016.

The Charleston Fashion Week has fast become one of the premier fashion weeks in North America since its founding in 2007. Held under the tents in Marion Square in Charleston, SC, this five-night celebration featured more than 40 runway shows, the Emerging Designer Competition: East, the Spring Bridal Show, and the Rock the Runway Model Competition.

The model search casting call were judged by an industry panel consisting of Grybowski; model coach Michelle Wood; and representatives from top modeling agencies, such as Jill Joyce of Directions USA Model Management, Michaela Goddard-Quesada of Elite Model Management, Kasia Koniar of

Factor Chosen, and Erin Lucas of Wilhelmina Models, Miami.

CANTATA

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Music Department presents Cantata 2016, "Still Amazing," Sunday, April 24, 4:00 PM at the Family Life Center, Nottingham-Myers Church. Kevin Bland, Minister of Music, Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor. Address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

If you have the heart to serve and help those in need, the Cancer Care Ministry at New Hope Fellowship Parish could use your spiritual gifts and ideas. If you are interested in joining this Ministry, please contact Shonita Lee at 301-888-2171.

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

University of Maryland will offer a Summer Youth Music Camp. Band Camp is Sunday, July 24-Friday July 29. Choir, Orchestra and Piano Camp is Sunday, July 31-Friday, August 5. Visit the website at http://www.music.umd.edu/community/summeractivities/summer_youth_music_camp for more information.

Neighborhoods

Edwards Campaign Announces the Endorsement of National Nurses United

LANHAM, MD—April 6, 2016, the Donna Edwards for Senate campaign announced the endorsement of National Nurses United. Founded in 2009, NNU has 185,000 members across the country and is the largest union and professional association of registered nurses in U.S. history. NNU members are renowned as leading advocates of guaranteed healthcare by expanding and improving Medicare to cover all Americans, for negotiating many of the best collective bargaining contracts for RNs in the nation, and for sponsorship of innovative legislation and regulatory protections for patients and nurses.

Sandra Falwell, RN, Vice President of National Nurses United

"We are proud to endorse Rep. Donna Edwards for United States Senate today because she shares nurses' values of caring, compassion and community. Rep. Edwards has been a champion of a single-payer, Medicare-for-All health care system to guarantee everyone in this country safe, therapeutic care. She has been a consistent advocate for economic and social justice and joins nurses in demanding a Robin Hood Tax on Wall Street that would raise hundreds of billions of dollars to address human needs. And she has been a consistent and staunch opponent of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other disastrous trade bills that cost American jobs and threaten the public's health."

Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD)

"I am proud to have the support of the National Nurses United and their Maryland members in my race for the United States Senate. Registered nurses are patient advocates both inside and outside the hospital and NNU has been on the front lines in the fight for economic and social justice so this endorsement means a lot to me. Nurses deserve elected officials who have their back. Together, we'll fight to expand and improve Medicare so that quality health care is human right for everyone in this country. Together, we'll work to ensure that nurses receive the pay and benefits they deserve, stay safe on the job, and are able to exercise their rights to join a union and bargain collectively. Together, we'll pass legislation to ensure there is safe staffing in the hospitals so that patients receive the care they deserve. Together, we'll work for a fairer and more just America."

In her fight to become Maryland's next United States Senator, Donna Edwards has secured the support of women, progressives, and labor, including EMILY's List, J Street, Democracy for America, the Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Blue America, Progressive Democrats of America, Feminist Majority PAC, WAND, and Teamsters Local 639.

WSSC Meets or Surpasses Water Quality Standards for 97th Year in a Row

LAUREL, MD—The state of WSSC's water quality is strong, according to a report released today, keeping alive a 97-year streak of meeting or



Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards

surpassing federal drinking water safety and quality standards.

"The tragedy in Flint, MI, sparked a national conversation about the safety of our drinking water. Many have been asking, 'Could this happen to our water supply?'" said Carla A. Reid, General Manager and CEO. "We understand this concern, and I want to assure all of our customers that the safety of our drinking supply is of the utmost importance to me and the 1,500 dedicated employees at WSSC. I am pleased to report to you — and our water quality experts confirm — WSSC's drinking water supply is indeed safe." WSSC has never had a drinking water violation in our 97-year history.

Source water taken from the Potomac and Patuxent rivers is first treated by our water filtration plants where it is tested hundreds of thousands of times each year, including tests for lead, before being sent out to homes and businesses through our 5,600 miles of distribution pipes. The results allow WSSC to make any adjustments to our operation or treatment process to maintain the highest level of water quality.

The report, which is released once a year, provides the more than 1.8 million WSSC customers assurance that they will receive the highest quality of water each time they open their tap. This year's Water Quality Report can be found at <https://www.wsscwater.com/wqr>. Customers who would like to receive a printed copy may contact our Communications Office by calling 301.206.8100 or emailing communications@wsscwater.com.

In addition to delivering high quality water to our customers, WSSC prides itself on its environmental stewardship. For the fourth straight year, in accordance with State and Federal guidelines, the Water Quality Report will be delivered in electronic form, cutting the number of printed copies from 450,000 to just 1,500, saving trees and money.

BGE Employees Recognized as Most Promising Engineer and Modern Day Technology Leaders

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE)'s Larry Laws was named a "Most Promising Engineer" at the 2016 Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) conference held recently in Philadelphia. This annual conference honors those who demonstrate outstanding performance. The Most Promising Engineer awards are among the conference's signature honors. Three additional BGE engineers were recognized with Modern Day Technology Leader Awards, presented to those who are

shaping the future of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) industries.

"It gives us great pride to see BGE employees represented among the nation's top engineers," said Calvin Butler, BGE's chief executive officer, who presented Laws with his honor at the BEYA gala. "It confirms our commitment to hiring and retaining the right talent. This is critical as we celebrate our 200-year legacy of moving smart energy forward for customers in central Maryland."

Laws, a Baltimore City native and current resident of York, Pa., joined BGE in 2006 as a relay and control technician. Now manager of systems analysis and support, he leads a team of 13 engineers and technicians that support functions including system event operational analysis and investigation, voltage control and substation engineering support. Laws, an Army veteran, previously worked at Northrop Grumman in the Field Engineering Services division. BEYA also recognized Laws for his work mentoring aspiring engineers and for collaborating with Exelon human resources to recruit diverse candidates for technical positions.

Ferdinand Cardona, Yibekal Essatu and Issaya Mutombo of BGE were among the Modern Day Technology Leaders.

Cardona is a manager in BGE's gas and electric methods department, responsible for evaluating the tools used in the electric and gas environment and maintaining approximately 1400 work procedures. In his previous role as a senior engineer in BGE's electric distribution engineering and standards department, he led a team that implemented OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulation changes at BGE. These included changes to the safe work distances and clearances, fall protection, and the substation entry process. Prior to joining BGE in 2014, Cardona worked as a program manager and senior design engineer at Exelon's Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. Cardona was born in Puerto Rico, where he retains strong ties to the local engineering community. He currently resides in Finksburg, Md.

Essatu is a senior engineer in the protection and control section of BGE's transmission and substation engineering department. With the impending application of new cyber security regulations, Essatu has implemented several projects which mitigate security and regulatory concerns. Essatu also serves as BGE's subject matter expert (SME) for an Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) study team convened by Exelon. He joined BGE in 2009 from Suddenlink Communications, where he was responsible for the installation and troubleshooting of video, data and telephone services. Essatu is a resident of Eldersburg, Md.

Mutombo is a senior engineer in BGE distribution systems operations where he leads the electric system's seasonal readiness assessment among other responsibilities. Prior to this role, he worked as the only engineer in BGE's

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

TRUSTEES DAY 2016

Come celebrate Trustees Day 2016 at Christ United Methodist Church/ New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 9:00 AM. The church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

Guest Speaker: Minister Albert Davis, Sr., Certified Lay Minister, Baltimore Washington Conference Eastern United Methodist Church, Baltimore, Maryland. James Forbes, Jr., Trustee Chairman New Hope Fellowship, Christ Church Campus. Rev. Constance Smith, Pastor New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Congratulations to Janet Barber, Catherine Brooks, Taniya Cole, Louise Contee, Audrey Davis, Lawrence Dorsey II, Lawrence Dorsey III, Loveray Duckett, Dominique Hardy, Lula Hawkins, Princess Johnson, Reggie Johnson, DeLarenta Lee, Shakira Lanier, Mildred Makle, Lillian Makle, Wendell Pinkney, Zilpha Pinkney, Doris Slater, Delonte Young and Cherron Yeager who are celebrating their birthdays in April.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cooper who are

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Is a Budget-Billing Plan from Your Utility Company a Good Idea?

During a particularly cold winter or hot summer, you open your utility bill with a sense of dread. Is it time to consider your utility company's budget-billing plan?

Maybe so, but do your homework first.

Here's how a utility company's budget-billing plan generally works. Your chosen utility company considers your energy usage patterns over a given period, adds in projections for their wholesale energy costs and your region's future weather patterns. Based on those calculations, your utility company comes up with an average monthly payment that allows a customer to even out monthly utility payments over a specific time period, usually a year.

It may sound good, and for many customers, it adds some stability to their monthly bill payments. However, here's where a budget-billing plan can go wrong. If you see that fixed monthly payment and think you don't have to watch your energy usage at all, think again. After all, your utility is still reading your meter and you might be in for a rude awakening when your budget-billing period ends. You might owe extra money.

Here are some questions to ask before you sign up for any budget-billing plan:

How well do you understand your current bill? Every utility company designs its bills somewhat differently based on state regulations and the type of energy product being sold. Depending on the community, a variety of utility companies might be competing for your business. Still, many of us rip open our gas, electric or other energy bills without understanding the basics of what we're being charged and why. But it's important to try. It makes sense to study your local utilities company's charging practices in general—including those specific to competing providers. Also, if there are qualified energy advocacy groups in your state or community, see whether they offer any specific advice on local utility company practices and how to keep your cost of service low.

Evaluate the budget-billing plan closely. Ask the following questions:

- What happens if my actual utility costs exceed the amount I'm paying each month on my billing plan? As mentioned, your utility company will continue to measure your usage on its metering system. If your usage exceeds that budget estimate for any reason, you could face what amounts to a balloon payment covering what you still owe at yearend. If so, your budget-billing plan could put you in debt.
- Are there monthly or annual fees in connection with this plan? What are they and what do they cover? Paying anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a month to be on a "budget" plan should give you pause. Understand any and all fees before you pay them.
- What factors go into setting my monthly average? How many years of payments go into that calculation, and what other factors apply to set the amount you want me to pay? In the way many normal utility bills can be a mystery, so can your budget-billing payment. See how well your utility can explain how they would set your bill.
- If my budget bill and actual utility cost are getting seriously out of whack, do you let me know, or is there a way I can check that? If your budget-billing payment is actually putting you in the red due to a cold or heat snap or some other factor, it's best to know that before the end of your term.
- Are you building any weather forecasting into my budget-billing estimate? Are you projecting any weather extremes in the coming year?
- Say I manage to come in under your monthly budget-billing estimate. Do I get my money back?

Consider an alternative—your own budget plan. Locate your bills for the last year or two and average your payments, plugging them into your monthly household budget. On the months where your costs come in below your average, deposit the difference into a savings or money market account to cover future months where there could be overages. It's clearly an experiment—after all, no one knows whether the years ahead will bring mild or ferocious weather or how world events might affect wholesale energy prices. But you'll be in control of every dime and potentially earning a little interest on anything you don't spend. Your utility's budget plan probably won't do that for you.

Bottom line: Utility budget-billing plans might be a good idea for homeowners and renters who want a little more predictability in their monthly payments. But before you sign, you really need to understand how your utility company's plan works.

BGE from A2

design services department, where he reviewed plans for construction projects to ensure any engineering concerns were addressed. In 2014, Mutombo, a native of Zimbabwe, applied these skills when he oversaw a project to have a borehole drilled in his home village so residents could have safe drinking water. Mutombo currently resides in Bel Air, Md.



Nathaniel Sillin is a senior advisor at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. He is also a frequent speaker at industry conferences and has written for several industry publications.

Nine other employees from across the Exelon family of companies also were honored two from Constellation in Baltimore, two from ComEd in Chicago, two from Exelon Generation, one from Exelon Business Services and two from PECO in Philadelphia. Ten Exelon presenters, including Laws, Cardona and BGE's vice president of Transmission and Substation, Darryl Stokes, also served on conference panels.

Agencies Issue Final Rule Extending New Religious Liberty Protections to Beneficiaries

By MELISSA ROGERS
Office of the White House

On March 31, 2016, nine agencies are publishing a final rule that will provide new religious liberty protections for beneficiaries of federally funded social service programs, while also adding new protections for the ability of religious providers to compete for government funds on the same basis as any other private organization. The regulations—which are being published after public notice and comment—formally implement Executive Order 13559, Fundamental Principles and Policy-making Criteria for Partnerships with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations.

In 2009, President Obama appointed a diverse Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and asked Council members to make recommendations for strengthening the social service partnerships the Government forms with nongovernmental providers, including strengthening the constitutional and legal footing of these partnerships. While Council members differed on some important issues in this area, they were able to come to agreement on a number of significant recommendations. In response to the Advisory Council's recommendations, on November 17, 2010, President Obama issued Executive Order 13559.

On August 6, 2015, the following agencies published proposed regulations to implement EO 13559: the Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture, Agency for International Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Health and Human Services. Today, following receipt and consideration of public comments, these agencies are issuing final regulations.

The final rule sets forth changes to current regulations, including changes that:

- Require agencies to ensure that all decisions about Federal financial assistance are based solely on merit, without regard to an organization's religious affiliation or lack thereof, and free from political interference, or the appearance of such interference.
- Make clear that faith-based organizations are eligible to participate in federally funded social service programs on the same basis as any other private organization.
- Clarify what activities can and cannot be supported with direct Federal financial assistance by replacing use of the term "inherently religious activities" with the term "explicitly religious activities" and providing examples of such activities.

• Prohibit organizations that receive Federal financial assistance from discriminating against beneficiaries, including denying services or benefits, based on religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

• Require faith-based organizations that receive direct Federal financial assistance for domestic social service programs to provide written notice of certain protections to beneficiaries of the program. Specifically, an organization that receives direct Federal financial assistance is required to give notice to beneficiaries that:

1. The organization may not discriminate against a beneficiary based on religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice;
2. The organization may not require a beneficiary to attend or participate in any explicitly religious activities that are offered by the organization, and any participation by the beneficiaries in those activities must be purely voluntary;
3. The organization must separate in time or location any privately funded explicitly religious activities from activities supported by direct Federal financial assistance;
4. If a beneficiary or prospective beneficiary objects to the religious character of the organi-

zation, the organization will undertake reasonable efforts to identify and refer the beneficiary to an alternative provider to which the beneficiary does not object; and

5. A beneficiary or prospective beneficiary may report violations of these protections, including any denials of services or benefits, to the Federal agency or intermediary administering the program.

While these regulations become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, recipients of Federal financial assistance have until 90 days after publication in the Federal Register to satisfy the new obligations in the final regulations. For more information, visit <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-07339.pdf>.

These regulations build on widespread agreement that we can and should do more to protect the religious liberty of beneficiaries and provide greater clarity and transparency about applicable church-state rules. These reforms will strengthen partnerships that serve people in need, and we commend the agencies for working together to issue these final regulations.

Melissa Rogers is Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of White House Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships.

Grants from A1

in our community. With our nonprofit partners, we are preparing more of our youth for lifelong health and success, and

helping more families to break the cycle of homelessness and become financially stable," said Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO, United Way NCA.

The United Way of the Na-

tional Capital Area improves the lives of underserved individuals and families and builds strong communities by uniting people and organizations to create measurable results and a lasting im-

pact. Additionally, United Way NCA partners with nonprofit organizations and businesses and provides programs and services to help individuals and families in crisis across our region.

AWARDEES & PROGRAMS SUPPORTED:

Agency/Organization	Program	Program Description
Housing Options & Planning Enterprises, Inc.	Comprehensive Community Initiative	H.O.P.E. will provide six (6) distinct programs for Prince George's Community: Homebuyer Education; Foreclosure Prevention; Financial Capability; VITA Site; Economic Development; Community Development Financial Institute (CDFI)
St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families	Education and Employment Program	The Education and Employment Program at St. Ann's helps young families move from poverty to economic stability, creating systemic change by effecting lasting improvement in their lives. We do this by reducing barriers to education and employment, providing pathways to successful graduation, offering on-going education and investigating employment opportunities.
House Of Ruth Maryland, Inc.	Housing and Support for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence	The House of Ruth Maryland seeks to help survivors of Intimate partner violence recover from their traumatic experiences, become empowered through awareness education to make healthy choices, and increase stability to become safer.
Food & Friends, Inc.	Specialized Nutrition Services for the Critically Ill	Food & Friends' Specialized Nutrition Services are provided free of charge and client eligibility is solely based on medically-defined criteria. Due to the complex dietary restrictions of illness, we offer 11 meal plans including diabetic, pureed and vegetarian. Clients are enrolled in either our Home-Delivered Meals (fully prepared meals by our chefs) or Groceries-To-Go (meal components include pantry items, fresh produce, frozen meats) programs.
Capital Area Food Bank	Family Markets	Family Markets is the food bank's school-based pantry program, providing children and their families with monthly groceries including nutritious shelf-stable items, fresh produce, bread, milk, and meat. The Market at Suitland would also nicely complement the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) being implemented by the Prince George's County government which aims to "uplift neighborhoods that face significant economic, health, public safety and educational challenges."
Community Support Systems, Inc.	The CSS Food Pantry Program	The CSS Food Pantry Program - addresses hunger, food insecurity, nutrition, and safety-net services for people in-need in the primarily rural area of southern Prince George's County. CSS also provides blood pressure/blood sugar screenings by a registered nurse; help signing up for benefit programs and help paying for rent, utilities, medications and other necessities.
National Center for Children and Families	The Neediest Kids	The Neediest Kids (TNK) directly addresses childhood poverty in the Washington Metropolitan Area by partnering with local school districts to provide low-income students with basic necessities, which will allow them to achieve academic success and thrive in a school environment. They provide low-income students with access to essential items such as eye exams and eye glasses, new clothes, coats, and school uniforms, personal care items, school supplies, groceries, school fees, and other necessities.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin, Baltimore Mayor Rawlings-Blake Spotlight Importance of Safe, Lead-Free Drinking Water

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Rudolph Chow today toured the Ashburton Water Filtration Plant and discussed the many ways that elected officials at all levels are working to ensure that all Marylanders have access to safe, lead-free drinking water.

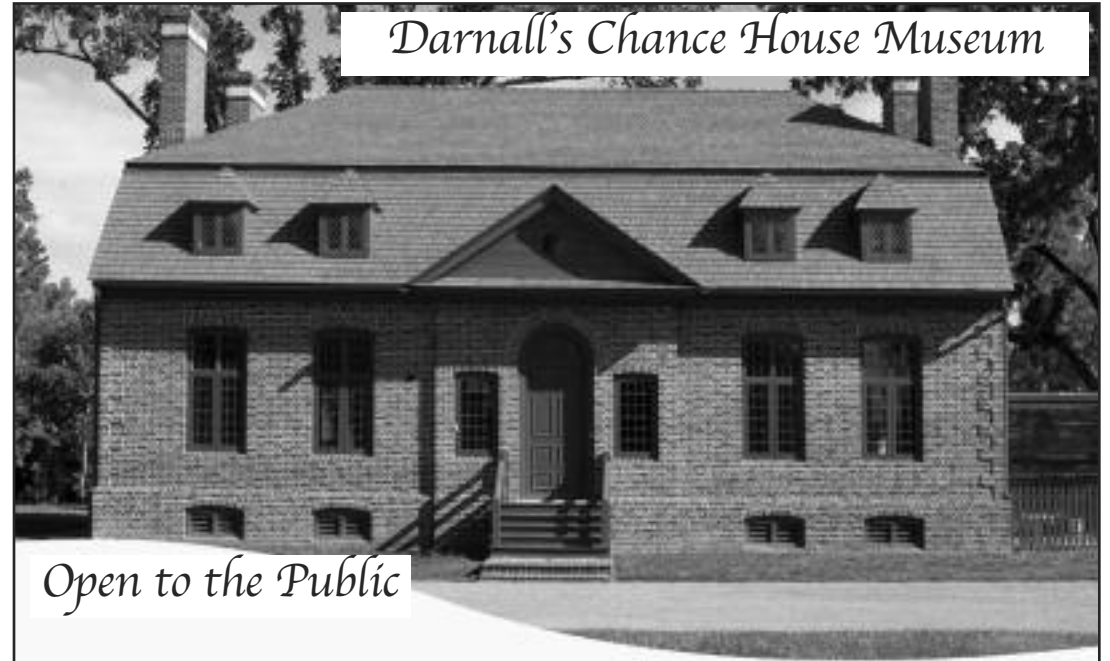
"Americans have a right to expect that water coming from their taps is safe to drink. We can no longer delay needed upgrades to our infrastructure, strengthening drinking water protections and forever getting lead and other contaminants out of public water supplies," said Senator Cardin, a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "We urgently need to minimize the risks to our communities and our children. Urban, rural and suburban neighborhoods—in every community in America—all rely on safe, clean water. Our health and our livelihoods will continue to be in danger if we do not act swiftly and decisively."

"No community should be shortchanged when it comes to the responsibilities of the local, state and federal governments to ensure clean drinking water," said Mayor Rawlings-

Blake. "As the President of the United States Conference of Mayors, I—and my fellow mayors of both parties—have advocated for federal infrastructure investment. When you look at the water issues facing our cities, whether in Flint, Mich., or here in Baltimore, a root cause is money not being there to refurbish and replace old infrastructure years ago. This must change. Both parties need to come together now, today, to provide funds to expedite this important work."

Senator Cardin recently introduced a package of legislation that responds to the nationwide crisis of unsafe drinking water, crumbling infrastructure and inadequate water protection that has combined to poison residents of Flint, Mich., and communities throughout the country.

"Clean water is one of the most basic foundations of our daily lives—we ignore its safe storage and delivery at our own peril. Unfortunately, for too long we have overlooked the need to invest in this key aspect of our future, and children in communities like Flint are the ones being made to suffer most," said Senator Cardin. "We can and must immediately do more as a country to better protect our waters and our kids, and these bills will help us do exactly that."



Darnall's Chance House Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

DARNALL'S CHANCE HOUSE MUSEUM

Opened to the public as a historic house museum in 1988, Darnall's Chance House Museum is dedicated to the interpretation and study of the history and culture of 18th century Prince George's County, Maryland with special emphasis on the lives of mid-18th century women. The Museum will seek to interpret the story of the widow Lettice Wardrop Thomson Sim, who lived at Darnall's Chance in the decades just prior to the American Revolution. The house and grounds will reflect 1760, the year Lettice Wardrop's first husband died and a room by room inventory was taken of the contents of the house. Darnall's Chance will also strive to accurately reflect the African-American community on the site and town life in mid-18th century Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



The Time is Always Right to Do Right

March 31 is the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s last Sunday sermon at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. in 1968 before his assassination four days later: "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution." Dr. King said he believed a triple revolution was taking place in the world—a technological revolution, a revolution in weaponry, and a human rights revolution. To face this triple revolution, he said we must figure out how to develop a world perspective, eradicate racism and economic injustice, rid our nation and world of poverty, and find an alternative to war and bloodshed—all with great urgency:

"It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, 'Wait on time.' Somewhere we must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals who are willing to be co-workers with God. And without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the primitive forces of social stagnation. So we must help time and realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

We must act upon his warnings if our children, nation's future and founding principles—subverted and still sullied by the legacies of slavery, Native American genocide, exclusion of women and nonpropertied men of all colors from our electoral processes—are to be saved.

I have said often that too many Americans would rather celebrate than follow Dr. King. Many have enshrined Dr. King the dreamer and ignored Dr. King the "disturber of all unjust peace," as theologian Vincent Harding said. Many remember King the vocal opponent of violence but not the King who called for massive non-violent civil disobedience to challenge the stockpiling of weapons of death and the wars they fuel and the excessive materialism of the greedy which deprives the needy of the basic necessities of life. And many celebrate Dr. King

the orator but ignore his words about the need for reordering the misguided values and national investment priorities he believed are the seeds of America's downfall.

Dr. King's greatness lay in his willingness to struggle to hear and see the truth; to not give into fear, uncertainty and despair; to continue to grow and to never lose hope, despite every discouragement from his government and even his closest friends and advisers. Contributors deserted him as he spoke out not only for an end to the Vietnam War but for a fairer distribution of our country's vast resources between the rich and the poor. Why was he pushing the nation to do more on the tail of the greatest civil rights strides ever made and challenging a President who had declared a war on poverty? Because he saw that our nation's ills went far deeper and that fundamental structural and priorities changes had to be made and that the War on Poverty and Vietnam War were inextricably intertwined.

In the Cathedral sermon he announced that in a few weeks he would be coming back to Washington leading a Poor People's Campaign: "We are going to bring the tired, the poor, the huddled masses ... We are going

to bring children and adults and old people, people who have never seen a doctor or a dentist in their lives ... We are not coming to engage in any histrionic gesture. We are not coming to tear up Washington. We are coming to demand that the government address itself to the problem of poverty. We read one day, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.' But if a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists."

"We are coming to ask America to be true to the huge promissory note that it signed years ago. And we are coming to engage in dramatic nonviolent action, to call attention to the gulf between promise and fulfillment; to make the invisible visible. Why do we do it this way? We do it this way because it is our experience that the nation doesn't move around questions of genuine equality for the poor and for black people un-

See WATCH, Page A28

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



Rejecting the Freedom to Discriminate

"All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship. It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent national gifts. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support."

—President George Washington, Letter to the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, RI, August 18, 1790

It was not so long ago when one of the most powerful justifications wielded in support of the American practice of segregation was religious belief. Segregation and discrimination against Black citizens was enforced by state-sanctioned Jim Crow laws that legally separated Blacks from whites and made it illegal for individuals from either group to associate with the other. Schools were segregated. Restaurants were segregated. Blacks and whites could not legally marry. And even water fountains were designated by race. Defenders of these race-based policies employed a variety of arguments to support the institution of discrimination by the books, including arguing that the fact that God "separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix," as was written by a lower court justice in a landmark civil rights case that would later end all state bans on interracial marriage.

Today, religious freedom bills are cropping up around the nation that would turn back the clock on American progress versus legal discrimination. Cloaked under the mantle of religious liberty, there are those who want to invoke their constitutional right to freedom of association and religion to deny other citizens—those whose lives and lifestyles they say are at odds with their religious beliefs—employment, professional or private services and the right to marry, among other things. The free exercise of religion sits at the heart of our nation's founding. But we live in a democracy, not a theocracy.

We cannot allow religious liberty to be transformed into a tool of oppression against any class of individuals or citizens.

Following huge public outcry and the threat of millions in lost business in the state, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has announced that he will veto a religious freedom bill that was meant to protect faith-based groups and individuals from legal repercussions if they refused to provide services or employment to people on the grounds of avoiding the violation of their religious beliefs. In Kansas City, lawmakers are looking at legislation that would amend the Missouri constitution to prohibit the government from punishing individuals and businesses that refuse, on religious grounds, to provide goods or services for same-sex marriage ceremonies or celebrations of same-sex couples. As Missouri lawmakers consider the law for a future vote, the NCAA is considering bids from other cities for their future sports events—potentially costing the city millions in revenue from lost sporting events. But these states are not outliers. Over twenty states have passed some form of a religious freedom bill or poised to put policies in place that violate our country's core principles of inclusion and the freedom to live and work free from discrimination.

In a democracy as diverse in races, religions, ideologies and orientations, collisions between the rights of religion and the responsibilities of civil authority are inevitable. Our country was founded on the idea that people should not be persecuted because of their religious beliefs, but like any other right, there are reasonable limits to its free exercise. As our nation's first president articulated, those who live under the protection of the United States of America must also "demean themselves as good citizens." You cannot invoke a special right to deny another their rights as citizens. Religious liberty, as valuable and necessary as it is, cannot be used to break the law, should not be twisted to oppress a class of people, and cannot be tolerated as a means to freely discriminate in a nation whose goal, since its founding, has been to create a more perfect union and establish justice.

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Helping Your Kids Survive End of Year Testing

Today's students are facing more tests than ever. While taking course exams, or state-mandated standardized tests, may never be fun, there are many things every student can do to minimize the stress and maximize test performance. The following advice can help any student:

– **Plan ahead:** Last minute cramming seldom improves test grades, but does raise test anxiety. Instead, start your studying early and spread it over a number of days.

– **Anticipate:** No test covers everything about a subject. Look for areas that are most important and most likely to be covered on a test as you review your notes or text book. Think about what the teacher has emphasized. If you've been given a study guide, use it. Pay attention when a teacher reviews material—those are the things most likely to be tested.

– **Be rested:** It's just common sense. Getting enough rest lets you feel better and will help your mind do a much better job of pulling up those obscure facts you forgot were even there.

– **Eat healthy:** Your brain requires good nutrition to do its job. Skipping breakfast impairs brain function. Eating a healthy breakfast improves it. Avoid junk food and foods loaded with sugar. Crashing from a sugar high during a test won't help your grades. And limit caffeine. Coffee, caffeinated soda and energy drinks may make you feel alert, but can also leave you jittery and nervous, and make concentrating more difficult.

– **Stay focused:** Taking a test is rarely enjoyable. Your mind wants to wander. Don't let it. Keep your eyes on your paper, ignore classroom distractions and pay attention to the test material.

– **Relax:** In the days before a test, practice relaxing by closing your eyes, taking a deep breath and thinking positive thoughts about how well you're going to do. Do the same thing at test time. If you get nervous during the test, take a few deep breaths and actually think about that air flowing into and out of your lungs. Then focus calmly back on the test. Remind yourself it's only a test, not life or death.

Doing well on tests isn't magic. It takes planning, studying and relaxing. But if doing all that doesn't help, the student may suffer from severe test anxiety. In such cases, the school counselor, or an outside professional counselor, can provide help in overcoming the problem.

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

Breakfast from A1

back to the 1800's and it deserves to be restored," said Mr. Coleman. "We are excited about the opportunity to assist this wonderful town in bringing back its vibrant economy. My team of professionals is already at work with plans to implement the Town's business sector plan, build management skills in its workforce and expose it to the developers and the capital it needs to make its business community successful. We are using in an economic renaissance. Bladensburg's best days are just around the corner."

According to Census data, the Town of Bladensburg has had its share of challenges over the years. Its current median household income is \$34,966 compared to the County's median household income of \$73,623. In addition, 11.8% of Bladensburg residents are below the poverty line, while 9.4% of residents County-wide are below the poverty line. Collectively, these numbers represent a great opportunity for a renaissance to take place in the Town of Bladensburg.

Through its 'Activate Prosperity' initiative, the EDC is positioning itself to work directly

with the Bladensburg business community to introduce them to the millions of dollars in resources available through the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation. Over the next few months, the EDC will be partnering with the Town of Bladensburg to create its own value proposition, attract more businesses and developments to Bladensburg, prepare its residents for high wage employment and restore its historical pride.

"We are very excited about partnering with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and raise our businesses to a whole other level," said Carlyncia Peck, Co-Chair of the B5 Initiative. "We believe the EDC will allow our businesses to understand business in a way they have never understood it before and to bring prosperity right here to Bladensburg. We are truly looking forward to collaborating on a job summit and other activities later on this year."

To learn more about the Bladensburg economic renaissance and other EDC initiatives and events, follow the EDC on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram at PGCEDC. You can also follow us on Twitter @ExpandPGC.

Prosperity from A1

businesses the tools they need to succeed such as financing and tax incentives that fuel growth, workforce training services, site selection, consulting and business counseling services; all of

which will ultimately result in record breaking growth within Prince George's County's economy."

To learn more about more about financing through the EDI Fund, contact Ebony Stocks at (301) 583-4610 or epstocks@co.pg.md.us.

Maryland Voters May Get Opportunity to Have State Regulate Daily Fantasy Sports

By CONNOR GLOWACKI
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—As the popularity of daily fantasy sports has risen in recent years, thanks to the success of companies like DraftKings and FanDuel, there is a chance that Marylanders would get the opportunity to decide for themselves whether the online sports competition should officially be considered legal in the state.

Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr., D-Calvert, and Sen. Douglas Peters, D-Prince George's, are sponsors of two separate bills that together would allow the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to regulate daily fantasy sports throughout the state, or ban it outright. Both bills passed unanimously in the state Senate on March 23. They will then need to be approved by a House committee, followed by the full House, in order to become law.

Peters' bill would send the issue of whether daily fantasy sports should be regulated to a referendum in November's General Election. It is scheduled to be heard in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee on Friday at 3 p.m. in the Prince George's County delegation room.

Meanwhile, Miller's bill would present a different option altogether for the General Assembly. It would label daily fantasy sports betting as illegal, outside of small social groups, unless voters again decide to legalize daily fantasy sports in November through Peters' bill. It was sent to the House Ways and Means committee, but a hearing hadn't been scheduled as of Thursday afternoon.

"This legislation puts power of the decision on the hands of voters," Peters said.

In January, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh sent an advisory opinion to Miller that said he wasn't sure daily sports were considered legal because they weren't included in a 2012 law that authorized betting on season-long fantasy sports held among a small group of friends or individuals.

Victoria Gruber, chief of staff to Miller, said that Frosh

wanted the General Assembly to come up with legislation for daily fantasy sports that could be considered an expansion of commercial gaming.

Gruber also said that many of the daily fantasy sports companies that have lobbied in Annapolis wouldn't mind being regulated by the state. But they wouldn't want to be considered games of chance and end up being compared to casinos and horse racing.

At a Senate hearing for the bills in mid-March, representatives from DraftKings and FanDuel said that they wanted the competitions referred to as games of skill—in part because of the amount of strategy and research needed to play daily fantasy sports, they said.

Unlike a traditional fantasy sports league that lasts for an entire sports season, daily fantasy sports contests are based on certain match-ups of a single game or day. A salary cap format is employed where users are given an imaginary budget to spend on athletes for their fantasy teams. If an athlete is one of the top performers at their position in their respective sport, they will be more expensive to purchase in daily fantasy.

The current market for daily fantasy sports is estimated to be around 3 million to 4 million players in the United States, according to The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling.

Ryan Toohey, a spokesman for DraftKings, said that because players are assembling teams themselves, having skill is necessary to be good at daily fantasy sports.

"We disagree with the term 'Gaming.' When you assemble a team, you are serving as the General Manager to do all of the research of the players and match-ups. It's not a function of chance," Toohey said.

Toohey also said that there are 935,000 estimated fantasy sports players in Maryland for both daily and season long leagues.

DraftKings' Director of Public Affairs Griffin Finan said in a statement that the company does support appropriate regulation of daily fan-

tasy sports contests to protect their consumers, but reiterated that they are games of skill.

"We are engaged in an active dialogue with legislators and other stakeholders across the country as well as in Maryland, where fantasy sports are explicitly exempted from gambling laws," Finan said. "This particular plan is not reflective of what we are hearing from fans, lawmakers and experts in state after state that fantasy sports are legal games of skill."

Since money has to be wagered more frequently for daily fantasy leagues and contests, there is more of a concern about the risk of betting and developing a gambling addiction than with traditional fantasy leagues.

Dr. Lori Rugle, program director for The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling said that she thinks daily fantasy sports meet a more similar criteria to gambling compared to traditional fantasy leagues because they can be seen by people as more of a way to make money than just for recreational use.

"Spending more time scoping out players, joining multiple leagues ... it takes up more time and money and you're also risking money and value to an unknown outcome," Rugle said.

If Peters' bill passes and voters choose to legalize daily fantasy sports, only individuals who are 21 or older could play in Maryland. Rugle said that the age limit is important when establishing regulations and responsible practices because minors would be better protected.

"25 is typically the age where the judgment parts of the brain are fully matured. The longer you can keep someone from being engaged in gambling, the less likely they are to develop a gambling problem," Rugle said.

Even though The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling hasn't had any documented clients seeking help for addiction specifically related to daily fantasy sports, Rugle said that cases are beginning to be reported around the country. She also said they are finding, through help line calls and other

data, that individuals on average report recognizing gambling issues for 2 to 5 years before seeking out help.

The fiscal summary of Peters' bill states that if it is approved at referendum, an indeterminate amount of general fund revenues would increase beginning in the 2017 fiscal year and the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission would have to collect annual regulatory fees for each individual who licenses a daily fantasy sports game for registered players in Maryland.

The fiscal summary doesn't state what specific amount of funds would be generated at the state level and Maryland wouldn't see any of the revenue until January 2017.

Meanwhile, Miller's bill would present a different option altogether for the General Assembly. It would label daily fantasy sports betting as being illegal, outside of small social groups, unless voters again decide to legalize daily fantasy sports in November through Peters' bill.

Maryland would potentially become one of the first states in the country to regulate fantasy gaming sports. On March 7, Virginia became the first state to regulate daily fantasy sports when Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed a bill that would require sites like DraftKings and FanDuel to pay a \$50,000 registration fee and submit to regular outside audits.

Maryland would also be the first state in the country to allow voters to decide whether to have the state regulate daily fantasy sports. Currently, six states have outlawed daily fantasy sports, including Arizona, Iowa, Montana, Louisiana, Nevada, and Washington, according to Legal Sports Report, a website geared toward coverage of daily fantasy sports and sports betting.

Both of the bills have now moved on to the House of Delegates and were introduced by the House on March 24 during the morning legislative session. Peters' bill was scheduled to be heard first on Friday April 1, 2016 by the House Rules and Executive Nominations committee at 3 p.m. in the Prince George's County delegation room.

Maryland Casinos Generate \$97.85 Million in Revenue During March

By PRESS OFFICER
ML&G

BALTIMORE, MD—Maryland Lottery and Gaming today announced March 2016 revenue numbers for the state's five casinos—Hollywood Casino Perryville in Cecil County, Horseshoe Casino Baltimore in Baltimore City, Casino at Ocean Downs in Worcester County, Maryland Live Casino in Anne Arundel County, and Rocky Gap Casino Resort in Allegany County. March 2016's combined statewide revenue totaled \$97,852,133, the second highest in Maryland casino history, behind July 2015's \$98,951,644.

Hollywood Casino Perryville generated \$7,044,010 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$226.03 for slot machines, \$2,627.82 for banking table games and \$353.58 for non-banking table games. Hollywood Casino's March 2016 revenue increased by \$525,892, or 8.1%, from March 2015.

Hollywood Casino Perryville operates 850 slot machines and 22 (12 banking and 10 non-banking) table games.

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore generated \$27,631,69 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$227.22 for slot machines, \$2,336.57 for banking table games and \$1,324.72 for non-banking table games. Horseshoe Casino's March 2016 revenue increased by \$2,931,647, or 11.9%, from March 2015. Horseshoe Casino Baltimore operates 2,202 slot machines and 178 (153 banking and 25 non-banking) table games.

Maryland Live Casino generated \$54,606,979 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$276.07 for slot machines, \$3,955.59 for banking table games and \$1,308.13 for non-banking table games. Maryland Live's March 2016 revenue increased by \$2,672,806, or 5.2%, from March 2015. Mary-

land Live Casino operates 3,923 slot machines and 206 (154 banking and 52 non-banking) table games.

Casino at Ocean Downs generated \$4,471,371 from slot machines in March, and its gross gaming revenue per unit per day was \$180.06. Casino at Ocean Downs' March 2016 revenue increased by \$448,655, or 11.2%, from March 2015. The Casino at Ocean Downs operates 800 slot machines, and does not have table games.

Rocky Gap Casino Resort generated \$4,098,078 from both slot machines and table games in March. Gross gaming revenue per unit per day was: \$178.92 for slot machines and \$1,008.31 for banking table games. This facility does not have non-banking table games. Rocky Gap Casino Resort's March 2016 revenue increased by \$242,398, or 6.3%, from March 2015. Rocky Gap Casino Resort operates 631 slot machines and 19 table games.

In a year-to-year comparison, March 2016 casino revenue increased from March 2015 by \$6,821,399, or 7.5%. See attached document (or click HERE) for a detailed breakdown of March 2016's fund disbursement, fiscal year-to-date totals for the individual casinos and combined state total.

Maryland Lottery and Gaming is responsible for all matters relating to regulation of the state's casinos. In this regulatory role, the agency oversees all internal controls, auditing, security, surveillance, background investigation, licensing and accounting procedures for the facilities. To keep Marylanders informed and maintain integrity and transparency in its regulation of the state's casinos, monthly financial reports are posted on gaming.mdlottery.com. Maryland Lottery and Gaming reminds players to play responsibly and within their budget; resources are available at mdgamblinghelp.org or by calling 1-800-GAMBLER.

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Zootopia

Zootopia
Grade: B+
Rated PG, mild thematic
elements and rude humor
1 hr., 48 min

The credo of the city of Zootopia, as featured in the movie "Zootopia" is that it doesn't matter what kind of animal you are—"anyone can be anything." It's essentially the same "be yourself" message found in every Disney cartoon, but this time there's a twist: the movie is about race relations.

Oh, I know! I would roll my eyes, too. But this shrewd, funny buddy-cop story about anthropomorphic animals pulls it off without a hint of preachiness. How? By inventing situations that mimic real-life issues without (for the most part) being direct parallels to them, and by not following a consistent pattern of this animal representing that race, and so forth. In an early scene, a bunny seems to be the stand-in for African Americans, bullied by a fox (with a redneck Southern accent) who pledges to keep bunnies in their place. But in other scenes, it's the bunnies who represent white bigots, with foxes as the oppressed, mistreated class. In still other scenes, the corollaries are broader—not foxes and bunnies, but predators and prey, or large animals vs. small ones.

In short, each animal has its moments of prejudice and acceptance, of being right and being wrong, of being fearful and being brave. By not letting the story be boiled down to one simple allegory, Zootopia conveys its message without being political, inflammatory, or controversial. You might say this dilutes it, that it would have been more effective if they'd gone all the way with #foxlivesmatter. But that's too narrow a view, and a potential turnoff for audiences (who, after all, just want to see a funny cartoon about talking animals). The movie's broader take is one that only a die-hard racist could disagree with: that we can acknowledge the differences between our "species" without being unequal, and that while our feelings of bigotry and fear often



The modern mammal metropolis of Zootopia is a city like no other. Comprised of habitat neighborhoods like ritzy Sahara Square and frigid Tundratown, it's a melting pot where animals from every environment live together—a place where no matter what you are, from the biggest elephant to the smallest shrew, you can be anything. But when rookie Officer Judy Hopps (voice of Ginnifer Goodwin) arrives, she discovers that being the first bunny on a police force of big, tough animals isn't so easy. Determined to prove herself, she jumps at the opportunity to crack a case, even if it means partnering with a fast-talking, scam-artist fox, Nick Wilde (voice of Jason Bateman), to solve the mystery. Walt Disney Animation Studios' Zootopia" a comedy-adventure directed by Byron Howard (Tangled, Bolt) and Rich Moore (Wreck-It Ralph, The Simpsons) and co-directed by Jared Bush (Penn Zero: Part-Time Hero), opens in theaters on March 4, 2016. Officer Judy Hopps (voice of Ginnifer Goodwin), the very first bunny on Zootopia's police force, jumps at the opportunity to crack her first case—even if it means partnering with fast-talking, scam-artist fox Nick Wilde (voice of Jason Bateman) to solve the mystery.

come from honest emotional reactions (the bunny really did have a traumatic experience with a fox), we must overcome those impulses and judge one another as individuals, not as groups.

Also, no matter how "different" it looks to you, don't touch the lamb's woolly hair without her permission. And I know you hear bunnies call each other "cute," but it's kind of offensive when non-bunnies use that term. And just watch that fox cringe when someone refers to him as "articulate." You get the idea.

Zootopia is set in a world where predators and prey evolved into a peaceful co-existence and live in human-like cities together. (It's never explained what the predators eat instead of other animals, nor is there any reference to humans or non-mammals. Just go with it.) Judy Hopps (voice of Ginnifer Goodwin), an optimistic young rabbit, is the first of her species to become a police officer in the bustling metropolis of

Zootopia. Not taken seriously by Chief Bogo (Idris Elba), a water buffalo, or by any of her fellow cops, who are various mid-sized animals, she's assigned to be a meter maid.

Undaunted, Judy Hopps is determined to make a difference in her community. She takes on a "missing mammal" case that no one else has time for because she's touched by Mrs. Otterton's (Octavia Spencer) pleas for help. And in the process of investigating, she teams up with a street-wise con artist named Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), a sly fox who challenges Judy's preconceived notions about foxes (and who has some serious trust issues with police).

Directed by Byron Howard (Tangled) and Rich Moore (Wreck-It Ralph), and written by Phil Johnston (Cedar Rapids, Wreck-It Ralph) and Jared Bush, the film is modeled on the buddy-cop formula, following that pattern of clue-finding, false

leads, red herrings, and eventual mystery-solving. But it also discovers many clever ways to exploit the animals-as-humans setting, including a nudist colony run by a hippie yak (Tommy Chong), a DMV staffed entirely by sloths, and an arctic shrew who's a Mafia kingpin. There are gags based on the relative size of the animals (Judy is a giant in the Little Rodentia neighborhood) and on the human-like rules applied to them (as when an employee at an elephant-owned ice cream shop is chastised for spraying toppings out of his trunk).

It's consistently cheerful and funny, never heavy-handed, even when serious issues are being hinted at. Kids will undoubtedly enjoy it (what brightly colored entertainment with talking animals DON'T kids enjoy?), but this one seems meant more for adults who can appreciate its ingeniously fabricated world and its big-hearted ideals.

Plagiarism from A1

absolutely nothing wrong. I'm definitely sorry about it."

Blair was invited by senior American studies and journalism major Shannon Gallagher as part of a project for her journalism ethics class.

"I was assigned plagiarism as my (presentation) topic, and I think that's one of those topics that as journalists we take for granted, like 'yeah, yeah, of course I'm not going to plagiarize,'" Gallagher said.

"Jayson Blair, who went (to the journalism school), obviously had the connection and (I thought) it would be a really good education experience to bring in someone who's done that," she explained. "He was in our shoes one time and of course he told himself 'I'll never break these ethical rules,' and ended up (doing that)."

Throughout the question-and-answer session with students and faculty, Blair answered questions about his motives for plagiarizing, his turbulent time as editor in chief of the independent student newspaper, *The Diamondback*, during his college years and how his life changed post-scandal.

Blair also worked for Capital News Service in its Annapolis bureau in the fall of 1995. CNS is operated by Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism and also has student-staffed bureaus in College Park and Washington.

Currently working as a life coach in Centreville, Va., Blair said he initially got into journalism because he saw its healing power and ability to educate, entertain and add value to people's lives. He also said he became conscious of his plagiarism at *The New York Times* when pressure and exhaustion on the job led him to take a quote from The Associated Press and pass it off as his own.

"Once you cross that ethical line again and again ... it becomes a lot easier to do it," Blair said.

He added that he always felt a sense of panic the moment he submitted his story to his editor, worrying he would be caught each time. But he said there's probably nothing his editors could have done.

"Journalism relies on implicit trust," Blair said. "Editors can only get so far."

"People would love to have a bulletproof way to ferret out what I did ... but people who do what I did are just like everyone else," he said.

Blair also denied fabricating or plagiarizing during his time at *The Diamondback*, but acknowledged that his management style "left much to be desired." He said he did not consciously plagiarize until he was at The New York Times.

At *The Diamondback*, he said his co-workers noticed his self-destructive tendencies during his tenure as editor in chief.

"I have a special gift for rubbing people the wrong way sometimes," he said.

In 2013, *The Diamondback* published a three-part series that chronicled Blair's stormy tenure as editor in chief, punctuated by what the paper said was sloppiness, carelessness, missed deadlines, "questionable ethics" and lying. He left the paper before his term was up after he published an erroneous story speculating about the cause of a student's death. Blair never graduated from Maryland.

Carl Sessions Stepp, a professor at the journalism school

who knew Blair, listened to his remarks Wednesday.

"I thought he did a good job of showing that he understood how much damage he had done and showing contrition for the people he had hurt and showing concern for trying to turn his life around and I respected him for coming, for taking everyone's questions and answering tough questions," Stepp said. "As to whether he was being truthful or not, I don't know what's inside his head, but I appreciate him being there and saying what he had to say."

In spite of his failed journalism career and ethical violations, Blair said he has no problem finding clients in his current field and that he "look(s) at the good things that came out of it," including being diagnosed with bipolar disorder and gaining senses of empathy and humility.

"It's kind of easy to just see this whole thing as he was a bad person," senior journalism major and discussion attendee Elaine Hunt said. "I thought it was really interesting how he was able to come to terms with it and separate it from himself as a person ... like 'this is where I am now in my life and it's ok, it happens and that's life.'"

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

'Trump' Has Become a Racial Taunt at High School Sporting Events



The sports world has given a disturbing amount of space to the citrus-faced presidential aspirant Donald Trump during this election season. They legitimize him by breathlessly reporting the love showered upon him by the likes of Tom Brady, Mike Tyson, Mike Ditka, and Dennis Rodman. He has been endorsed by NASCAR chief executive Brian France, who cracked down on the Confederate flag at races, yet has no compunction about raising Trump's profile with glowing quotes. He has also been granted high-profile, soft-ball interviews with sports radio hosts like Colin Cowherd, where Trump gets to say things like, "We need very strong people because our country is being taken away like candy from a baby.... We need the Tom Brady of negotiators!" while the host smiles blankly. But now the Trump-love, and the ideas he inspires, is traveling into the stands, and this creates a different dynamic: one marked by racism, harassment, and the potential for violence.

In the Midwest, in two instances that we know about, high school basketball teams with Latino players have been denigrated by white fans and students from opposing teams with the chant "Trump." Perry, Iowa, is a town of just 8,000 people. Built around a Tyson Foods plant, it has a population that is 35 percent Latino. Forty-eight percent of the students at the local high school, according to principal Dan Marburger, are people of color. "We are really more of an urban school in a rural setting," is how Marburger put it. He said it with pride, because the school has been able to make an integrated setting work in a very monochromatic part of the country. The Perry basketball team has Latino, white, black, and Native American players and stands as a proud symbol of how they are able to function as a community.

At a recent game between Perry and a rival team from Dallas Center-Grimes high school, opposing fans chanted "Trump" and racial slurs, and threatened to build a wall and kick the Perry players out of the country. After the incident, Perry student Kevin Lopez told reporters, "We are all aware of racism; it's alive and well in small portions, but it's alive and well, and it's just hurtful to see that's what they resort to." By the way, Perry won that game 57-50.

That was a public school matchup. In Merrillville, Indiana, two Catholic schools—both part of the Gary, Indiana, Diocese—Bishop Noll and Andean, faced off. The Bishop Noll team is majority Latino and had to face a large Donald Trump head being held up in the Andean student section. Andean students, according to numerous reports, also chanted "Build a wall!" and "Speak English!"

Ashley Hammond, whose cousin plays for Bishop Noll, claimed that the Andean administration did nothing about the students' behavior. She later wrote in a Facebook post, "What kind of administration allows its students to support HATE SPEECH and RACISM openly at a school sponsored event ... a Catholic school at that? ... Is the bible really the backbone of your Catholic school when you allow more than unsportsmanlike behavior, you allow your students to taunt with racism?" Again in this case, the racist side lost, 56-52.

Donald Trump's presidential campaign has already shown us that things we may think only happen in other countries—namely white supremacist and nationalist violence attached to the leading political figure of a major party—are starting to happen here. In Europe, we've seen political support of violent nationalism find a natural home in the stands at sporting events. For decades, fan "hooliganism" has been organized into sporting brownshirts: shock troops for fanatic-fascism. In extreme examples, racist fan clubs have become something even more consequential than run-of-the-mill thuggery. During the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1992, Serbian fan clubs, most infamously the Red Star Club, quite seamlessly became death squads for nationalist leaders. Today the fan club for the Beitar Jerusalem soccer club in Israel has been spotlighted on ESPN for its violent actions against Arabs that have invited comparisons to a lynch mob.

This is what makes it so deeply disturbing to see the hate-heatwave of Trump find its way into the sports world. On a typical day in the sports stands of this country, people are assaulted and stabbed. This violence is tragic, but as incidents, they are isolated. A Trump-inspired act of violence, which seems like merely a matter of time, holds the potential to trigger more. Powerful people in sports and sports media have helped to legitimize this man. Now kids who just wanted to play basketball find themselves involuntarily on the front lines.

Calendar of Events

April 14,—April 20, 2016

Smooth Sounds for Seniors: Integriti Reeves: Billie Holiday Tribute

Date and Time: Thursday, April 14, 2016, 12 noon
Description: Vocalist Integriti Reeves and her ensemble will be paying homage to the incomparable "Lady Day," on the heels of her centennial birth year! Integriti will present some of Billie Holiday's most famous repertoire, as well as some lesser known favorites.

Cost: \$12/person
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Nasar Abaday and SUPERNOVA®

Date and Time: Friday, April 15, 2016, 8 pm
Description: SUPERNOVA® performs music from the threshold of jazz to beyond space and time.

Known for its innovative explorations of various jazz elements, SUPERNOVA® fuses African rhythms, bebop, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Brazilian, and free form.

Cost: \$25/person;
10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Health and Wellness: Walk and Talk with the Doc-Herbert Wells Ellen Linson Complex

Date and Time: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8:30–9:30 am
Description: We know that walking is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It is also one of the best ways to connect with others! A local health care professional will lead a group walk, share wellness tips, and answer your questions.

No registration is required. Just grab your tennis shoes and join the fun!

Cost: Free
Ages: All Ages
Location: Herbert Wells-Ellen Linson Complex
5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Youth Spring Flag Football Clinic

Date and Time: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 9 am–1 pm
Description: Coaches from DeMatha, St. Vincent Pallotti and St. John's High Schools will provide instruction on seven stations to include quarterbacks, running backs, wide receivers, offensive linemen, defensive linemen, defensive backs and linebackers. To register, call 301-446-6800.

Cost: Free
Ages: 6-14
Location: Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-446-6830; TTY 301-699-2544

Unity in the Community Parade & Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, April 16, 10 am–4 pm
Description: Looking for a great opportunity to become better acquainted with your community members?

Join us for a day of family fun focusing on health & wellness. Speak with health vendors, and enjoy food and entertainment.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Oakcrest Community Center
1300 Capitol Heights Blvd., Capitol Heights, MD
Contact: 301-736-5355; TTY 301-699-2544

In Gratitude: A Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire

Date and Time: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8 pm
Description: Paying homage to one of the most prolific musical ensembles in history, and offering an impressive body of familiar Earth, Wind & Fire tunes, this 13 piece band is led by four exceptional male singers that evoke a nostalgic listen to a legend that today continues its musical reach around the world.

In Gratitude performs EW&F hits from the classic years (1973-1985) and more; don't miss these talented and established musicians performing your favorites!

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

Seasonal Selections: Spring Bounty

Date and Time: Sunday, April 17, 2016, 12 noon–3:30 pm
Description: The Kitchen Guild will demonstrate open hearth cooking using 18th and 19th-century recipes featuring fruits and vegetables from our garden.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-042-; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparks.com

3rd Annual Light it Up Blue for Autism Zumbathon

Date and Time: Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2–4 pm
Description: Join the Bling it on Blue Fitness Team, DMV Jammers & ZES (Zumba education specialist) as we raise money for our "Camp Bling for Blue" camp scholarship! This scholarship sends kids on the autism spectrum to camp.

Register online at www.blingitonfitness.com or on site at South Bowie Community Center.

Cost: Resident: \$15; Non-Resident: \$20
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: South Bowie Community Center
1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-249-1622; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Which State are Friendliest to Homeowners for Rooftop Solar?

Northeast and Southwest are Best for Residential Solar, While Sunny Southeast Lags Behind

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that home rooftop solar only makes sense in certain parts of the U.S. with proper incentives as opposed to where the sun shines the most?

—Esther Knox,
Wilton, NH

The short answer is yes: In the United States, whether or not it is easy and economical to go solar depends more on state politics than prevailing weather trends. In those states with ample sunshine and the legislative initiative to get solar panels on residential roofs, there has never been a better—or cheaper—time to put photovoltaic panels to use.

According to Solar Power Rocks, a website that helps homeowners understand the rules, incentives and investment returns on local solar panel installations, the top three states where switching over to solar power makes the most economic sense are in the Northeast (New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut). Maryland, Connecticut, Oregon, Minnesota, New Mexico, Vermont and Colorado round out the top ten.

What makes these states particularly prime for rooftop solar is their willingness to allow homeowners to lease photovoltaic equipment from third-party owners (like Sun Edison, Solar City, SunRun, etc.) and

legislature-backed incentives to help keep costs down overall. Going solar in one of these states might end up being cheaper than remaining on the grid.

Surprisingly, a few states in the South (Florida, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Kentucky), where solar panels would seem like a no-brainer, continue to resist this change for the better, in large part due to entrenched utility lobbies intent on maintaining their fossil-fuel-based lock on the status quo. According to a recent *Rolling Stone* article by Tim Dickinson, the recent ascent of solar power in the U.S. poses a grave threat to the business interests of big fossil fuel industry investors. Dickinson details how these entrenched interests are "mounting a fierce, rear-guard resistance at the state level—pushing rate hikes and punishing fees for homeowners who turn to solar power." He adds that their efforts have "darkened green-energy prospects in could-be solar superpowers" like Arizona and Nevada. "But nowhere has the solar industry been more eclipsed than in Florida, where the utilities' powers of obstruction are unrivaled."

"The solar industry in Florida has been boxed out by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) that reap massive profits from natural gas and coal," reports Dickinson. "These IOUs wield outsized political power in the state capital



CREDIT: NICK NORNAL, FLICKRCC

Who would have guessed that the best three states across the U.S. for putting solar panels on the roof would be in the Northeast?

of Tallahassee, and flex it to protect their absolute monopoly on electricity sales."

While Florida might be a laggard on rooftop solar for now, that could all change if some residents are successful in their drive for an amendment to the state constitution to allow for third-party solar ownership (which would enable solar leasing). Of course, the state's utilities have challenged the amendment by creating their own, designed to confuse voters into keeping solar panels off their rooftops.

For more information on where your state stands in terms on rooftop solar, check out Solar Power Rocks 2016 U.S. Solar Power Rankings. Also, visit the

website of the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE) for a full run-down of state-by-state, federal and other incentives for installing solar panels and other forms of renewable energy equipment.

CONTACTS: Solar Power Rocks, the website is; www.solarpowerrocks.com; Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, www.dsireusa.org.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.



SPRING GREENSCAPING

GreenScaping encompasses a set of landscaping practices that can save you money, time and help the environment. By following these greenscape tips, you can improve the health and appearance of your lawn and garden.

- ▶ Landscape with native plants that require less care;
- ▶ Eliminate unnecessary water and chemical use;
- ▶ Use chemicals properly and only when necessary to keep waterways and drinking water clean; and
- ▶ Reduce yard waste by recycling yard trimmings into free fertilizer.

Bowie from A1

almost 300 years of local history," says Pamela Williams, Historic Properties Manager for the City of Bowie. The Centennial Celebration Committee has a host of activities planned, including musical performances by local school groups and a community picnic on Bowie Heritage Day in May, various exhibits at City museums about Bowie's his-

tory, a tour of Bowie gardens and a tour of Bowie houses of worship in the fall, and a variety of children's activities throughout the year. This year's summer concerts at Allen Pond Park and in Old Town Bowie will incorporate the Centennial theme, by showcasing 100 years of musical styles. "I encourage everyone to download our "First 100 Days of Centennial Events" brochure from the City website

at www.cityofbowie.org/centennial so that you don't miss any of these upcoming events."

Residents can also explore Bowie's history by doing a geocache tour of Bowie landmarks or visiting various locations in Bowie where they can get their "Centennial Passport" stamped. If they visit all of the sites in the passport, they will be eligible for prize drawings at the end of the Centennial year. Information

about these tours can be found on the Centennial pages on the City website.

The public is invited to mark this important milestone in Bowie's history by attending the opening ceremony of the Bowie's Centennial. It takes place behind City Hall at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2016 and will be followed by a reception. In the event of rain, the event will be moved indoors at City Hall.

The Prince George's Post

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