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PG County Government Employees Volunteer Throughout County

By Press Officer
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On April 30, hundreds of Prince George's County employees along with thousands of residents spent their Saturday volunteering at various Christmas in April and "Clean Up, Green Up" locations throughout the County. Both these initiatives have been important clean-up efforts during County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III's administration. County Executive Baker believes that County employees should take time to volunteer and get involved in communities throughout the County and today is an example of how employees give back to causes around the County each and every day.

"I often say how fortunate I am to work with such a kind-hearted and giving group of people," said County Executive Baker. "Their willingness to give of their time to make life better for others is inspiring. I want to thank everyone for helping make Prince George's County a great place to live. I also want to thank the thousands of residents who came out for our annual Christmas in April and "Clean Up Green Up" Day. The promise and progress of Prince George's County resides in our residents being fantastic neighbors—today's county-wide volunteer efforts epitomize the dedication that Prince Georgians have for helping each other out improving our communities."

In its 28th year, Prince George's County's Christmas in April, a non-profit that offers free home repairs to homeowners selected for the program, has repaired 2,501 homes throughout the County. This year, Christmas in April repaired 81 homes with approximately 3,500 volunteers. The Office of County Executive adopted the home of Ida Douglas in Landover, MD for the Prince George's County Christmas in April charity. Ms. Douglas is 84 and has lived in this home for almost 50 years. The Office of County Executive appreciates the support for this project provided by the business, non-profit and faith-based communities.

"Clean Up, Green Up" is a one-day, twice per year, county-wide landscape beautification effort. The County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) provides free plant material with the promise that community groups will plant in public spaces, including schools, streetscapes, neighborhood entrances, and municipal centers. Members of the Office of County Executive also volunteered at various "Clean Up, Green Up" beautification sites in our Transforming Neighborhood Initiative communities of Langley Park, Bladensburg/East Riverdale, Kentland/Palmer Park, Suitland, Hillcrest Heights/Marlowe Heights, and Glassmanor/Oxon Hill.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LORI VALENTINE, COURTESY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (center), EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman (right of Cardin), Prince George's County Executive's Office DCAO David Iannucci (right of Coleman), Relocated Business CEO's; and EDC Team.

EDC Hosts Roundtable for U.S. Senator Ben Cardin With Top Executive's From Local Companies

Senator Cardin Credits Hard Work of Baker Administration with County Success in Attracting CEO's From Around the World to Say 'Yes' to Moving to Prince George's County

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On May 6, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) had a very productive conversation with U.S. Senator Ben Cardin in its Largo office to talk about economic growth in Prince George's County. During

this exclusive meeting, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and his executive team introduced Senator Cardin to the CEO's of eight companies, who have recently relocated to Prince George's County, for an intimate conversation on why they decided to move to the County and how the EDC provided assistance in their relocation.

"We're delighted to be able to showcase for Senator Cardin some of the economic development fire power that Prince George's County is attracting," said Coleman. "County Executive Baker has been worked tirelessly over the last five years to create a business climate that encourages hyper growth. Whether it was his

ethics reform in County government, or the streamlining of the permitting process through the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, or launching the Transforming Neighborhood Initiative, or establishing a \$50 million Eco-

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PG County: Strong in Opportunity

County Executive Baker Announces Plan to Bring County Offices to Largo at 'State of the Economy' Address

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

CLINTON, MD—On April 13, County Executive Rushern Baker presented his 2016 'State of the Economy' Address to a sold out crowd of 500 local business leaders, developers and elected officials at the Colony South Hotel in Clinton, Maryland. Mr. Baker used the theme of "Opportunity" to highlight the current state of the economy, job creation and the workforce development that has taken place in Prince George's County since his election in 2010. Today's event was co-hosted by the Prince George's County Economic Corporation and the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable.

"In five short years, we have moved from a County that was under investigation by the FBI, to a County looking forward to bringing the FBI to the County," said Mr. Baker. "The new reality is that our economic development, crime reduction, and school system restructuring strategies are working, and we are now positioned to take ad-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

Left to right: M. H. Jim Estep, Pres. & CEO, Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable; Victoria Mendoza, Miss World America; County Executive Rushern Baker, Prince George's County; Derrick L. Davis, Council Chair, Prince George's County Council; Jim Coleman, Pres. & CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation.

vantage of the opportunities we always knew were there. Imagine what the future will be like with a town center and performing arts center in Suitland; the Regional Medical Center and government operations, including the Office of the County Executive in Largo; and creating our own 'Union Station' in New Carrollton. Is it possible? Absolutely!"

Prince George's County has experienced exponential growth as a result of the concerted efforts by the Baker Administration to grow a sustainable economy equipped to withstand the economic downturns of the future. The cata-

See OPPORTUNITY Page A3

PGCPS Students Try Out for National Women's Cricket Team

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Two Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students will participate in the USA Cricket Combines hosted by the International Cricket Council from May 19 to May 22 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Julia Chotoo, a sophomore at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, and Sannuthi Samuel, a sophomore at Laurel High School, will undergo fitness and skills testing

and compete in matches to determine if they meet the qualifications needed to join the USA National Women's Cricket Team. "I am extremely excited about the opportunity to try out for the national women's cricket team," said Chotoo. "I look forward to showcasing my skills and seeing how I match up with other girls my age."

Chotoo is the head coach for the Whitehall Elementary School Cricket Team, which participates in the Bowie Elementary School Teams (BEST) Cricket League, and played in

one game for Kenmoor Middle School in the Washington Area Middle Schools (WAMS) Cricket League. Samuel currently plays for the Bowie Boys and Girls Club 15U Travel Cricket Team, and played for the Buck Lodge Middle School Cricket Team in the WAMS Cricket League last year.

The BEST and WAMS leagues are the first elementary and middle school cricket leagues in the United States. Both leagues started in PGCPS and are now expanding to other counties in Maryland.

PGCPS Again Lead the State in Newly Certified Green Schools

By Press Officer
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) once again leads the state in the number of schools who earned their Maryland Green School certification for the first time. 34 schools have joined the Maryland Green Schools pro-

gram, two schools have recertified, and two schools received sustainable school status. This brings the district's total number of Green Schools to 71.

"I am thrilled once again with the number of schools that received certification this year," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. "We have

made great efforts to expand our Environmental Literacy program to ensure that all students understand how environmental relationships impact our communities and what actions they can take to create and maintain an optimal relationship between themselves

See SCHOOLS Page A7

INSIDE

My Brother's Keeper—Two Years of Expanding Opportunity and Creating Pathways for Success

MBK continues to inspire a movement of citizens, community leaders, policy makers, corporate executives, and elected officials who are acting with intention to ensure that all youth know they matter and have every opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Community, Page A3

Nothing Compares 2 U

The world was formally introduced to the budding musical genius signed to Warner Brothers Records with the R&B infected, falsetto pop standard "I Wanna Be Your Lover." At the tender age of 21, Warner Bros. granted their then-new artist, Prince, unprecedented autonomy and creative control over his debut album.

Commentary, Page A4

"Activate Prosperity" From the Palm of Your Hand

The 'Webinar Wednesday!' series, which debuted on March 30th, will allow residents to learn about the Economic Development Corporation's tools and resources and participate in workshops in real time from the convenience of their home or office using their laptops, tablets or smartphones.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Meet the Blacks

After obtaining a great deal of money, the patriarch (Mike Epps) of a black family decides they should move from Chicago to a posh neighborhood in Beverly Hills. However, they are soon terrorized by home intruders who want them out of the affluent community in this comedic spoof of the *Purge* films.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm tired of binge-watching dramas on Netflix. What are some of the best environmental documentaries that have come out recently?

—Scott Andersen,
Joplin, MOA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Last meeting at Skyline School, closing after 50 years

The Skyline Citizens Association held its quarterly meeting Wednesday, May 18, at Skyline school. It was the last time they'll meet at Skyline—as a school. After half a century, it is definitely closing for good in June. We don't know if the building will be available for meetings in the future. Or even if the building will still be there.

I welcome those of you who attended, or whose kids attended, Skyline school to send your special memories of the school. Send to muddmm@aol.com or mail to 4304 Skyline Drive, Suitland, MD 20746. I'll run your memories in my column.

To get you starting to think about Skyline reminiscences, here's my first one:

Forty years ago, in 1976, Mohammed Ali, Heavyweight Champion of the World, dropped by Skyline school to talk to the children, and plenty of adults who just happened to be around.

Fish & chips at Skyline Flea Market, May 21

Flea market, fish & chips, hamburgers, hotdogs, snacks & refreshments—just some of what's happening at the Skyline Flea Market on May 21, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department parking lot. Tables are \$15, and the rain date is May 29. For information, call Kenia, 301-335-2896, or Suzanne, 301-568-4465.

People

I have been using the heading "Neighbors" on this item. But it doesn't always work, since many are really not my neighbors. So, "People" covers everyone.

Morningside volunteer firefighter Kevin Swain is home and recovering. He was one of three shot while attempting to enter a Temple Hills home where they believed a man was nonresponsive and needed emergency treatment. John Ulmschneider, a 13-year veteran of the County Fire Department died; the third man, brother of the shooter, was wounded. This happened in mid-April and a week or two later, a big gathering was held at the Morningside Fire Department, in Kevin's honor.

Yvonne Garvin, of Skyline, is proud of her mom, Virginia

Gerald, who'll turn 99 on July 25. Among her other activities, she still goes to church every Sunday at Guiding Star Pentecostal Church.

Applause!

Amanda Espina, a teacher at Benjamin D. Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy in Morningside, has been named the 2016 Prince George's County Teacher of the year. She has taught in the County for ten years and has been at Foulois since 2009.

The Mount Calvary Varsity (14 years old & under) boys' basketball team won the CYO Mid-Atlantic Division 2 Championship. The team moved on to the Citywide Championship beating St. Ambrose in the first round but losing in the second round.

Among South County winners in Comcast's annual Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program are: Johannah Azuri, Oxon Hill High; David Cole, Crossland; Andre Cook, From the Heart Christian; Terik Ellis, Friendly; Frank Godfrey, Bishop McNamara; and Anthony Thornton, Suitland High School. Each was awarded \$1,000.

The annual St. Philip's Parish Pastoral Council election was held and they have two winners: Elizabeth "Beth" Phillips and incumbent Suzy Giroux. (Suzy grew up in Morningside, the daughter of Kathleen and the late Dave Giroux.)

Shred Days

Andrews Federal Credit Union Community Shred Day, 5711 Allentown Road, on May 21, 10am-1pm. Info, AFCU, 301-702-5500.

Camp Springs Civic Association/Central Baptist Church Community Shred Day, May 21, 10am-2 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 5600 Old Branch Avenue. Info: 240-427-5414.

Looking for a job?

Check out the National Harbor Job Fair, May 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on nationalharbor.com/jobs or mgmnationalharbor.com.

It's hard to imagine that just ten years ago, as the *Washington Post* says, "what is now National Harbor was 350 acres of undeveloped waterfront land. Today,

it's a mini-city with nearly 2,000 residents, and 7,000 workers at 30 restaurants, six hotels and 150 retail stores."

Now comes MGM National Harbor Casino and a lot of new jobs.

Changing landscape

The building that started out years ago as a Woolworth's in Andrew's Manor Shopping Center, and which has changed businesses several times, has just become La Colonial International Market. It will open soon.

Subway and the Morningside Barber Shop, next to GI Liquors in Morningside, are open again. They have been closed and yellow-taped since a car plowed into their front windows several weeks ago.

As promised, first class postage—the forever stamp—is now 47¢, down two cents.

Next month, as the soil warms to 64 degrees, billions of cicadas are expected to rise from the ground to mate. Fortunately they can't chew so they don't damage our plants and trees (maybe a little pruning). This particular group has a 17-year-life cycle, which began in 1999. As I recall, they are noisy!

Memorial Day Mass

The annual Memorial Day Mass at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton will be celebrated Monday, May 30, at 10 a.m., to honor loved ones buried there. Bishop Barry Knestout will be the celebrant. The Mass is usually celebrated under a large tent, so rain will not cancel the event.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Aidan Kilbride, May 20; Crystal Foster, Juanita Hood, David Sanford and Linda Holsonbake, May 22; Ricci Lee Jr., Betty Call, L. Dorothy Jones, Nancy Sawyer, Dory Babecki and Chester Lanehart IV, May 23; Edna Lucas and Harry Messer, May 24; Dennis Cook, Norma Edwards and my son John McHale, May 25; and Christopher Nichols, May 26.

Happy anniversary to Dennis and Leigh D'Avanzo, their 27th on May 20; Ronnie and Karen Ellis, their Golden Anniversary, May 20; and John and Nichole Barbour, May 25.

or want to learn new ones, come on out. Line dancing is great fun and exercise and is offered on Wednesdays—\$7 class drop-in fee anytime. Line dancing is offered May 11–June 15 \$40/\$48 (1645645), June 22–July 27 \$40/\$52 (1650992) and August 3–September 7 (1650993). Thursday make up day at 7:00 PM. The address is Baden Community Center, 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500, TTY 301-203-6030.

CAR SHOW

Quartermasters Racing Team presents a Car Show (cars, trucks, tractors, motorcycles) and a day of fun, good food and music on Sunday, July 17, 2016. The location is 20605 Aquasco Road, Aquasco, Maryland in the large field next to Adam's Funeral Home. Registration is open from 9:00 AM–12 noon.

Entry fee is \$20 for car, driver and one passenger. Spectators fee is \$5.00. For more information, contact (301) 653-6710 or (301) 633-3536. Not responsible for any liability issues or damages while on premises. No alcohol, drugs, pets or glass containers.

Neighborhoods

PGCPS Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

"This certificate represents a significant accomplishment for our school district," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "I am extremely proud of our entire Business Management Services team, led by Chief Financial Officer Raymond Brown, who consistently demonstrate their professionalism, dedication, and hard work."

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. This esteemed accomplishment was earned for the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2015. During the review process, an impartial panel assessed the report and determined the submission met the high standards of the program, including demonstrating full disclosure to clearly communicate the PGCPS financial story.

"The financial staff under the leadership of Vittorio Weeks, Director of Business Operations, continues to demonstrate exemplary skill and professionalism in executing accounting and reporting requirements for the school system," said Raymond Brown, Chief Financial Officer. "The recognition by GFOA confirms what we already know about this extraordinary group of employees."

Recipients of \$2.4 Million in Grants Honored

LARGO, MD—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Secretary Ben Grumbles, and Prince George's County Council Member Mary Lehman joined Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) Director Adam Ortiz and Chesapeake Bay Trust Executive Director Jana Davis, for a special ceremony recognizing recipients of the Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grants. Prince George's County neighborhoods, faith-based organizations, non-profits and residents were honored during the event that was held at Behnke Nurseries Garden Center in Beltsville.

Behnke is one of the region's top garden centers and also a grant recipient. Project funding supported the installation of an eye-catching Rain Check Rebate Living Classroom at the nursery showcasing stormwater management and best practice demonstrations including cisterns, rain barrels, urban tree canopies, rain gardens, permeable pavement and green roofs.

Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III congratulated the grantees and noted that "Prince George's is thrilled to work with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to advance environmental stewardship in our County. This special event showcases

more than just projects that impact our sustainability; today, we honor partnerships between the County and the community that are solving environmental issues within our boundaries and around the region."

Established in 2014, the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program focuses on two specific areas including water quality programs (funding from \$20,000 to \$200,000 per project) and citizen engagement projects (\$5,000 to \$50,000 per project).

"Prince George's County has become a national leader in creating cost effective, green solutions for controlling stormwater, and EPA is proud to be a partner in that effort," said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. "It is rewarding to see what we can accomplish when partners come together working toward a common goal."

Grants totaling \$2.4 million have been awarded through the program, supporting 33 on-the-ground restoration projects that treat and control stormwater, reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from rain storms, create employment opportunities for County-based businesses, and foster citizen awareness and engagement in cleaning up and preserving the County's natural resources.

"Maryland Department of the Environment congratulates Prince George's County for storming ahead as an environmental leader in innovation and collaboration, from financing and public-private partnerships to active engagement with faith-based, civic and non-profit communities," said Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment.

During its inaugural year, 13 grants totaling \$1,050,000 were awarded through the program. Of which, \$242,219 supported education and outreach projects that increase citizen awareness of watershed issues and/or engage citizens in action projects; and, \$807,781 funded the construction of water quality projects with an emphasis on practices that treat impervious surfaces including green roofs, stormwater wetland creation and enhancement, streamside forest buffers, and bioretention cells, bioswales and rain gardens.

"Nurturing the next generation of stewards while improving and preserving our watersheds is essential to our County's environmental health. I am thrilled to see Prince George's collaborating and working hand-in-hand with our municipalities, places of worship, and community and environmental groups on such a variety of projects," said Councilwoman Mary A. Lehman.

In 2015, 20 grants totaling \$1,350,000 were awarded; of which, \$149,608 funded citizen engagement projects, and \$1,200,392 supported water quality programs.

"The Trust is proud to be a partner with Prince George's County in engaging residents and making a difference on the ground," said Jana Davis, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. "These grants leverage so much power from the community to add to the fantastic work Prince George's is already undertaking to improve the qual-

ity of our natural resources. It's going to take everyone, from school kids to neighbors to local businesses, to restore our water quality, and the skyrocketing interest level in these grants shows that the public is ready to be engaged!"

Twenty-eight organizations, communities, businesses and churches honored during the event. Following is a list of grant recipients, amount awarded and a brief description of their project.

"Through this strongly supported grant program, Prince George's is improving communities, water quality in local waterways and engaging residents in steps they can take in their own backyards to keep our County clean, healthy and green," commented DoE Director Adam Ortiz.

To learn more about these projects and the Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program, contact Lauren A. Kinard, Public Information Specialist, Department of the Environment, (301) 883-5957, lakiard@co.pg.md.us or Jennifer Kley, Communications Associate, Chesapeake Bay Trust, (410-974-2941 x113), jkley@cbtrust.org; or Jana Davis, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Trust, 410-279-7889, jdavis@cbtrust.org.

To view and download event photos, visit www.flickr.com/photos/pgcsprout.

Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program Honorees:

Accokeek First Church of God, \$75,000: This project will implement the Alternative Compliance program that includes installing stormwater best management practices (BMPs), providing outreach workshops to residents and fostering good housekeeping practices.

Alice Ferguson Foundation, \$212,808: Project funding supported Prince George's Green's development and implementation of a clean water course for County residents interested in stormwater management and employment, and will fund the construction of rooftop rainwater collection system, cistern, rain garden and bioswale at AFF's Potomac Watershed Study Center.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Inc.; \$156,926: Tree canopy enhancement throughout the County is the focus of this project, which supports the planting of 750 trees and funds faith-based education workshops on stormwater management best practices.

Anacostia Riverkeeper; \$27,715: To improve water quality in the Anacostia watershed, this project will focus on the installation of stormwater harvest and re-use systems, and stormwater BMP education.

Anacostia Watershed Society; \$48,000: Project funding supported a Prince George's County Watershed Stewards Academy that provided education and training of County residents in watershed protection issues, design and construction of restoration projects preventing stormwater runoff, and to implement their "capstone" projects.

City of College Park; \$66,180: Grant funds will support the installation of stormwater BMPs (bioretention

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

HORSEBACK RIDING CAMP

Baden Community Center offers a horseback riding camp that includes horse care, riding instructions and various other activities at Hideaway Horse Center, 12301 Crossroad Trail, Brandywine, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-782-3200.

FREE BONE DENSITY SCREENING

MedStar Southern Maryland Center is offering a free bone density screening on June 10. The test will tell if you are at risk for osteoporosis or bone fracture. Please call 301-374-9098 to reserve your spot.

WESTPHALIA WOMEN'S DAY

Join us Sunday, May 22, 2016 for Women's Day Celebration. Guest preachers will be Rev. Stephanie Jennings Strafford at 8:00 AM and Rev. Dr. Debyii L. Sababu-Thomas, PhD at 10:30 AM. Rev. Dr. Timothy West, Senior Pastor. Church address is 9363 D'Arcy Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Telephone number is 301-735-9373.

AN EVENING OF JAZZ AND RELAXATION

Celebrate with dad, husband and significant other Saturday, June 18, 2016 from 6:00 PM–8:00 PM. You will enjoy jazz music featuring vocalist Anita King and friends at Family Life Center, New Hope Fellowship Parish—15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Rev. Constance Smith is our Pastor. Donation is \$35.00. There will be door prizes. Hors d'oeuvres and punch will be served. Tickets available through Eventbrite.com, the church office (301) 888-2171, or Dottymac (301) 372-8986.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

Join us Friday, May 27, 2016, Friday, June 13, 2016, and Friday, June 24, 2016 for Line dancing at St. Philip's Church. The time is 7:00 PM–9:00 PM. Church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426. Cost is \$3.00. Telephone number is 301-888-1536.

BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Join Ms. Jonnetta for a fun evening of dance, shake, spin and shuffle. If you are just learning, need to brush up on favorite steps,

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Getting Your Finances Ready for Adoption

The decision to start a family is a joyful event. However, parents considering adoption should consider advance planning for a range of financial issues unique to the process and the child they hope to bring into their home.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the costs of adopting (<https://www.childwelfare.gov>) may be a few hundred dollars or can easily exceed \$40,000 based on the form of adoption you choose.

So how do you get your finances ready for adoption? By doing your homework and making sure the price and processing work of adoption—all adoption resources, rules and requirements differ locally won't eclipse other essential financial goals like retirement, saving for your future child's education and of course, the higher daily living expenses common to all new families. Start with these tips:

Evaluate your own finances first. It's generally a good idea to work with qualified financial or tax experts to evaluate whether you can manage adoption costs from savings or grants you don't have to pay back. Starting a family is a major overall financial commitment no matter what path you take to build yours.

Know the tax benefits of adoption. The federal government offers tax breaks for adoption, but you need to study and follow the rules. According to the IRS, tax benefits for adoption include both a tax credit for qualified adoption expenses paid to adopt an eligible child and an exclusion from income for employer-provided adoption assistance. The credit is nonrefundable, meaning that it is limited to one's tax liability for the year. Any credit in excess of tax liability may be carried for up to five years. Adoptions of special needs children may qualify for special treatment. Visit IRS.gov for more details.

Check your workplace benefits. A 2013 Aon Hewitt study said only 12 percent of U.S. employers offered a financial adoption benefit in 1990 rising to 52 percent. Check with your employer to see whether they offer adoption benefits, and factor those benefits into your overall financial plan.

Know your legal costs. Adoption is a legal process, and depending on the kind of adoption process you pursue, it is wise to work with an attorney to make sure your application is in order and your rights are being protected.

Think about insurance. Life and health insurance options need to be reviewed for cost and thoroughness of coverage before you begin the adoption process. Life insurance may come up as part of the estate-planning process, but health insurance in particular requires special consideration in case the child you plan to adopt has medical or developmental needs.

Evaluate available adoption grants. Various community groups, religious organizations and nonprofit organizations and foundations may be a resource of grant funding for the adoption process. Work with trusted advisors to find out if these resources are reliable and could help you afford your adoption.

Network and learn. Many communities and organizations sponsor support and planning groups for parents of adopted kids and those planning to adopt. Depending on the adoption avenue you're considering, make it a point to get to know parents who have already gone through the process to understand all sides of what their lives as adoptive parents are like—make your learning process about more than the money.

Bottom line: Adoption is one of life's most rewarding events. The amount of financial planning you can do to support your adoption process will help give your new family the best possible start.

Opportunity from A1

Prior to County Executive Baker's speech, Mr. Coleman highlighted how the Administration has positioned the County to Activate Prosperity and accentuate its valuable opportunities for County residents and businesses. Mr. Coleman also shared with the over capacity crowd how the Economic Development Corporation continues work to retain and grow current employers, executes the County's tailored acquisition strategy targeting information technology, healthcare and life sciences, business services and federal government agencies, and is winning new businesses to the County every day.

"Today was an opportunity to celebrate the leadership that County Executive Baker has brought to Prince George's County," said EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman. "From crime and unemployment to job creation and business growth; everything that should be down is down and everything that should be up is up. This is the way things should be."



My Brother's Keeper—Two Years of Expanding Opportunity and Creating Pathways for Success

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two years have passed since the President signed a Presidential Memorandum in 2014 establishing the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Task Force (the Task Force), a coordinated Federal effort to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

In response to the President's call to action, nearly 250 communities in all 50 states have accepted the President's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge; more than \$600 million in private sector and philanthropic grants and in-kind resources and \$1 billion in low-interest financing have been committed in alignment with MBK; and new federal policy initiatives, grant programs, and guidance are being implemented to ensure that every child has a clear pathway to success from cradle to college and career.

Since MBK's first anniversary report a little more than one year ago, more than 50 additional communities have accepted the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge, including those in seven new states, independent private sector support for grants and in-kind resources has more than doubled to more than \$600 million, and more than 80% of the recommendations the MBK Task Force sent to the President two years ago are complete or on track.

Today, the MBK Task Force released its second year report [www.whitehouse.gov/MBK-turnstwo] and announced a series of new commitments highlighting continued progress. This report tracks progress achieved in the past year on efforts to make a measurable difference in the lives of young people. These priorities fall into three interdependent priorities articulated by the President: (1) engaging state and local communities; (2) increasing engagement by businesses, philanthropic organizations, and nonprofits; and (3) reviewing and reforming public policy.

Highlights of collective progress made this year include:

Federal Policy Review and Reform

- The MBK School Success Mentor Initiative, a partnership between the Department of Education and Johns Hopkins University, will pair 250,000 6th and 9th graders with trained mentors in 30 communities that accepted the MBK Community Challenge. At full scale, when operating in grades K–12 across districts, the model aims to reach over one million students within the next 3–5 years.

- More than 70 National Labs in 20 states opened their facilities to more than 3,500 youth from nearby neighborhoods, including MBK Community Challenge acceptors, for the inaugural MBK & Council on Women and Girls National Week at the Labs.

- As part of the Administration's Summer Opportunity Project, in February 2016 DOL launched a new \$20 million grant competition that will be awarded to approximately 10 communities for innovative approaches that provide young people with summer and year-round jobs and connect them to career pathways. CNCS has committed \$15 million in existing Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards over the next three years to launch Summer Opportunity AmeriCorps that will enable up to 20,000 youth to gain new skills and earn money for college.

- In July 2015, ED and DOJ announced the "Second Chance Pell" pilot program that will enable incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants to finance the postsecondary education and training that may be instrumental in securing employment, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Place-Based State and Local Engagement

- New York State—In April, with a \$20 million budget measure, New York became the first state to fund its own statewide program inspired by the federal My Brother's Keeper initiative.

- Boston—the "Mayor's Mentoring Movement" has reached 90% of its goal to recruit 1,000 new mentors.

- Philadelphia—10,000 teens and young adults were hired for jobs and internships as part of the 2015 Summer Jobs Challenge.

- Compton—the "Compton Empowered" Gang Violence intervention program resulted in a decrease in homicides of nearly 50% from 2014 to 2015.

- Detroit—City leaders have outlined a plan over the next five years to employ 5,000 additional men of color in high growth industries and enroll 90% of four-year-olds in preschool.

- 40 school districts across the country have committed to reforming discipline policies. Miami-Dade School District announced it will eliminate out-of-school suspensions beginning this school year.

Private Sector Action

- During the 2016 White House Science Fair, more than 100 different organizations announced new, independent commitments to expand opportunity for students, including more than \$50 million in "MBK STEM + Entrepreneurship" commitments.

- Opportunity Finance Network has invested more than \$470 million in financing for deals impacting youth of color.

- Equal Opportunity Schools' "Lead Higher" has invested more than \$30 million towards its \$100 million commitment to identify and enroll 100,000 low-income students and students of color in AP and IB courses.

- Foundations have invested \$100 million towards their \$200M commitment.

- In May 2015, a group of private sector leaders joined together to launch the My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBKA), a nonprofit that supports boys and young men of color. The founding Board of Directors collectively committed \$80 million in in-kind and financial donations to support the organization's mission.

MBK continues to inspire a movement of citizens, community leaders, policy makers, corporate executives, and elected officials who are acting with intention to ensure that all youth know they matter and have every opportunity to achieve their dreams. This report and announcements are a testament to the progress and achievements that have resulted from the President's leadership in creating MBK. The Task Force and leaders across the country remain hard at work to drive progress and ambition on behalf of our youth during the third year of this collective effort.

New announcements from the MBK Task Force and federal agencies include:

Summit on Preventing Youth Violence: On June 27–29 in Baltimore, MD, the Justice

Department is sponsoring a Summit on Preventing Youth Violence, presented by the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention and the My Brother's Keeper Task Force. This national convening will bring together over 600 participants representing more than 30 cities, including many communities that have accepted the MBK Community Challenge. Participants include youth and young adults, public and private organizations, key national and local government officials, and other critical stakeholders. The participating cities will share effective and promising multi-dimensional approaches to addressing violence that include prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry. These strategies also emphasize cross-jurisdictional engagements among the justice, public health, education, housing, business, and other sectors. This year, the Summit will have a specific MBK focus to highlight Milestone 6: Reducing Violence and Providing a Second Chance. The Summit will be live-streamed and then followed up with webinars that highlight issues of particular significance.

National Service and Social Innovation

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will invest nearly \$11 million to fund AmeriCorps and Social Innovation Fund programs that support My Brother's Keeper. Over the next three years, more than 120 AmeriCorps VISTA members will serve within communities that have accepted the President's MBK Community Challenge to help young people reach their full potential. These new partnerships with the MBK Alliance, the Michigan Community Service Commission, the City of Santa Fe and the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis and other nonprofits in Minnesota are valued at more than \$2 million. In addition, CNCS, through its Social Innovation Fund, will invest more than \$8.5 million to support nearly 40 organizations focused on providing evidence-based solutions to decrease opportunity gaps facing boys and young men of color and other vulnerable youth. In addition to those announced today, many other CNCS programs support MBK goals, including United We Serve, the President's Call to Service, which recently launched Mentor.gov, an online search engine to connect Americans to mentoring opportunities.

New MBK Success Mentor Initiative Cities:

The MBK Success Mentors Initiative, a partnership between the Department of Education and Johns Hopkins University, is rapidly expanding nationwide to raise student attendance and achievement in our highest needs communities. Today it announced the addition of 20 new MBK Success Mentor cities nationwide—for a total of 30 cities, all of which will gather at the White House and off-site on June 8 for the National MBK Success Mentor & Student Support Summit, part of the Every Student, Every Day campaign to eliminate chronic absenteeism. At full scale, when operating in grades K–12 across districts, the model aims to reach over one million students within the next 3–5 years. The initiative also includes a national Ad Council Campaign, which was announced in February. The campaign, which is currently being rolled out, will be featured on bill boards, bus kiosks, and social media nationwide to alert parents about the devastating im-

pact of missing just 2 days a month of school.

In just over 3 months, the first group of 10 MBK Success Mentor cities have provided mentors to over 7,400 chronically absent 6th and 9th graders to drive success. This program stems from an evidence-based model that has been implemented in NYC and elsewhere. The next phase of this campaign will expand to College Success Mentors—where students who qualify for federal work study will be paid to support chronically absent high school students in high need communities near their colleges.

Expansion and Suspension in Early Childhood Settings Report:

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is releasing a new report that highlights nine states and local communities around the country that are taking important steps to address expulsion and suspension in early learning settings. Their actions range from passing new legislation to restricting expulsions and suspensions in state preschool programs and revising regulations to improve the social-emotional and behavioral supports children in child care programs receive, to investing in expanding coaching programs—such as early childhood mental health consultation—that build teacher capacity in supporting children's development and prevent expulsions. In December of 2014, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education released the first federal policy statement on expulsion and suspension, which issued a series of recommendations to prevent and ultimately eliminate expulsion and suspension from early learning settings. Today, building on the Administration's "Rethink Discipline" efforts and to continue the forward progress to eliminate expulsions and suspensions in early learning settings, a group of more than 30 national organizations, led by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, published a joint statement in support of those recommendations.

New announcements from the private sector include:

Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) Evidence-Based Grants: LJAF is launching a competition to encourage state and local agencies to implement social programs that have been rigorously shown to produce important positive impacts on the lives of young people of color and other at-risk individuals. Consistent with the President's call in launching My Brother's Keeper to build on "actual evidence of what works," LJAF's Moving the Needle competition will award a total of up to \$15 million to help expand such evidence-based programs, and fund rigorous evaluations to determine whether their effects can be successfully reproduced so as to make significant headway against poverty, educational failure, violence, and other critical problems.

RISE for Boys and Men of Color:

RISE is awarding grants to nine scholars for field scans to understand the key interventions and policies that improve life outcomes for boys and men of color. Scholars will review literature in education, health, juvenile and criminal justice, human services, economic opportunity and workforce development to identify interventions that have been found, or show great promise, to expand

COMMENTARY

Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Nothing Compares 2 U

"Dearly, beloved. We are gathered here today to get through this thing called life. Electric word 'life.' It means forever, and that's a mighty long time. But I'm here to tell you, there's something else: the after world. A world of never ending happiness; you can always see the sun, day or night ... 'Cause in this life, things are much harder than in the after world. In this life you're on your own. And if the elevator tries to bring you down, go crazy, punch a higher floor."

—Prince and the Revolution,
"Let's Go Crazy," *Purple Rain*, 1984

It was July 4, 2014. The Essence Music Festival was marking its 20th anniversary. The headliner of the annual celebration of African-American music and culture was none other than Prince. I had the privilege of seeing Prince in concert that hot summer Louisiana night—or should I say, I was lucky enough to experience the tour de force and phenomenon, whose sudden and untimely death we mourn today.

Prince was a star in every sense of the word. He was a maverick who defined and redefined musical genres; an icon, whose influence could be felt in every corner of the globe; an outsider who defied the profit structure and control of the very industry that propelled him to international megastardom; and an advocate who seamlessly connected his music to the fight for racial justice, including reminding a Grammy audience that, "Albums still matter. Like books and Black lives, albums still matter—tonight and always."

There was more to Prince than pop masterpieces, provocative lyrics and purple rain. I could employ every word in the dictionary to describe the man, but it would prove easier, and perhaps truer, to say that nothing compared to Prince. And nothing ever will.

The son of a bandleader and a singer, Prince Rogers Nelson was a musical prodigy. He began playing piano and writing music while he was in elementary school. He was signed to a local Minneapolis band while other teenagers were stressing over high school prom dates. The world was formally introduced to the budding musical genius signed to Warner Brothers Records with the R&B infected, falsetto pop standard "I Wanna Be Your

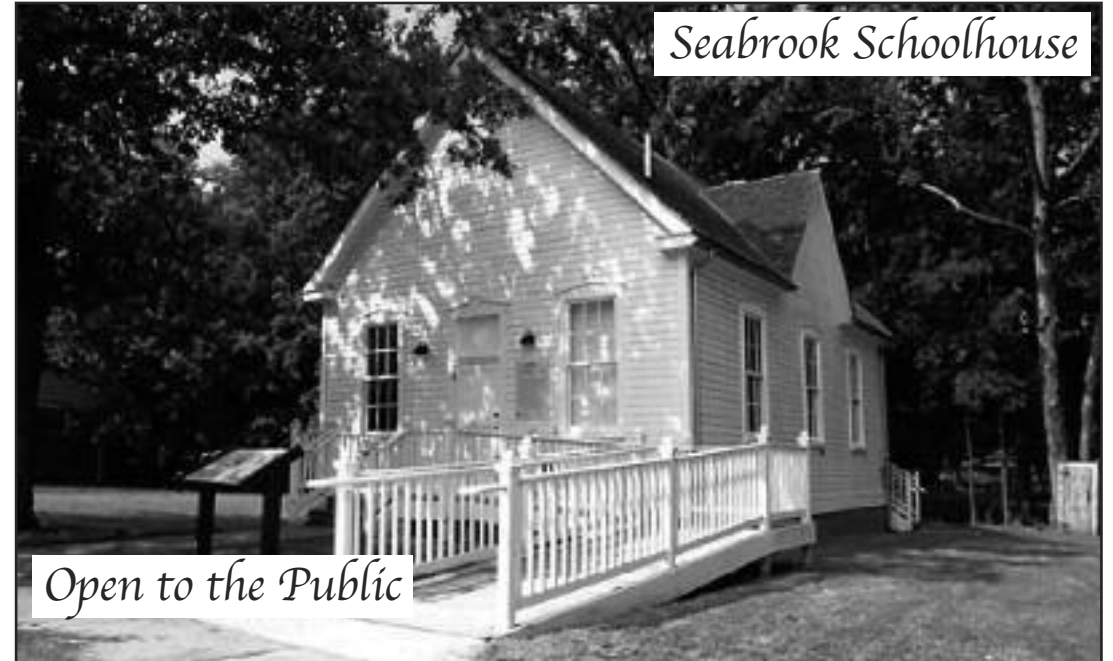
Lover." At the tender age of 21, Warner Bros. granted their then-new artist, Prince, unprecedented autonomy and creative control over his debut album. It would be a freedom he would not enjoy for long.

In the 90s, Prince engaged in a very public war with Warner Bros. over control of his music and his name—going to the extreme of scrawling the word "slave" on his cheek and referring to himself as "the Artist Formerly Known as Prince," or an unpronounceable glyph until he was freed from his contract. Prince would go on to sign with Tidal, the music streaming service part-owned by Jay Z. In a 1996 interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine, Prince explained, "People think I'm a crazy fool for writing 'slave' on my face. But if I can't do what I want to do, what am I? When you stop a man from dreaming, he becomes a slave. That's where I was. I don't own Prince's music. If you don't own your masters, your master owns you."

Prince's fight for control over his material was not about Prince. Like everything Prince has ever done, it was about a greater cause and a greater good that touched the lives of hundreds, thousands or millions. He would also use his fame and his famous voice to become an outspoken critic of racial injustice in our country. After protests over the death of a Black man at the hands of police officers in Baltimore, Prince penned a tribute to Freddie Gray that included the line, "Does anybody hear us pray for Michael Brown or Freddie Gray?" As revealed by Al Sharpton, Prince also sent money to the family of Trayvon Martin after the teen's shooting death. Van Jones recalled that Prince would only play the 2014 Essence Music Festival if the organizers agreed to host a hackathon of YesWeCode, Jones' non-profit that encourages urban youth, particularly young Black men and women to learn how to code. Prince was as much an advocate as he was an artist.

We are saddened at the loss of this musical giant, a man who refused to be defined or confined in any area of his life, this risk-taker, prodigy and genius. But we have his musical legacy to console us, because as Prince reminds us in "1999": "Life is just a party and parties weren't meant to last."

May he rest in purple peace.



Seabrook Schoolhouse

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: ???

SEABROOK SCHOOLHOUSE

The Seabrook Schoolhouse was built in 1896 by the residents of the Seabrook community and provided education for grades one through eight until the early 1950s. This one-room schoolhouse is one of the few surviving one-room schoolhouses in Prince George's. The building is unique in that it was built to resemble the Victorian Gothic architectural style of the cottages that were originally built in the community. The schoolhouse has been restored and continues its legacy of education. It is open for tours by appointment and features a multi-faceted, overall program that includes interpretive exhibits and artifacts and programs. Located at 6116 Seabrook Road, Lanham, MD. For further information, call Marietta House Museum at 301-464-5291.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Stories of Mother Love

"They didn't want me to have Walter because of my age. But I finally convinced them that age has nothing to do with love... What I had to give was love. And that's what Walter needed ... I never doubted that I could help Walter. Never, if they gave me the chance. If you have the courage and the faith and the strength God will do the rest."

Mrs. Viola Dees epitomized mother love, and her story has stayed with me since 2000 when 89-year-old Mrs. Dees and her 9-year-old grandson Walter were the subjects of the Academy Award-winning documentary *Big Mama*. It followed Mrs. Dees' struggles to keep a promise to her late son and raise Walter in an effort to keep him out of the child welfare system. Mrs. Dees gained custody of Walter when he was 4. His mother was addicted to crack cocaine before he was born and Walter spent time in foster care before he went to live with his grandmother. The documentary shows her determined efforts to fight constant bureaucratic concerns about her age and do everything a growing boy needed, including keeping up with him at the playground and catching his rebounds as he played basketball. In the turmoil and uncertainty after Mrs. Dees suffered a heart attack Walter set fire to their home and was admitted to a psychiatric hospital—yet even then his grandmother stood by him and was heartbroken as he was committed to a residential facility and taken out of her care. I've carried that picture of Mrs. Dees with me for these past 16 years, watching him shoot hoops and sticking by him until her end.

Mrs. Dees faced dramatic challenges, but in her love, tenacity, and absolute unconditional dedication to Walter she was far from alone. On Mother's Day and every day we must remember and celebrate not just birth mothers but grandmothers, adoptive mothers, foster mothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, and all those with a mothering spirit who have reached out to raise and care for children who need them and made those children their own.

More than 5.8 million children are living in households

headed by grandparents. Even when parents also live in the home many grandparents assume the parental role. Nearly half of these children are living with grandparents who say they are responsible for their grandchildren, and close to a million have no parent present in the home. More than a third of the 1.6 million grandmothers who say they are responsible for grandchildren are like Mrs. Dees—over 60 years old. So many children have been diverted from the child welfare system to live with a grandparent and sometimes their grandparents are their foster parents or legal guardians.

Grandparents and other relatives often step in because the children's needs are great and they want to keep their family together. Of the more than 415,000 children in foster care, three quarters are in foster family homes—29 percent with relatives. Some of these foster mothers and fathers care for children short term—others much longer. Over half of the children adopted in 2014 were adopted by their foster parents. Like all mothers, those stepping into that role need help to offer children unconditional love, permanence, and special services to

help children recover from the trauma in their lives.

Congress has taken some important steps to increase support for children being raised by kin and hopefully will do more this year. In 2008, Congress provided funds for Guardianship Assistance Payments for relatives who had cared for children as foster parents for at least six months and were committed to caring for them permanently. The Family First Act being proposed by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ron Wyden (D-OR), Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, would reach a broader group of children at risk of placement in foster care who could be well cared for by relatives. It would help with time-limited mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and in-home parent support services, and for some, kinship navigator services and short-term financial assistance. And, as an alternative to foster care, funds also would be available to help children remain safely with their birth parents.

My own mother fostered children and finding another child in

See WATCH, Page A10

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2016 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.4 % from 250,399,828 to 261,499,591.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.4% resulting in \$64,379 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$.5554, the constant yield rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.4% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$64,379 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday May 24, 2016 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-2600 for further information.

The Prince George's Post

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P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
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General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Staff Writer Christina Williams
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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Taking Steps to Improve Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is simply your evaluation of your own worth. Feeling good about yourself is vital to living a happy, healthy life.

When someone has low self-esteem, seeing little of value in themselves, it can lead to depression, cause someone to fall short of their true potential, and cause the person to tolerate abusive situations and relationships.

Most people need to build their self-esteem. It helps us to feel confident and self-assured, and helps us to relax with others and be more comfortable with who we are and how we interact with others.

The problem often is that we aren't good at evaluating at self-worth, and we will use certain behaviors that tend to reinforce feelings of low self-esteem.

One such behavior is "waiting for the perfect moment." Rather than living in the present, we feel we have to wait until we are smarter, richer, happier or a whole bunch of "anything-er" before we take action. But if we go ahead and do things, instead of waiting for the elusive perfect moment, we usually find that we start feeling smarter, richer and happier after all.

Another contributor to low self-esteem is when we ignore our own needs. While pleasing someone else can make us feel good, that isn't true if helping others always means we are putting our own needs on hold. Sometimes it's important to recognize and voice our wants and to ask for help in small ways. Self-esteem increases when our relationships become more reciprocal.

We also hold ourselves back from higher levels of self-esteem when we try to hard to make everything perfect. While it's nice to get it all right, it's also okay to make mistakes. Self-esteem rises when we are able to view life as a work-in-progress that allows us to live and play in the moment.

Another step toward better self-esteem is simply to take chances. When we stay safe all the time inside our comfort zone we end up not progressing. Trying something new can make us feel uncomfortable, but it also can bring a sense of accomplishment when we succeed. And even with a failure, we can feel good about being brave enough to take a new step.

Trying something, anything, is almost always better than staying stuck. The more things you try and the more chances you take, the more opportunities you give yourself to feel proud and to improve your self-esteem.

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

Neighborhoods from A2

tion, tree boxes and planting) and interpretive signage along Narragansett Parkway at Muskogee Street, a priority area in the Indian Creek Subwatershed Restoration Plan.

City of District Heights; \$34,862: To promote green infrastructure, improve stormwater runoff and neighborhood beautification efforts, this project focuses on the design and installation of a highly visible rain garden along the District Heights Parkway.

City of Greenbelt; \$187,700: This project will engage the public on stormwater issues while implementing a needed water quality treatment project at Buddy Attick Park.

City of Hyattsville; \$20,431: This project consists of the installation of a rain garden, meadow and tree plantings across 8,400 square feet at Anacostia Tributary Trail System.

Clean Water Fund; \$25,257: Grant funds will support a social marketing program in Capitol Heights focusing on educating homeowners about stormwater pollution, adopting watershed-friendly practices for residential properties and promoting the County's Rain Check Rebate program.

ECO City Farms; \$45,000: Project funding will support installation of several BMPs to alleviate flooding at the urban farm and developing an environmental stewardship education program that serves the neighborhood's Latino community.

Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek; \$114,227: Project focuses on designing and building stormwater retrofit projects that address small scale residential flooding in the Quincy

Run Watershed vicinity. This effort will communicate the Rain Check Rebate Program and the Alternative Compliance Program to the community.

Global Health and Education Projects, Inc.; \$15,000: Through this project, grant funds will support the Family Tree Adoption Program that helps residents select and plant trees on their property and also provides tree maintenance education to new tree owners.

Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund; \$22,500: To engage Latino youth, increase their awareness and capacity to respond to the problem of trash and litter in their communities, grant funding will support the production of literature and workshops in Spanish, and will connect stormwater management with environmental health, economic and environmental justice, and community participation.

Neighborhood Design Center; \$153,740: This funding represents three projects that assist community groups, small municipalities, schools and faith-based organizations, create a comprehensive plan for addressing stormwater runoff and pollution in their community and on private properties. In addition, the funding supports technical assistance for project development to submit grants to the Prince George's Stormwater Stewardship program.

New Hope Educational Institute; \$125,000: Grant funds will support capturing and treating runoff, reducing severe erosion, educating students about stormwater pollution, and engaging the community in the design and implementation of stormwater management practices.

“Activate Prosperity” From the Palm of Your Hand EDC's New Series

EDC's President & CEO Jim Coleman Introduces Weekly 'Webinar Wednesdays!' Series to Empower Job Seekers and Business Owners

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—EDC President & CEO, Jim Coleman announced a new way for business owners and job seekers in Prince George's County to 'Activate Prosperity' from the palm of the hands or computers. The 'Webinar Wednesday!' series, which debuted on March 30th, will allow residents to learn about the Economic Development Corporation's tools and resources and participate in workshops in real time from the convenience of their home or office using their laptops, tablets or smartphones.

"There should be no excuse for why our residents don't have the information they need to be prosperous," said President Coleman. "I am excited that we can reach thousands of our residents on their computers or even the palm of their

hands by leveraging technology and utilizing the expertise of the EDC staff!"

The webinars, facilitated by EDC Small Business and Job Search experts, will take place every Wednesday from 1:00 PM–1:30 PM and will alternate between job seeker and business owner topics.

Upcoming webinars for job seekers will cover topics including: how to find a job using the Maryland Workforce Exchange site, how to use social media to promote skills and abilities, and how to make your resume reflect your value.

Upcoming webinars for business owners will cover topics including: how to write a business plan, how to use social media for brand building, and how to obtain free media for your business.

Kisha Logan, EDC's Manager of Small Business Services and Vernice Gonzalez, Lead



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Kisha Logan, Manager of Small Business Services conducts a webinar for business owners

Career Consultant in the EDC's Workforce Development will be the primary facilitators of the webinars.

Special guest facilitators will include Britta Vander Linden, EDC's Chief of Staff, R. Joshua Reynolds, EDC's Communications Specialist, and Norma

Williams, Workshop Facilitator for the EDC's Workforce Services Division, who will present on topics in their respective specialty areas.

To view the schedule of upcoming webinars and to join in, please visit the website at www.pgcedc.com/events.

Success from A3

opportunity for African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Latino boys and men. This nearly \$400,000 investment is the first step in a larger grant making effort to inform evaluators and researchers working with boys and men of color, including communities that have accepted the President's My Brother's Keeper Challenge. RISE is a 3-year, \$10 million initiative launched by members of the Executives' Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, including the Atlantic Philanthropies, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Marguerite Casey Foundation.

Bloomberg Associates MBK Community Support: Bloomberg Associates, an arm of Bloomberg Philanthropies, provides pro-bono consulting to cities and Mayors from around the country and the world. Bloomberg Associates has helped Mayors in a dozen cities with a range of technical assistance support to develop local strategies to tackle barriers facing young men. The organization helps cities map out goals, identify evidence based approaches to adopt, establish success metrics, and embed strategies in Local Action Plans. As cities have been successfully issuing their Plans, Bloomberg Associates' on-going support moves increasingly to implementation challenges and efforts to institutionalize the MBK effort. In June, Bloomberg Associates, Bloomberg Philanthropies and the White House will co-host a national gathering of select communities to share best practices and develop approaches that will produce measurable results in reducing racial disparities over the long term.

Viacom's Get Schooled Initiative: Viacom's Get Schooled Foundation will join the effort to combat chronic absenteeism by supporting the MBK Success Mentor initiative. To combat low attendance rates, the Get Schooled Foundation has launched the "Get Schooled Breakfast Club" aimed at encouraging more students to

get to school every day. Students will have the opportunity to join the "Get Schooled Breakfast Club" and receive a mix of inspirational, humorous and celebrity fueled text messages each week. A diverse group of entertainers have joined the Get Schooled Breakfast Club, donating their time and talent to offer students a morning boost. Students will receive exclusive photos paired with a handwritten inspirational message from some of their favorite participating celebrities encouraging students to attend school every day.

MBK STEM + Entrepreneurship: In February 2016, the White House announced a new STEM + Entrepreneurship track for the My Brother's Keeper initiative. The MBK Task Force is committing to creating and strengthening pathways to enable more young people, particularly those facing persistent opportunity gaps, to tap into the power of Federal and non-government STEM and entrepreneurship initiatives. This initiative builds on the ongoing work of the Council on Women and Girls to ensure opportunities in STEM education throughout the workforce pipeline.

In April at the White House Science Fair, the Task Force announced more than \$50 million in new STEM + Entrepreneurship commitments to expand opportunity for our students. Today, another group of organizations is stepping up with their own independent commitments, totaling more than \$30 million, to help expand STEM opportunities, including for traditionally underrepresented minorities. These commitments include:

- **Change Catalyst** will host five regional Tech Inclusion Summits this year. With 6,000 attendees expected overall, the goal of the events will be to convene leaders in K–12, higher-education, and coding schools together with tech recruiters, hiring managers, and diversity and inclusion leaders to establish best practices in improving and growing the pipeline of underrepresented tech hires. Change Catalyst will also host three separate career fairs.

- **Make Music Count:** aims to increase elementary and secondary students' mathematical skill development through piano playing and reducing their math anxiety. By incorporating music into each lesson, students become engaged through music while simultaneously learning mathematical concepts. We offer our curriculum to 20 schools in Connecticut, Washington D.C., and Georgia to reach more than 600 students in 3rd–9th grade. Make Music Count will scale their efforts to include schools in Illinois, Virginia, and New York.

- Enza Academy in partnership with the Expanded Success Initiative (ESI) launched the **Men of Color in Technology & Entrepreneurship (MOCITE)** program in April 2016 to introduce students of color to computer science, entrepreneurship and design thinking concepts. Partnering with Google, Facebook, General Assembly and other stakeholders, Enza Academy commits to creating a sustainable STEM-to-Entrepreneurship pipeline for 500 students of color in 2016 and expanding to 10,000 students of color by 2020. Through its initiatives such as MOCITE, Summer Innovation School and Design Your Revolution Hack Camp, Enza Academy aims to invest over \$11 million in the next 4 years. These initiatives will empower students to discover, design and develop, bold, STEM-based and entrepreneurial solutions to big challenges in their own communities using the force of their own imaginations.

- **The Cape Cod Watershed Institute**, a collaborative between the Lewis Bay Research Center, The Cape Cod Stem Academy Consortium of schools across the Cape and Islands and Bridgewater State University, will establish a link with STEM educational colleagues on Guam in the Marshal Islands. The institute will provide a physical presence on and offshore with the Lewis Bay Center environmental monitoring platforms and its advanced environmental laboratory facilities on Parker's River in Cape Cod. The organization will offer for-credit and free pro-

grams and provide remote and full immersion learning environments at the facilities.

- Over the next year, **Student Dream** will provide training, mentorship and capital resources to collegiate founders of color and support Historically Black Colleges and Universities in their efforts to create over 500 new collegian led startups over the next five years.

- **PROMISE:** Maryland's NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program, and the University System of Maryland's NSF Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) will establish best practices and co-create solutions to improve and grow the pipeline of underrepresented tech hires. The organizations will disseminate these best practices and solutions to 2,000 practitioners and policy makers at conferences throughout the country, to 10,000 people through social media, and will double the in-person and online reach every year for the next 3 years. The **PROMISE AGEP** will collaborate with non-profit organizations, tech companies and research universities to implement the best practices and solutions to connect underrepresented candidates with hiring entities.

- Novel City Chamber of Innovation will establish a \$30 million innovation fund, the **Novel Student Initiative**, to develop entrepreneurial innovation ecosystems on 10 university campuses. The Novel Student Initiative will support a collective of minority college student entrepreneurs to lead local, state and economic development efforts and offer tech entrepreneurship as an alternative to college.

- **Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC)**, in partnership with the **National Science Teachers Association** and the **Shell Oil Company Foundation**, will help at least 10 school districts develop 5-year strategic STEM-education plans to help increase STEM diversity. The plans will incorporate the LASER model, which uses inquiry-based science to improve achievement for all students not just in science, but also math and reading.

Parkdale High School; \$200,000: This project will treat stormwater runoff through the design and creation of green infrastructure. This effort will provide hands-on stormwater stewardship education and

community mentorships for Parkdale High School students. This is a model project that brings together technical experts, non-profits, teachers, students, and the community to clean water and engage citizens.

People for Change Coalition; \$35,000: Project funding will provide technical assistance to Prince George's County faith-based organizations to support them as they apply for the Rain Check Rebate Program, the Alternative Compli-

ance Program and the Stormwater Stewardship grant program.

Pheasant Run Home Owner's Association, Inc.;

See Neighborhoods Page A6

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Meet the Blacks

Meet the Blacks
Grade: D+
Rated R, pervasive harsh
profanity and vulgarity, some
sexuality, some violence
1 hr., 30 min

There is far more stimulation in contemplating what an odd mess *Meet the Blacks* is than there is in watching it. Trust me, I've done both. The movie itself is a careless, mostly unfunny mix of slapstick, insults, racial humor, toothless satire, and semi-horror, all set in a world where the Purge is real. So is *Meet the Blacks* a spoof of *The Purge*? It sometimes thinks it is, but no, not really. It's more like "The Purge" fan fiction.

Oh, and it starts with executive producer Snoop Dogg, in white-face, warning his fellow whites to stay safe during the Purge. Weird, right?

Carl Black (Mike Epps) is a Chicago criminal who steals enough money from his newly imprisoned partner to move his family—Latina second wife Lorena (Zulay Henao), teenage daughter Allie (Bresha Webb), son Carl Jr. (Alex Henderson), and shiftless cousin Cronut (Lil Duval)—to a gated community in Beverly Hills. Now, the Black family is the first black family to live in this neighborhood, so they are on a collision course with wackiness, racism, etc.

Then the Purge begins. For the uninitiated, the Purge is an annual 12-hour period during which all crime is legal. Carl



ROTTENTOMATOES

After obtaining a great deal of money, the patriarch (Mike Epps) of a black family decides they should move from Chicago to a posh neighborhood in Beverly Hills. However, they are soon terrorized by home intruders who want them out of the affluent community in this comedic spoof of the *Purge* films. Zulay Henao, George Lopez, Mike Tyson, and Charlie Murphy co-star. Directed by Deon Taylor.

thought there wouldn't be any Purging in fancy Beverly Hills, and the movie spends several minutes on his sputtering and fuming when he finds out he was wrong. There is also a scene where Carl Jr. explains to his dad what the Purge is, even though his dad obviously already knows what it is because he has been complaining about it. There's also a scene where Lorena says, "I'm gonna go check on the kids" immediately after the kids have left the room. Like, you can still see them going up the stairs. The story needed Lorena to exit the scene, and "I'm gonna go check on the kids" was the only thing the writers could come up with.

Sorry, I've gotten ahead of myself, pointing out random dumb mistakes before I've finished explaining what the movie is about. Disappointingly, it follows the basic structure of *The Purge* (including the teen daughter's secret boyfriend being a factor) without really spoofing it, half-heartedly soaking it in stale gags, clunky writing, and amateurish performances. The tone is all over the place, and even seems to be going for actual thrills in a few scenes—a gross miscalculation.

What would "The Purge" be like if it were about black people? Screenwriters Nicole DeMasi and Deon Taylor (who also directed) seem to have begun

with that question, then got stuck. The best they could come up with: the Blacks are tormented not just by would-be murderers but by people they owe money to (including a children's party clown played by violent rapist Mike Tyson). Mike Epps scores a few chuckles as the cranky dad, but the fact that he constantly lies to his wife and everyone else undercuts his "concerned patriarch" act. He's a dishonest man and a bad husband and father. There might have been some pleasure in seeing him emerge victorious if the movie 1) acknowledged his badness and/or 2) were funny. But it doesn't and it isn't, and here we are.

Roundtable from A1

conomic Development Incentive Fund, or appointing a highly accomplished CEO over the County's public schools, the business community has come to realize that Prince George's County is much more than a sleepy little bedroom community just outside of Washington, D.C. But now is not the time for cooling off!"

The briefing was also an opportunity for Senator Cardin to provide a legislative update on what is transpiring on Capitol Hill that may have an impact on the local business community. In addition, David Iannucci from County Executive Baker's office gave an update on the Regional Medical Center and the status of the FBI relocation.

"Two of the most important projects to lead Prince George's County, and are symbolic of the rebranding of the County, are the Regional Medical Center and the FBI," said Iannucci. "The State and County are working aggressively on infrastructure support because we are confident that we have the strongest sites for the new FBI headquarters. Having the FBI in Prince George's County will be a real game changer; similar to President Roosevelt putting the Pentagon in Northern Virginia. It will reinvent the County and its economy by bringing 11,000 federal jobs, 3,000 additional jobs and millions of square feet in office growth."

In making the case for the economic growth in Prince George's County, the Economic Development Team highlighted its "Activate Prosperity" initiative, which maximizes the deployment of the EDC's efforts and financial resources in order to raise awareness about current job opportunities and helps businesses take advantage of available programs that can increase their revenues and create more jobs.

"It is not an accident that Prince George's County is home to over 77,000 small businesses that provide quality services and products that support many well-paying jobs throughout the region," said Senator Cardin, member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. "It is an exciting time to be in Prince George's County. Prince George's County's successes start at the top, with County Executive Rushern Baker's commitment to restoring the reputation of Prince George's County as a place where you would get the type of good governance that is fundamental for a business to decide to locate in Prince George's County. Then bringing in good, dependable people, like (EDC President) Jim Coleman, to build on your strengths as a County. The companies around this table telling why they've come to Prince George's County are a testament to the energy and commitment Coleman has brought to the County."

The highlight of the meeting came as CEO's from eight high growth, key industry sectors companies that have recently moved to the County shared why they felt the need to be in Prince George's County.

Professional services companies and developers, as well as software development and information technology cited the improved image and the new confidence in the County brand that convinced them to relocate to Prince George's County.

"We came upon this great opportunity to open an office in Prince George's County through the leadership of the EDC who reached out to our company from India when we came to the County on a delegation visit," said Asheesh Jain, CEO of Creative Lipi, a digital marketing and software development company from India. "As a part of the India Business Center (Accelerator), we have found that Mr. Coleman and Dr. Ganguly mean business and know how to get it going. Within 48 hours of landing, I had five appointments and my business was up and running in this country."

Others talked about the amount of new construction taking place throughout the County, the availability of a talented workforce and the need to be in the midst of the new Prince George's County as their catalyst.

"My business has been in Washington, D.C. for over 30 years, but Jim Coleman is a dif-

ficult man to say 'no' to," said Steve Dunn, Owner, Well Dunn Caterers in Hyattsville, MD. "When I was looking to relocate my property, I found that Prince George's County offered the best opportunity for our company to grow. Since moving to the County in January, I have increased my workforce by 15% with County residents. We are pleased to be part of the macro growth in Prince George's County and look forward to being here for many years."

There was a sense of expectancy that their businesses were going to be able to grow successfully in Prince George's County, and that they were situated where the action is going to be in this region for a long period of time.

Today's visit by Senator Cardin provided further validation that Prince George's County is on the right track for being the economic engine of the State of Maryland. It is strategically aligned with its partners at the federal, State and local levels to establish competitive places for even more development, more job creation and greater prosperity for County residents.

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact the Pradeep Ganguly (pganguly@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4602 or visit the Economic Development website at www.pgcedc.com.

Neighborhoods from A5

\$11,730: To address several community-based environmental issues, the grant funds will support rain barrels, conservation landscaping and pet waste stations in the Pheasant Run community.

Suitland Civic Association; \$35,000: Grant funds will support the Suitland Rain Barrel Project, which will raise the awareness of the benefits of rain

barrels, provide training and jobs for rain barrel installation, and provide outreach to residents about the Rain Check Rebate Program.

The Empowerment Institute; \$152,145: This project removed impervious cover, installed a bioretention area to treat parking lot runoff, and engages the community at the Southern Avenue Market in Oxon Hill.

The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin; \$61,938: Grant funds will support the Score Four for Students, Schools, Streams and the Bay Program that will involve 400 students and five teachers to develop Student Stormwater Action Projects. Also, ICPRB will provide a series of watershed lessons and community resources to facilitate stormwater stewardship among students.

The Low Impact Development Center, Inc.; \$64,318: To educate County property owners on small scale stormwater solutions, grant funds supported the installation of seven Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate stormwater management practices at Behnke's Nursery in Beltsville. The in-

See **Neighborhoods** Page A7

The Edge of Sports by DAVE ZIRIN

The Lakers Can Kindly Shove Their Bro Code



The 2016 version of the Los Angeles Lakers organization has already proven that it lacks any passion for winning, developing young talent, or being anything more than a traveling circus: a Washington Generals-esque vessel for Kobe Bryant's LA County-sized ego. But now, despite the team's 16-59 record, we have finally found something that stirs their hearts, unites them with purpose, and makes them care: "The Bro Code."

With fewer than 10 games left in the season, talented 20-year-old rookie D'Angelo Russell is being shunned like Hester Prynne—literally shunned—because he videoed 30-year-old teammate, and self-described mentor, Nick "Swaggy P" Young talking about his hook-up with a 19-year-old woman at a club. Young, an absurdly unserious facsimile of a pro basketball player, is engaged to the absurdly unserious facsimile of a hip-hop artist Iggy Azalea. If Kobe Bryant is this team's unsmiling Il Duce, Swaggy & Iggy are their prom king and homecoming queen. Young was also accused of sexual harassment last month—along with another very promising young player, Jordan Clarkson, whom one assumes Swaggy was also mentoring—and few in the team or in the media seemed to notice or care. This is the odiously infantile carnival that's been tasked with developing D'Angelo Russell.

Over the last 48 hours, Russell has apologized endlessly, saying he has no idea how the video leaked. He deserves to be criticized, and even confronted. No one should be videoed without their consent. But he's also 18 months out of high school and the pile-on against him—the absolute flaying of young Mr. Russell—has been both hyperbolic and inane. People old enough to know better should also be true mentors enough to give him a damn break. Instead, this kid who isn't even old enough to order a drink in a bar, is basically being told that his very future in the league is in doubt.

ESPN's Stephen A. Smith—the same Stephen A. Smith who was suspended from ESPN for blaming battered women for "provoking" male violence—said the following (This is in caps because Stephen A Smith is always yelling): "as a man, you don't do that. under no circumstances, do you infiltrate yourself in somebody else's business and discuss or reveal their private personal affairs. particularly when it comes to women, you turn the other way. you didn't see, you saw no evil, you heard no evil, you know no evil. shut the hell up, mind your own business, step off and move on."

Smith also said, "This is one of those situations where the Lakers gotta contemplate trading him. This is one of those situations where his agent needs to contemplate dropping him so he doesn't lose other clients."

The coup de grâce was Smith's justifying the Lakers' freezing out Russell by saying, "I am a reporter, and even I don't want to talk to him."

This is all such unadulterated horseshit. A 20-year-old prodigy is now an expendable pariah, while Stephen A Smith gets to pass judgement not only on his behavior but whether he should even be given a second chance to win people's trust.

Smith is not alone. He's just the loudest voice in a public shaming that feels like it exceeds any case of sexual assault or violence against women that the sports world has produced. Peyton Manning must be somewhere wiping his ample forehead saying, "Maybe I spent years trying to destroy a woman's life for accusing me of sexual harassment, but thank God I didn't break the Bro-Code!"

In other words, Smith is hardly alone in his condemnation. He's just the loudest voice in the chorus. Bill Plaschke of the *Los Angeles Times* called Russell "immature," saying, "You can't pass Russell the torch; he will set something on fire, which is pretty much what happened with this recent video that appeared on a celebrity gossip site."

Then there was Stephen Jackson live on *SportsCenter* saying, "Snitches get stitches."

This isn't analysis. It's codified, well-compensated misogyny. It's all so distressing, and not because I'm worried about Swaggy and Iggy's future as a Celebrity Rehab couple.

D'Angelo Russell deserves so much better than this: the chance to actually grow up on a franchise run by adults, and that's really the bottom line. I find it difficult to separate Russell's giggling video and the enraged reaction to its release from this traveling dumpster fire of feces that has

See **LAKERS** Page A7

Calendar of Events

May 19 — May 25, 2016

Yoga & Jazz

Date and Time: Friday, May 20, 2016, 7 pm
 Description: Breathe in ... breathe out! Get some relaxation and find your center this evening at a yoga class with live jazz music. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: Ages 18 & up
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Tees: Scavenger Hunt

Date and Time: Friday, May 20, 2016, 7-10 pm
 Description: Teens will divide into two groups and compete in a scavenger hunt for prizes. Whichever team collects all of the items on the list first wins the game.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
 6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD
 Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Swimming Fun

Date and Time: Friday, May 20, 2016, 7-10 pm
 Description: Teens will travel to Rollingcrest splash pool for a night of pre-summer swimming fun. You will depart at 6:15 and return by 10 pm. A signed specialized permission slip is required for attendance.
 Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$5
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Beltsville Community Center
 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
 Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY 301-699-2544

Health and Wellness Zone at Ellen E. Linson Splash Park

Date and Time: Saturday, May 21, 2016, 10 am-12 noon
 Description: Looking for something new to do? Get in the ZONE! Stop by your Health and Wellness Zone for fun activities for all ages!
 Make a healthy choice with free fitness classes, a farmer's market, nutrition workshops, line dancing, nature walks, and more! From hula hoops to horseshoes, the ZONE has something for everyone!
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Ellen E. Linson Splash Park
 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD
 Contact: 301-277-3717; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Movie Night Under The Stars

Date and Time: Saturday, May 21, 2016, 7-10 pm
 Description: Enjoy movie night under the stars with your Xtreme Teens family. Come early to vote on a movie. Light refreshments will be served.
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: Bladensburg Community Center
 4500 57th Avenue, Bladensburg, MD
 Contact: 301-277-2124; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Teen Vocal Showcase

Date and Time: Saturday, May 21, 2016, 7-10 pm
 Description: Calling all teens from Prince George's County! Support fellow teens at the 2016 Xtreme Teens Rising Stars Teen Vocal Showcase at the University of Maryland Kay Theater. Ladies and gentlemen ages 10-17 will compete for prizes for cash prizes.
 Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$5
 Ages: 10-17
 Location: North Brentwood Community Center
 4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD
 Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544

Seasonal Selections: Cream of the Crop

Date and Time: Sunday, May 22, 2016, 12 noon-3:30 pm
 Description: Springtime is dairy time and Mrs. Calvert was well-known for her butter business. The Kitchen Guild will be using 18th and 19th-century recipes to showcase a variety of dairy dishes.
 Cost: Free
 Ages: All ages welcome
 Location: Riversdale House Museum
 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
 Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
 riversdale@pgparks.com

Washington Nationals Baseball Clinic: Bowie Baysox Stadium

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 6-8 pm
 Description: Boys & girls ages 7-15 are invited to attend this free baseball clinic. The clinic will be conducted by local high school and youth league coaches. Sponsors for this clinic are Giant Food & Ripken Baseball.
 Cost: Free. Register HERE.
 Ages: 7-15
 Location: Bowie Baysox Stadium
 4101 NE Crain Highway, Bowie, MD
 Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

Dine and Learn: Rockin' the Spice Rack: Suitland Community Center

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 25, 6-8 pm
 Description: Enjoy step-by-step live cooking demonstration with a Registered Dietician, FREE food samples and fun and easy moves to keep you active for life. Dine and Learn is a partnership with the Prince George's County Health Department, Suburban Hospital and the Prince Georges County Department of Parks and Recreation.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: Suitland Community Center
 5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD
 Contact: 301-736-3518; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... The Next Inconvenient Truth? New Eco Documentaries Still Focusing on Global Warming

Dear EarthTalk:

I'm tired of binge-watching dramas on Netflix. What are some of the best environmental documentaries that have come out recently?

—Scott Andersen,
 Joplin, MO

While potent in its day as the film that put climate change on the public radar, *An Inconvenient Truth*, now a decade old, is hardly the last word in green documentaries anymore. Perhaps that honor will go to *Disobedience*, a 35-minute paean to how grassroots activism can be the lever that finally topples the dominance of fossil fuels. The film's producers hope to spark new interest in fighting global warming.

Released on April 30 via hundreds of self-organized watch-parties and dozens of independent cinemas—while hundreds of thousands more viewers stream it for free online—*Disobedience* includes interviews with some of the most renowned voices in the global discourse around social movements and climate change. Conversations with environmental luminaries including author/activist Bill McKibben and filmmaker and globalization critic Naomi Klein are interwoven with riveting verité footage of everyday people organizing and fighting for a livable climate.

Another new climate-oriented doc is *The Cross of the Moment*, which producers describe as “a deep-green, deep-

time discussion of the environmental crisis...that attempts to connect the dots between Fermi's Paradox, climate change, capitalism and collapse.” The 80-minute film, available for free streaming on Vimeo, features interviews with top scientists and public intellectuals woven together into a narrative that critics praise as “challenging, exhausting and unflinching.” A host of experts such as doomsday climatologist Guy McPherson and Beat poet and bioregionalism guru Gary Snyder discuss humanity's prospects for surviving catastrophic climate change.

Another solid choice is last year's *Revolution*, an epic adventure into the evolution of life on Earth and the revolution to save it. Director Rob Stewart, best known for his award-winning 2008 doc *Sharkwater*, spent four years and travelled to 15 different countries to produce *Revolution*, which brings viewers face-to-face with sharks, lemurs, seahorses and cuttlefish among other amazing creatures. Through it all, Stewart stays positive and showcases activists and individuals around the world who are winning the battle to save the ecosystems we all depend on for survival.

Still others include: *Fossil Free*, which chronicles the mission of impassioned climate activists around the world; *Our Rising Oceans*, where scientists in Antarctica show us how climate change is already spawning dire con-

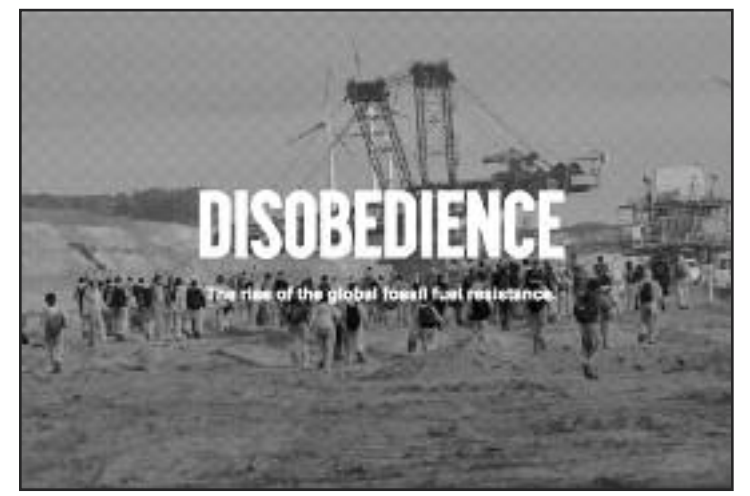


PHOTO COURTESY EARTHTALK

Interviews with environmental luminaries including author/activist Bill McKibben and filmmaker and globalization critic Naomi Klein are interwoven with riveting verité footage of everyday people organizing and fighting for a livable climate in the new documentaty *Disobedience*.

sequences; *Fractured Earth*, in which everyday Pennsylvanians take on Big Oil in trying to keep fracking off their land; and *Oil and Water*, an examination of the uneasy alliance between the fishing and oil and gas industries in coastal Louisiana.

Meanwhile, a new breed of YouTube-savvy filmmakers is calling into question whether long-form documentaries are still relevant, given viewers' shorter attention spans and ability to click away in a flash to something more engaging. To wit, activist, artist and filmmaker Jordan Brown (AKA Jore) has released a series of short films on YouTube that focus on the interface between the dominant culture and the real impact on people, society and the environment. His 11-minute piece, *Forget Shorter Showers*, for instance,

lays out the case for why people need to do much more than just take individual actions if they want to save themselves and the planet. Jore argues that only through organizing and working together can we directly challenge the industrial systems leading us down the path to planetary destruction.

CONTACTS: Disobedience, www.watchdisobedience.com; The Cross of the Moment, www.crossofthemoment.com; Revolution, www.therevolutionmovie.com; Jore, www.jore.cc.

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Neighborhoods from A6

stallation of the practices will achieve reductions in nutrient and sediments loads in local rivers and demonstrate to residents what they can install on their own property.

Town of Forest Heights: \$49,794: This project trained a team of high school students, a college student, and a local elder in the community to water, weed and mulch 500 street trees in the Town of Forest Heights. Students presented findings to the Town Council

and one student was hired by the Town at the project completion in 2015.

Town of Landover Hills: \$126,578: Grant funds support the installation of rain gardens, a bioretention swale, and permeable pavers to capture and treat stormwater runoff, reduce severe erosion in the downstream creek channel, and educate students, teachers and local residence about stormwater pollution and its impact on the environment.

Union Bethel AME Church: \$128,381: The project will serve as a model to imple-

ment the County's Alternative Compliance Program's three criteria for Clean Water Act Fee reductions, support design and construction of two stormwater BMPs, facilitate development of outreach workshops on the impact of individual activities on water quality, and develop maintenance plans for water conservation, pet waste programs, trash reduction, better pesticide and herbicide use, and vegetation maintenance.

University of Maryland College Park: \$80,000: This project provides environmental

education about low impact development techniques to students entering the workforce and training on rain gardens, green roofs and filtration through the Branch Avenue in Bloom urban farm.

University of Maryland College Park Foundation: \$124,770: Project funds support the design and implementation of stormwater management practices to treat stormwater runoff, engage University of Maryland College Park students and golf course visitors, and train University staff for future stormwater implementation and maintenance.

Lakers from A6

masqueraded throughout the 2015-16 season as the Los Angeles Lakers.

I'm old enough to remember when the Lakers were the coolest and best-run organization in sports. Magic and Kareem on the court. Pat Riley's slicked-back intensity on the bench. “The Logo” Jerry West making decisions in the front

office. And an owner, Dr. Jerry Buss, smart enough to sign the checks, have fun, and stay the hell out of the way. They played. They partied. But they were all about those rings. The Lakers made it seem like there was nothing so fresh as winning. The parties, the glamor the fame, that was just the spoils of being the best.

I don't know what this collection 2016 wearing purple

and gold happens to be, but they shouldn't be allowed to call themselves the Lakers. This tedious season-long goodbye tour to Kobe Bryant's ability to shoot 4-19 has been difficult enough to stomach. But all of this latest has taken this farce of a season and turned it into something far more toxic.

If Russell—who, again, has apologized endlessly since the

video surfaced—has acted immaturely, that's just the environment where he goes to work every day. The Lakers had better not be so far gone, so irredeemably stupid that they are actually talking about trading D'Angelo Russell. They should instead release almost every other player in that locker room and thank Russell that he didn't quit the team six months ago to join a real circus.

Schools from A1

and the environment.”

The Maryland Green Schools program, sponsored by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), is one of the most rigorous and comprehensive Green School

certification programs in the country. It encourages educational opportunities, increases environmental awareness, and promotes environmental stewardship practices for students at all grade levels. Through a non-competitive application process, schools must demonstrate their green activities and

culture in eight criteria areas.

Green Schools must recertify every four years to keep their status current. After three consecutive recertifications, schools are considered “model schools” and no longer have to recertify. Bond Mill Elementary School and Rockledge Elementary School re-

certified their Green School status this year. High Point High School and John Hanson Montessori School obtained sustainable school status, which means they have maintained a Green School status for a minimum of 14 years. The following 34 schools earned new certifications:

Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George's County Community College	Doswell E. Brooks Elementary School	Paint Branch Elementary School
Arrowhead Elementary School	Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary School	Panorama Elementary School
Benjamin Foulois Creative and Performing Arts Academy	Glenn Dale Elementary School	Phyllis E. Williams Elementary School
Benjamin Tasker Middle School	Heather Hill Elementary School	Pointer Ridge Elementary School
Bladensburg High School	Hyattsville Elementary School	Port Towns Elementary School
Bowie High School	Imagine Foundations at Morningside	Stephen Decatur Middle School
Capitol Heights Elementary School	J. Frank Dent Elementary School	Suitland High School
Chapel Forge Early Childhood Center	Judith P. Hoyer Montessori	Thomas Johnson Middle School
Cherokee Lane Elementary School	Kingsford Elementary School	University Park Elementary School
Clinton Grove Elementary School	Marlton Elementary School	Whitehall Elementary School
	Mattaponi Elementary School	William W. Hall Academy
	Oxon Hill High School	Woodridge Elementary School

MAEOE will celebrate all newly certified and recertified schools and centers at the Annual Maryland Green School Youth Summit on May 13 at 9:30 a.m. at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

For more information about the Green School Program, visit the MAEOE website at <http://maeoe.org/application-templates-and-other-tips/>.