

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 24 June 16 — June 22, 2016

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

PG County Hosts 23rd Annual "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest and Awards Ceremony

By Press Officer
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The Department of the Environment (DoE) Animal Management Division (AMD) announced the winning entries of the 23rd annual "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest during a special awards ceremony held at the Animal Services Facility in Upper Marlboro.

More than 2,200 entries were submitted into the 2016 contest. Of those, 22 creative posters, designed by student artists in kindergarten through sixth grade, were honored during the ceremony. Through the contest, Prince George's County recognizes elementary school students for their poster designs supporting responsible pet care and kindness to animals.

"Through this annual contest, the Animal Management Division focuses on educating young students on the best ways to care for pets. The goal is not for contest participants to create a pretty poster, but to demonstrate their knowledge of responsible pet care. And, these winning posters do this exceptionally well," said AMD Associate Director Rodney Taylor.

Showing their support, principals, teachers and parents of the honorees attended the ceremony, which included welcoming remarks from Mr. Taylor, and DoE Deputy Director

Joseph Gill presented a proclamation to the Animal Management Division, which officially declared May 9–13, 2016, "Be Kind to Animals" Week. Mr. Taylor also recognized and thanked Ms. Mary Jacobs, and Mr. Roger & Judy McClain for their generous contribution and ongoing support of the contest and awards ceremony.

Emphasizing the importance of giving pets love, a home, food and water, treats and belly rubs, grand prize poster contest honoree Trinity Williams, a fourth grade student attending St. Mary's Piscataway Elementary School, received a \$100 gift card and a commemorative prize bag. Honors were also presented in first, second and third places, which included \$75, \$50 and \$25 gift cards respectively, and commemorative prize bags.

To view photos from the awards ceremony, visit the website <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pgcsprout/>.

The list of winners and their prizes include:

Grand Prize

\$100 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag

- Trinity Williams, 4rd Grade, Ms. Cook, St. Mary's Piscataway Elementary School

See CONTEST Page A3



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE

EDC Chief of Staff Britta Vander Linde (left front); County Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Howard Ways, (left rear); EDC International Business Manager Martin Ezemma, (center); MedTech President & CEO Robert Bruce, (3rd from right); EDC Business Development Director Larry Hentz (right).

EDC Welcomes Nigerian Delegation to Prince George's County

"The Lights Are on in Prince George's County" Says Coleman
Nigerian Investors are 'Sold' on County

By LORI VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On May 17th, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted a delegation of ten foreign investors from Nigeria who are looking for investment oppor-

tunities in Prince George's County. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman and his executive team along with EDC Board Chairman Orlan Johnson, County Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Howard Ways, and local business owner Robert Bruce, President and CEO of MedTech

Enginuity Corporation welcomed the Nigerian delegation to Prince George's County and let them know that they are here in the right place and at the right time to make an investment.

"The lights are on in Prince George's County and we are on fire with investment opportunities in every corner of the

County," said Coleman. "With 14 federal agencies in the County that procure over \$100 billion annually to small businesses, and more than \$10 billion in new projects in the pipeline, now is the best time

See DELEGATION Page A5

Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population Shows Improvement

Spawning-Age Female Number Nearly Doubles

By PRESS OFFICER
MDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources released the results of the 2016 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which show another year of growth in the stock of the Chesapeake Bay crab population and bodes well for a better harvest this year. The survey indicates a bay-wide crab population of 553 million, a 35-percent increase over last year. This is the fourth highest level in two decades, and builds on last year's 38-percent boost in abundance.

"Due to a milder winter, favorable currents and tides, and wise bay-wide management measures, the Maryland crab population continues to rebound and strengthen," Fisheries Service Director Dave Blazer said. "With an increase in abundance and steady recruitment, we fully anticipate a robust crab season this year."



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT NATURAL RESOURCES

Improvements were seen in all age groups of male and female crabs. The spawning female stock nearly doubled from 101 to 194 million and the adult male stock more than doubled from 44 to 91 million—the second highest levels since 1995.

The number of spawning-age female crabs remains below the 215 million target but above the minimum threshold

established in 2011. The juvenile crab abundance increased slightly from 269 million to 271 million, which is just above the 27-year average.

"The highly variable nature of the blue crab population means that we must maintain a degree of caution in considering management adjustments,"

See CRABBING Page A5

Hoyer Hosts NFL and Visa Financial Literacy Education Event With Washington Football Team's Kirk Cousins

By Press Officer
Office of Steny Hoyer

BOWIE, MD—Congressman Steny Hoyer (MD-5) joined Washington football team's quarterback Kirk Cousins, SECU of Maryland, and Visa Inc. at Bowie High School today in an effort to help students learn about financial literacy and skills through a statewide launch of an interactive money management video game called "Financial

Football." Congressman Hoyer and Cousins each coached a team of students in a game of Financial Football. Congressman Hoyer's team won the competition with a final score of 11-6.

"Financial literacy is one of the fundamentals of a good education, and I'm glad that Bowie High School has it as part of their curriculum," said Congressman Steny Hoyer. "Learning the basics of how to balance a checkbook, maintain good credit, and plan for the future are

among the most important skills you can learn. It is important for students to start learning about personal finances while they're still in school."

"Many of our students will pursue higher education after graduation," continued Congressman Hoyer. "While I've been working in Congress to make college more affordable, many students will need to take

See LITERACY Page A5

Prince George's County Adopts \$3.7 Billion FY17 Budget

By Press Officer
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council today unanimously adopted a \$3.7 billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The FY2017 County Budget becomes effective with the new Fiscal Year which begins July 1, 2016.

Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D) – District 6, during budget adoption remarks, addressed the importance of adopting a spending plan that addresses the County's present challenges while focusing on the future.

"The newly adopted FY2017 County Budget sets the tone and direction for Prince George's County today and in the future,

investing in those things that we value in our county and in the things we want to improve upon: a more efficiently and effectively managed government; long-term fiscal health through greater oversight and management; education excellence; a stronger, wider safety net for our vulner-

See BUDGET Page A7

INSIDE

Cardin Discusses Urgent Needs for Zika Virus Readiness With Public Health Experts From Throughout Maryland

Senator Ben Cardin, recently convened a distinguished group of public health leaders, practitioners, researchers, state and local officials, to discuss ways to ensure that Maryland is ready for the Zika virus, a growing pandemic.

Community, Page A3

Original Child Bomb

I have visited Hiroshima twice—once with my husband and once with him and our three sons. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome), created from the ruins of the only structure left standing near the bomb's hypocenter, is a reminder of how far we still have to go to make this a world worthy of and safe for all our children.

Commentary, Page A4

USDA Announces More Than \$8 Million in Payments to Support the Production of Advanced Biofuel

USDA has also supported efforts to build six new biorefineries to produce advanced biofuels in Louisiana, Georgia, Oregon, Nevada, North Carolina, and Iowa, in addition to three existing facilities in New Mexico, Michigan and Florida.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Sing Street

It's a story as old as time, and Sing Street—an exuberant musical from Once writer-director John Carney—tells it gracefully, with warm humor and a touch of bittersweet nostalgia. Music makes life better, the movie says. And if it doesn't, it at least makes life seem better, and maybe that's good enough.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Dear EarthTalk: Why did Ringling Brothers stop using elephants in its circus performances?

—Marianne Lusko,
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Big changes coming up in Suitland

"The Suitland Town Center has all the qualities needed to redevelop this area of Suitland into an exciting new place," says County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "Imagine a walkable, sustainable, transit-oriented, mixed-use development with housing and retail all easily accessible to downtown Washington. Imagine Suitland with a performing arts center that hosts plays and musical acts."

County Exec Baker has considered Suitland a priority and says these types of projects "will bring the economic development and amenities that our older, more established communities have desired for quite some time."

The Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) is soliciting proposals from builders and developers for two new projects in the Suitland Town Center: a 137 unit senior (62 years of age and older) building and 219 market rate, fee simple townhouses. Both developments will be within a short walk to the Suitland Metro Station and accessible to Suitland Parkway.

Proposals are due July 29 for the townhouses and August 1 for the senior building.

How come "The Greatest" came to Skyline School?

He was perhaps the greatest athlete of the 20th century and he made the cover of *Time* magazine five times. He was Heavyweight Champion of the World. And some time during 1976 Muhammad Ali visited Skyline School. Does anyone know why? Who invited him? If you have an answer, call me.

Muhammad Ali died June 3; he had suffered from Parkinson's disease for years. We'll always think of him as one of the most interesting men of the last century.

People

Katie Frostbutter Blade, the write-in who won a seat on the Morningside Town Council in the May 2 elections, says in the recent Morningside

Sun newsletter, "I have lived in Morningside my whole life. I have seen the good times and the not so good times. My main goal as a council member is to bring the community together young and old great opportunity."

Sydney A. Moore III, a junior at Oxon Hill Senior High, has been elected to the student chair on the County Board of Education.

Trinity William has been awarded Grand Prize in the 23rd annual "Be Kind to Animals" contest, sponsored by the Department of the Environment Animal Management Division. She is a 4th grader at St. Mary's Piscataway Elementary School.

Those of you, who remember Skyline activist Judy Waby, will be glad to know she's still fighting for justice. She recently sent an email railing against judges, both in the U.S. and Canada. Judy currently lives in Reno.

My granddaughter Leah Mudd is celebrating her graduation from Towson University by spending two weeks in London. When she returns, the job-search begins.

Suitland High Class of '63 was due to hold a reunion June 17-18 in Annapolis at the DoubleTree Hotel. Reservations were slow coming in. So, did the reunion happen?

Archdiocesan priests celebrated for 50, 40 and 25 years

Each spring the Archdiocese of Washington recognizes priests who are celebrating special anniversaries:

Three priests, celebrating the 50th anniversary of their ordinations, formerly served in local parishes: Father Leonard James Down, St. John's in Clinton and Mount Calvary in Forestville; Monsignor Francis G. Kazista, Mount Calvary; and Father Roderick D. McKee, St. Bernardine of Siena in Suitland.

Two who previously served in nearby parishes are celebrating 40th jubilees: Father Thomas Crowley, Holy Family in Hillcrest Heights, and Monsignor Michael Mellone, St. John's in Clinton.

Marking the 25th anniversary are: Father Robert Pierce Buchmeier, St. Columba in Oxon Hill, St. Bernardine of Siena, and St. John's; and Father Michael Salah, Mount Calvary. Father Everett Pearson, celebrating his 25th, is the current pastor of Mount Calvary and chaplain for the Knights of Columbus.

Changing landscape

Iverson Mall is now the Shops at Iverson thanks to a \$30 million renovation. Also, there'll be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for an Urban Farm along Branch Avenue in late June or early July. I thank Leonard Gore for calling and telling me about these developments.

A '50s-style ice cream shop will be opening at the National Market, which is part of MGM Resorts International.

A ribbon-cutting was held May 26 for the Innovative Transforming Neighborhood Center (iTNC), which provides job-seekers an advantage in high-demand industries. Still under construction, it will open in the next few months. It is located along Auth Place in Camp Springs at the former site of Strayer University.

Joan Prediger R.N., Suitland High grad, dies at 74

Joan Amelia Dickson (Beavers) Prediger, 74, grew up in Forestville, graduated from Suitland High School and the nursing program at Sibley Hospital. She served 44 years at Georgetown University Hospital and then at Sibley. She died March 23.

Her husband Maurice Beavers, whom she married in 1961, died in 1990. Then, in a Psychology 101 class at Prince George's Community College, she met Walter David Prediger. They married July 4, 2008. In recent years they lived in Wormleysburg, Pa.

She had been a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro and recently, First Christian in Lemoyne, Pa. She was a member of the Eastern

See MORNINGSIDE Page A10

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to William "Buddy" King, Stephanie Samuel, Jasmine Taylor, Jody Marsh, Sandra Miley, Ruth Wilson, Rendell Crawford, Rita Pinkney, June Fauber, Sally Fauber, Louise Gordon, Calvin Stephen Lewis, Atara Serene Bourne, Madison Falby, Susan Matthews, Tawana Lindsey, Carol Bell, Eddie Wilson, Ayden Anthony Jones, Barbara Marsh, Brian Pratt, Beverly Baker, Raymond Porchea, Alston Knight and Kendra Neal who are Clinton United Methodist Church members who are celebrating birthdays in June.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversaries to Joachim & Esther Neckere, Nathaniel & Sheila Holmes, Tony & Beatrice Chapman, Henry & Idena Thomas, Brewer & Pauline Clark, Robert & Sandra Miley, Daniel & Carolyn Glee who are Clinton United Methodist Church members who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries in June.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Jason Mitchell, grandson of

Mrs. Ruth Turner of Brandywine, Maryland and son of Larry and Patricia (Turner) Mitchell, is the recipient of the 206 emergency Medical Services (EMS) Community Member Award in San Francisco for outstanding care to two patients experiencing medical emergencies and dedication to improving EMS response. Jason performed CPR on two individuals on the same day and was responsible for saving their lives. Congratulations to Jason.

SPANISH IMMERSION SUMMER CAMP

The Spanish Immersion Program offers a two-week summer camp for incoming kindergarten students through rising second grade students. The curriculum will reinforce Spanish skills through hands-on activities, music/drama, dance and field trips. Priority enrollment is given to students who accepted placement from the lottery and are registered to attend a Spanish Immersion school. Visit Prince George County Public Schools (PGCPS) website for more information.

YOGA IN THE PARKS

Learn basic yoga techniques, strengthen your body and dis-

cover how to free your mind with this popular fitness activity for women, men and children of all ages and abilities. Bring your towel and mat on Tuesdays thru August 10, 2016 from 9:00-10:00 AM. All ages are welcome and the cost is free. The location is Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact information is 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544.

BEST HORSE SHOW SERIES

Attend the two-day Black-Eyed Susan Horse Show at Show Place Arena Saturday-Sunday, June 18-19, 2016 at 8:00 AM. The Show is free for spectators. Show Place Arena is located at 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Contact 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be at Clinton United Methodist Church, Monday, June 27 through Friday, July 1, at 9:00 AM until noon. This year's theme is Deep Sea Discovery. The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clin-

Neighborhoods

Walmart Marks Anniversary of Veterans Welcome Home Commitment With Hiring of 1,421 Veteran in Maryland

BALTIMORE, MD—Walmart announced it has hired 130,828 veterans since it announced its Veterans Welcome Home Commitment in May 2013, including 1,421 in the State of Maryland, and 81 in Washington, D.C. Of those 130,828 veteran hires, 15,176 have been promoted to jobs with higher pay and greater responsibility, including 130 in Maryland.

"Walmart has shown time and time again that it truly values its employees by discussing your past experiences and figuring out how those skills will help make you successful in the company," said James Mason, Auto-Center Care Technician at the Landover Hills Walmart and former Sgt. In the United States Army. "My job at Walmart is perfect for me because of the high frequency of customers I deal with and the fast-paced work day; it was an easy transition for me because I was used to the hustle and bustle of the military. I am so glad I found a position that utilized my skill set in a company that valued my military background!"

On Memorial Day 2013, Walmart introduced the Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, which guaranteed a job offer to any eligible, honorably discharged U.S. veteran who was within 12 months of active duty. The initial goal was to hire 100,000 veterans by the end of 2018. In May of 2015, Walmart announced the expansion of that original projection, with the goal of hiring 250,000 veterans by the end of 2020. Walmart has also changed the eligibility from within 12 months of active duty, to any veteran who has been honorably discharged since the announcement of the commitment in May 2013.

Despite unemployment among veterans being at its lowest in eight years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans from the Gulf War era continue to be underemployed.

"As a veteran, I know how critical it is for our men and women in uniform to have a strong support structure when transitioning back to civilian life," said Retired Brigadier General, Gary Profit, senior director of military programs for Walmart. "A job is an important part of that transition, and at Walmart, we're proud to use our strengths as one of the nation's largest employers to be a part of that bridge back home by providing meaningful opportunities to 1,421 veterans, and counting, in Maryland, to use their unique talent and skills. Veterans are among some of our strongest associates and we are pleased to see the growth and success they have achieved at Walmart."

The Walmart Foundation's Commitment to Veterans and Military Families

Beyond Walmart's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, the Walmart Foundation is also reinforcing its support for transitioning military members and their families with the announcement of \$2.6 million in grants to nonprofit organizations that support veteran reintegration—

The American GI Forum and Swords to Plowshares:

• Texas-based American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, which stabilizes veterans through housing and job assistance among other services, will receive a \$1 million grant for employment placement assistance.

• Swords to Plowshares will receive a \$1.6 million grant to enhance innovative employment and training programs at the California Veterans Employment and Training Collaborative and the Texas Veterans Employment and Training Collaborative.

For more information about Walmart's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, please visit the website at: <http://www.walmartcareerwithamission.com> and follow @WalmartToday on Twitter.

Giant Food awards Over \$2M to Local Schools Through A+ School Rewards Grants part of Giant's efforts to support area schools

LANDOVER, MD—Giant Food of Landover, Md. announced today a \$2 million donation to 1,466 public and private schools in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Delaware. The funds are the result of the 2015-2016 A+ School Rewards program where purchases made by Giant shoppers help provide funding to area schools. Giant's total donation saw a one percent increase from last year with a record-breaking 20 schools receiving over \$10,000 each in awards.

"Giant is, once again, thrilled about the success of the A+ School Rewards program. 2016 was a historic year for the initiative, one which saw the largest awards yet all across the DMV," said Gordon Reid, President, Giant of Landover, Md. "Education is of the utmost importance to Giant and the communities we serve. We are proud to partner with our schools and our communities to ensure that kids have the greatest and most robust educational experience possible."

Each fall, Giant customers can sign up and designate up to two schools to benefit from their purchases. A+ School Rewards points accrue with each purchase made using a Giant Card and are credited to the designated schools' accounts. Since launching the program in 1989, Giant has donated more than \$94 million to local schools throughout the communities it serves. There is no limit to what schools can do with their A+ School Rewards, including earning funds for technology, scholarships, school programs, field trips, playgrounds, and other educational needs that ultimately enhance the students' educational experience.

Mater Dei School of Bethesda, Md. received \$31,582.74, the program's largest award in history.

"Mater Dei is most grateful to be the recipient of Giant's fantastic generosity. Giant, through its A+ School Rewards program, helps so many schools and we are honored to be part of the program," said Edward Williams,

Mater Dei School president. "Our school will use the grant to continue to improve our technology capabilities."

To learn more about A+ School Rewards and for a complete list of participating schools, please visit www.GiantFood.com/aplus.

Seven WSSC Video Productions Honored for Excellence

Commission Wins One Telly Award and Six Hermes Creative Awards

LAUREL, MD—There might not be a red carpet, but there are a lot of awards! WSSC is the proud recipient of one Telly Award and six Hermes Creative Awards for a variety of video productions.

In the 37th Annual Telly Awards, WSSC earned a Bronze Telly for My Life at WSSC. The video highlights the health and wellness benefits the Commission offers employees to help them work, thrive and serve in the communities of Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest video and film productions, and online commercials, video and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments in the world. There were over 13,000 entries, both nationally and internationally this year.

Gold:

Geocaching at WSSC—Explains the concept of the outdoor treasure hunting game with GPS-enabled devices and highlights the areas along WSSC's watershed where cool caches can be found.

Storing Water Public Service Announcement (PSA)—Reminds customers to be prepared by storing bottled water, especially during the busy winter water main break season.

My Life at WSSC—Highlights the health and wellness benefits the Commission offers employees.

Honorable Mention:

Honoring Service at WSSC—Employees being honored for their service and dedication to WSSC share some of the most memorable moments from their careers with the Commission.

WSSC's Children's Water Festival—Tells the story of WSSC's signature community outreach event, teaching fourth graders about all things water.

PSI: WSSC—Pipe Scene Investigation—Think of it as CSI for pipes. This video highlights the sophisticated technology WSSC uses to inspect and monitor its largest water mains.

Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing and design of traditional and emerging media. The Awards are administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

This year there were about 6,200 entries from the United States and 16 other countries.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Building a Financial Emergency Kit for Your Family

What would a sudden financial emergency be in your life? It could be a storm causing massive property damage to your home. It could also be something more personal, like an accident that would cut off your ability to make a living.

Whatever it is, if someone else had to step in to help you in an emergency situation, it's important to have a plan in place so they know what to do.



A financial emergency kit is a crucial component in financial planning. In short, a financial emergency kit involves identifying and planning for potential financial emergencies that could affect you and your loved ones. Building a successful one goes beyond sorting paperwork—it involves looking at a variety of potential situations in your life and then asking, "What's the worst that could happen?"

You will want to create a kit—a set of physical or digital documents and instructions—that can help you or someone else you trust manage in a crisis. Here are some items you'll likely want to include:

1. Estate documents. Estate planning is really the highest form of financial emergency planning, because it addresses the ultimate personal financial emergencies—medical incapacitation or death. Would your family have easy access to this material if something happened to you? In your family financial emergency kit, estate documents would include copies of current wills (for you and your spouse or partner), your advanced directives (which instruct doctors on end-of-life or other stages in medical care), health/financial powers of attorney (which designate specific individuals to step in to manage your money or healthcare if you cannot do so) as well as other documents that provide additional guidance for operating businesses and managing and distributing other assets you have. Make sure these documents are always current and that contact information is included for all the qualified experts you used to prepare them—estate or business attorneys, tax professionals and financial planners.

2. Insurance policies. Being able to find home and auto policies in a natural disaster is a no-brainer, but it's important to think a little more broadly. File as much policy and contact detail as you can for any health, disability, business, life and accident coverage you have—and remember that it's particularly important to note or file documentation on this coverage at work, too. Sometimes we sign up rather blindly for work-based benefits only to realize how important they may be in a financial emergency.

3. Tax materials. If a family member dies or becomes incapacitated, tax matters still need to be attended to. If you work with a tax professional, make sure their contact information is in the digital or physical kit (see indexes, contacts and guides, below), but it's also important to keep past returns and relevant supporting data based on your individual tax situation.

4. Investment, savings and retirement documents. If you work with a qualified financial planner or tax expert, you may have access to a particular system that lists and track this information in an organized way that many of us don't have at home. However you plan and track your investments, it should be included in your kit.

5. Indexes, contact sheets and guides. Some people need a little guidance, others need a lot. A family financial emergency kit needs to be usable by all designated family members. Put yourself in the role of a friend or family member who's been called in to help you in a crisis. If you had to step in to settle an estate, healthcare or disaster emergency for a friend or family member and they weren't around to advise you, what information would you need to get started? In any category of information you include in a financial emergency kit, include a separate file or digital instruction that details people to call, account numbers if necessary, relevant online and physical addresses and other key data to advise that person about what's in front of them and what they should do. If you work with qualified financial experts, make sure their contact information is included.

6. Easy access to essentials under lock and key. If you're away from home when damage occurs or if family members need to access vehicles or other spaces, make sure you have keys and access codes locked safely in your emergency kit. You will also want to ensure that your emergency contacts have the necessary access to your emergency kit in order to retrieve these materials. You or loved ones might also need access to funds, particularly cash in an emergency. If you don't have a bank account established strictly for emergencies that allows specific family members to write checks or make cash withdrawals, you should consider it.

Bottom line: Building a financial emergency kit requires some thinking, but it can help you avoid major losses and speed up decision making in a crisis. Work with people you trust to make it accessible and useful to your family and trusted individuals.

Proudly Serving
Prince George's County

Cardin Discusses Urgent Needs for Zika Virus Readiness With Public Health Experts From Throughout Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, recently convened a distinguished group of public health leaders and practitioners, researchers, state and local officials, non-governmental organizations and businesses to discuss ways to ensure that Maryland is ready for the Zika virus, a growing pandemic.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN

Experts including Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen; health officers from Howard, Frederick and Anne Arundel counties; Johns Hopkins Medicine; Johns Hopkins University; the University of Maryland Medical Center; MedStar Health; the Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital; the National Institutes of Health; the Maryland Hospital Association; international development organizations; and several companies engaged in the development of promising vaccines and treatments came together with Senator Cardin to discuss statewide Zika response.



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN

"The Zika virus is not some nebulous foreign threat. It is already on U.S. shores, and in Maryland. While Congress has made some recent progress on advancing funding measures to combat the spread of Zika virus throughout the continental United States, the funding is likely inadequate to fully meet the public health community's needs, and may come too late to be as effective as possible," said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Finance Health Care Subcommittee. **"We have got to do more, and we've got to do it faster. That's not only my opinion - that's the opinion of just about every expert engaged on the subject, and everyone in a position to fight the spread of the disease. Congress needs to listen to the advice of the scientific community and do more now, while we still have a chance to potentially save and improve many thousands of lives."**

Contest from A1

First Place

\$75 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Michael Amao, Kindergarten, Mrs. Phelan, Vansville Elementary School
- Madison Evans, 1st Grade, Mrs. Latorre, Kenilworth Elementary School
- Janiyah Lee, 2nd Grade, Ms. Miller, Panorama Tulip Grove Elementary School
- Vishant Bhagat, 3rd Grade, Ms. Chilcote, Whitehall Elementary School
- Noah Smith, 4th Grade, Ms. Chatman, Excellence Christian School

- Omorose Emwanta, 5th Grade, Ms. Kogut, Mount Calvary Catholic School
- Sophia Montgomery, 6th Grade, Ms. Chatman, Excellence Christian School

Second Place

\$50 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Ali Majid, Kindergarten, Ms. Saafiyah Abdul Aleem, Al-Huda School
- Joseph Harrison IV, 1st Grade, Mrs. Cavanaugh, St. Pius X Regional School
- David Priestor, 2nd Grade, Mrs. Tapang, Gladys Noon Spellman Elementary School

- Carlos Lee, 3rd Grade, Ms. Chatman, Excellence Christian School
- Gabriela Chicas Romero, 4th Grade, Mrs. Hill, Lewisdale Elementary School
- Casey McGee, 5th Grade, Ms. Humphreys, St. Pius X Regional School
- Ryan Samuel, 6th Grade, Ms. Lovette, St. Mary's of Piscataway School

Third Place

\$25 gift certificate and commemorative gift bag (per winner)

- Ariela Okonta, Kindergarten, Mrs. Walter, Vansville Elementary School
- Erin Thweatt, 1st Grade, Ms. Jiggetts, New Chapel Christian Academy

- Stephanie Garcia, 2nd Grade, Mrs. Wilson, Tulip Grove Elementary School
- King Lockley, 3rd Grade, Ms. Praelovsky, John Bayne Elementary School
- Gabriella Patrick, 4th Grade, Ms. Heilman, Vansville Elementary School
- Myris C. Rochez, 5th Grade, Mrs. Losey, Brandywine Elementary School
- Madelyn Cipolla, 6th Grade, Mrs. Baden, St. Pius X Regional School

For more information about the "Be Kind to Animals" Poster Contest and Awards Ceremony contact County Click 3-1-1.

IMMUNIZATION COUNTDOWN

AUGUST 23. ALL STUDENTS. ALL SCHOOLS.

CUENTA REGRESIVA PARA VACUNARSE

23 DE AGOSTO. TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES. TODAS LAS ESCUELAS.

COMMENTARY

Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



Cardin: Combatting Heroin Production in Mexico Makes Difference in Maryland

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, issued the following statement into the record today at a Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Issues hearing on “Cartels and the U.S. Heroin Epidemic.”

“As the United States continues grappling with the public health crisis posed by opioid and heroin abuse, today’s hearing offers a much-needed space to analyze the links between the dramatic increase in U.S. heroin use and the sharp rise in illicit poppy cultivation and heroin production in Mexico.

“In doing so, it is critical that we recognize how the epidemic of heroin-related deaths is ravaging communities across our country, including more than 575 such deaths in Maryland in 2014 alone. These figures—which touch far too many American families—require our urgent attention and it is imperative that we strengthen our cooperation with the Government of Mexico to combat the illicit heroin trade.”

“Over the past five years, with U.S. heroin usage soaring, illicit poppy cultivation has multiplied rapidly in western Mexico. Estimates from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency project that between 2011 and 2015 illicit poppy cultivation grew some 150 percent, more than doubling Mexico’s potential production of pure heroin. Given the limitations of DEA data and diverging methodologies, the Mexican government maintains different projections on illicit poppy cultivation.

“Caught between these statistics is a series of unknowns. The remote locations of the crops and the presence of violent cartels severely limits information about the amount of land under culti-

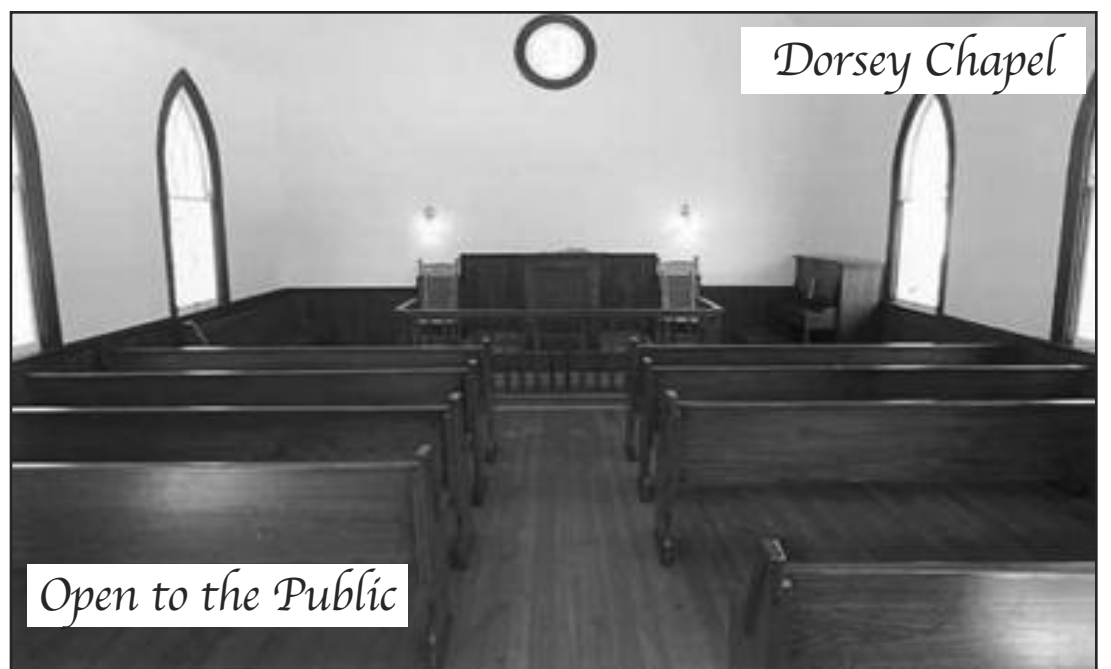
vation, crop density, and changes in heroin production methods. The result is a lack of verifiable information about the true nature and scope of the problem.

“Against this backdrop, DEA reporting shows that Mexican cartels continue posing the greatest criminal drug threat to the United States, as well as a challenge to the rule of law in Mexico. These cartels prey upon the poor farmers growing poppies, are directly engaged in heroin production and trafficking, and profit heavily from moving massive volumes of illicit drugs from South America across the U.S. border. They ruthlessly wield violence and corruption against Mexico’s citizens, law enforcement, and government officials.

“In the face of these challenges and given that the U.S. cannot succeed in this effort on its own, we must work with Mexico to deepen a partnership based on shared responsibility and joint action. Together, we must take swift steps to advance a comprehensive strategy to tackle this problem.

“Given the lack of concrete data, expanded information and intelligence sharing are urgently needed, and it must be two-way communication. Our law enforcement and eradication efforts must be balanced with a strong commitment to sustainable development and to providing our citizens with real alternatives to becoming involved in the drug trade. We must collectively sharpen our governments’ tools to combat the illicit financial networks that make the drug trade possible. And, we must deepen our joint commitment to combatting

See **HEROIN** Page A5



Dorsey Chapel

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

DORSEY CHAPEL

10704 Brookland Road, Glenn Dale, MD • 301-464-5291 • TTY 301-699-2577

This small frame meetinghouse-style church is distinguished by its steeply pitched gable roof and late Victorian ornamental treatment of its principal gable front. The upper gable has alternating courses of sawtooth and rectangular shingles, a quatrefoil bulls-eye ornament, and a turned wooden finial at the ridge. Each of the chapel’s side walls is lighted by three gothic-arch windows that have delicate tracery in the upper sashes. Initially scheduled for demolition in 1980, the Friends of Dorsey Chapel organized efforts to preserve and restore the church. Dorsey Chapel was ultimately designated a Prince George’s County “historic site” by the Historic Preservation Commission. Restoration of the Chapel was undertaken by The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1994, and the facility was re-dedicated and opened to the public on September 11, 1996. The Chapel is available for rental for small weddings, recitals, and meetings.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Original Child Bomb

President Obama’s historic visit to Hiroshima this week offers an opportunity to take a clear-eyed look back to the first and only time nuclear weapons have been used in war. Germany had surrendered on May 8, 1945. Japan refused to surrender and continued to wage the Pacific War. President Harry S. Truman faced a decision on whether or not to drop the world’s first atomic bomb in Japan.

“3: President Truman formed a committee of men to tell him if this bomb would work, and if so, what he should do with it. Some members of this committee felt that the bomb would jeopardize the future of civilization. They were against its use. Others wanted it to be used in demonstration on a forest of cryptomeria trees, but not against a civil or military target. Many atomic scientists warned that the use of atomic power in war would be difficult and even impossible to control. The danger would be very great. Finally, there were others who believed that if the bomb were used just once or twice, on one or two Japanese cities, there would be no more war. They believed the new bomb would produce eternal peace.”

This fragment is from Trappist monk and social justice and peace activist Thomas Merton’s 1962 prose poem “Original Child Bomb.” Its title is a rough translation of the root characters in the Japanese term for the atom. Merton subtitled his “anti-poem” “Points for meditation to be scratched in the walls of a cave,” and it includes a numbered list of 41 points about the atomic bomb’s creation, the decision to drop the first one on Hiroshima, and its aftermath:

“32: The bomb exploded within 100 feet of the aiming point. The fireball was 18,000 feet across. The temperature at the center of the fireball was 100,000,000 degrees. The people who were near the center became nothing. The whole city was blown to bits and the ruins all caught fire instantly everywhere, burning briskly. 70,000 people were killed right away or died within a few hours. Those who did not die at once suffered great pain. Few of them were soldiers.

33: The men in the plane perceived that the raid had been successful, but they thought of the people in the city and they were not perfectly happy. Some felt they had done wrong. But in any case they had obeyed orders. ‘It was war.’”

It was war, and despite the initial reaction by co-pilot Captain Robert Lewis as he witnessed the devastation—“My God, what have we done?”—pilots and crew members stressed over and over again that they believed they did what they had to do. But the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki have not produced eternal peace. Instead they opened a Pandora’s box that can never be fully locked back up.

I have visited Hiroshima twice—once with my husband and once with him and our three sons. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome), created from the ruins of the only structure left standing near the bomb’s hypocenter, is a reminder of how far we still have to go to make this a world worthy of and safe for all our children.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ “Doomsday Clock” has this ominous message today: it is still three minutes to mid-

night. Beginning in 1947 the clock’s hands have moved based on the scientists’ evaluation of whether events are pushing humanity closer to or further from nuclear apocalypse; since 2007 they have also considered climate change and other threats that might lead to global catastrophe. In 2015 the clock was moved closer to midnight because of grave concerns about unchecked climate change, global nuclear weapons modernizations, and oversized nuclear weapons arsenals. In January 2016 they announced it has not changed: “Last year, the Science and Security Board moved the Doomsday Clock forward to three minutes to midnight, noting: ‘The probability of global catastrophe is very high, and the actions needed to reduce the risks of disaster must be taken very soon.’ That probability has not been reduced. The Clock ticks. Global danger looms. Wise leaders should act—immediately.” Will we hear and heed?

President Obama’s visit should prompt us all to realize that if we do not want the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be repeated ever again we

See **WATCH**, Page A10

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



The “Rosa Parks of Wall Street” Continues the Fight for Economic Empowerment

“Don’t just give us money, and don’t just show up for the Equal Opportunity Day dinner. That is not enough when you look at black consumer power in this country. It’s not enough for you to come and shake our hands and be our friends. We want in.”

—Vernon Jordan,

National Urban League President 1971–1981, on his message to corporate executives

The National Urban League last week released our annual report on the social and economic status of people of color, the State of Black America®. This year’s edition, “Locked Out: Education, Jobs & Justice,” was especially significant because it marked the 40th anniversary of the report, first issued in 1976 by Vernon Jordan.

In a video message Jordan recorded for the State of Black America® release, he recalled the tears he wept the night Barack Obama was elected President.

“It dawned on me that my tears were not really my tears, but they were the tears of my grandparents and my parents. They were the tears of all those black people who toiled that cotton and lifted that bale. The notion that Obama was going to be President, or that any black person was going to be President, is stunning.”

While we reflect this year on how far we’ve come since Jordan first issued State of Black America®, Jordan’s own life is a vivid illustration of the progression of civil rights throughout the latter half of the 20th Century and into the 21st.

“He is kind of the Rosa Parks of Wall Street,” Harvard historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr., told Bloomberg. “He realized that the first phase of the modern civil rights movement was fighting legal segregation, but the roots of racism were fundamentally economic.”

According to the Bloomberg profile, published on the occasion of his 80th birthday last year:

“As a young man in Jim Crow Georgia, his first job was chauffeuring a white banker who was shocked that he could read. Now he counts some

of America’s most wealthy and powerful citizens as friends and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are proud to call him a mentor.”

Jordan himself often recounts what he calls his earliest political memory, listening to Georgia’s segregationist Governor Eugene Talmadge on the radio in 1943, when Mr. Jordan was only eight years old. “I have two planks in my platform,” Talmadge said. “N****rs and roads. I’m against the first and for the second.”

Persuaded by a recruiter to apply to an integrated college in the north, Vernon enrolled at DePaw University in Indiana over his parents’ misgivings.

“Here were Negro parents, both of whom had grandparents who were slaves, who to some extent were conditioned to the southern way of life,” Jordan told author Robert Penn Warren in 1964. “They could never quite adjust to the idea of their boy even being in Green Castle, Indiana, the only Negro in a class of 400 students, and they felt their boy, their baby, their prize, would be happier and have less frustrations if he went to a predominantly Negro institution.”

But his parents came to realize the significance of Jordan’s choice the night a white classmate came to stay at the Jordans’ home.

“In the middle of the night, my father got out of bed and came into my room and turned on the light and stood there with tears in his eyes, put the light out and went back to bed and said to my mother, ‘You know, this democracy thing is really here, and it’s right here in my house.’”

Having struggled in college due to his standard segregated education in Georgia, Jordan determined upon graduation to pursue a career in civil rights. After receiving his law degree at Howard University, he returned to Georgia where he successfully challenged the University of Georgia’s discriminatory admissions policy.

Through the civil rights movement, he realized that economic empowerment would be the driving force for justice.

See **URBAN LEAGUE** Page A10

The Prince George’s Post

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Contents © 2016, The Prince George’s Post

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Telling Your Kids You're Proud of Them

As parents most of us are proud of our children but recent studies have found that we don't always do a good job of communicating that feeling. That's unfortunate because when kids are aware of the pride their parents have in them the result is usually a much stronger relationship. And a stronger relationship can be important as our kids get older, want more independence and often find themselves in conflict with parental rules and regulations.

So how does one go about effectively communicating the pride that you feel for a son or daughter? One starting point is not to praise everything, especially the low-effort accomplishments that your child knows isn't really worthy of praise ("Great job of finishing that bowl of cereal, kiddo!").

Offering praise for things that really aren't challenging and really aren't much of an accomplishment ends up turning all of our praise into "white noise," background words that don't carry much meaning or worth and which our kids often ignore.

One hint that experts offer on effective ways to communicate pride in your child is to focus on the process, rather than simply on the outcome. When a child is working hard and putting in extra effort, a parent offering praise is heard and appreciated. What you are doing is highlighting the effort and initiative of your child, rather than focusing on only the results.

When we praise our kids for putting in that extra effort, it becomes a reward that reinforces the work they're doing and makes it more likely that they will want to continue to try as hard in the future.

It's important not to simply assume that our kids are aware that we're proud of them. And it is also important to find a correct balance between offering too little or too much praise. We have to recognize when a child is pushing himself or herself to try something new or to work a little harder. That's the time to compliment and let your child see how pleased you are of the effort they're making. The end result may not be a first place trophy or any measurable success, but you want your child to know you're proud of his or her trying.

It's important for parents to be proud of their children and what they do. But it's even more important that that pride is clearly communicated.

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

Crabbing from A1

Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Chairman Glenn Davis said.

The 2015 bay-wide crab harvest increased by 42 percent over 2014 to 50 million pounds and remained at sustainable levels for the eighth consecutive year. This combined with increased abundance means that a slight liberalization of harvest limits for female crabs may be warranted this summer.

"Our experts will now discuss the survey results with our internal and external stakeholders," Blazer said. "Any modest adjustment to the current regulations, be it season length or bushel limit, will be considered only after the department receives input from all parties."

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee plans to release a full analysis this summer.

The annual Winter Dredge Survey, conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science since 1990, is the primary assessment of the Chesapeake Bay's blue crab population. In the survey, biologists use dredge equipment to capture, measure, record and release blue crabs at 1,500 sites throughout the bay from December through March. Crabs tend to bury in the mud over the cold winter months, which makes it possible for scientists to develop accurate estimates of the number of crabs.

Literacy from A1

out student loans. I want to make sure they have the tools they need to make sound financial decisions as they make plans for a financially secure future. I want to thank the NFL and Visa for their commitment to financial literacy and for putting the 'Financial Football' program together."

Financial Football is the focus of Visa's nationwide education initiative. Together with the NFL and NFL players, Visa is implementing the program to help students tackle their financial futures. The game is accompanied by a classroom curriculum and has been distributed to high schools and middle schools in 49 states.

Heroin from A4

corruption and strengthening the rule of law.

"As we pursue these steps, it is critical that we continue advancing domestic initiatives. We cannot waiver in our efforts to expanding access to treatment and life-saving medicines, like Naloxone. And, we must prioritize smart law enforcement investments, including the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, which bring critical resources to the Baltimore-Washington corridor. The safety,

health, and well-being of our citizens require nothing less."

Senator Cardin recently gathered Maryland community leaders, medical professionals, social workers, law enforcement and members of the non-profit community for a strategy session on combating the national epidemic of heroin and opioid addiction. About 100 participants gathered at the Anne Arundel County Medical center to exchange ideas on how to reverse the uptick in heroin- and opioid-related deaths in communities across Maryland.

USDA Announces More Than \$8 Million in Payments to Support the Production of Advanced Biofuel

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$8.8 million to boost the production of advanced biofuels and sustain jobs at renewable energy facilities in 39 states. USDA continues to lead the way in promotion of advanced biofuel production, from implementing the revised Farm Bill bio-refinery program to the launching of the Green Fleet with the Department of the Navy and developing the Biogas Opportunities Roadmap, which outlines voluntary strategies to overcome barriers to expansion and development of a robust biogas industry within the United States.

"Advanced biofuels expand America's energy options and increase our sources of homegrown, renewable energy," Vilsack said. "These payments not only help to spur biofuel production, but also protect the environment and help create jobs by building a renewable energy economy in rural areas."

The funding is being provided through USDA's Advanced Biofuel Payment Program, which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill. Payments are made to biofuels producers based on the amount of advanced biofuels produced from renewable biomass, other than corn kernel

starch. Examples of eligible feedstocks include crop residue, food and yard waste, vegetable oil, and animal fat. Through this program to date, USDA has made \$308 million in payments to 382 producers in 47 states and territories. These payments have produced enough biofuel to provide more than 391 billion kilowatt hours of electric energy.

Secretary Vilsack has recognized the biobased economy as one of the pillars that strengthen rural communities. Through the Advanced Biofuel Payment Program and other USDA programs, USDA is working to support the research, investment and infrastructure necessary to build a strong biofuels industry that creates jobs and broadens the range of feedstocks used to produce renewable fuel. Over the course of this Administration, USDA has invested \$332 million to accelerate research on renewable energy ranging from genomic research on bioenergy feedstock crops, to development of biofuel conversion processes and costs/benefit estimates of renewable energy production.

In January, Secretary Vilsack joined Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to launch the Great Green Fleet, and witnessed destroyer USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) being replenished with advanced biofuel made from waste beef fat. Aviation biofuels, like those used by the Navy, are creating new markets for energy created from agricultural waste products.

USDA has also supported efforts to build six new biorefineries in Louisiana, Georgia, Oregon, Nevada, North Carolina, and Iowa, in addition to three existing facilities in New Mexico, Michigan and Florida.

Investments in renewable energy and the biobased economy are a leading part of USDA's commitment to mitigating climate change and promoting a clean-energy economy. This month, the Department is examining what a changing climate means to agriculture and how USDA is working to reduce greenhouse gases. For more information, visit Chapter 5 of <https://medium.com/usda-results>.

Quad County Corn Processors Co-Op of Galva, Iowa, is receiving a \$2,011 payment to convert more than 39 million gallons of corn kernel fiber into 660,000 gallons of cellulosic ethanol. The company converts the fiber into ethanol and other products using a process developed by its own research team.

Scott Petroleum Corporation in Itta Bena, Miss., is receiving a \$13,165 payment to produce more than 2.6 million gallons of biodiesel from 3 million gallons of waste, non-food grade corn and catfish oil and poultry fat. The biodiesel is distributed throughout Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

View the complete list of producers receiving payments at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD>

[_AdvBiofuelsChart_2016.pdf](#).

These payments build on USDA's historic investments in rural America over the past seven years. Since 2009, USDA has worked to strengthen and support rural communities and American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 U.S. jobs, provides consumers with more than 80 percent of our food, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials.

USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,500 biobased products through USDA's BioPreferred program since 2009; and has invested \$64 billion in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America.

Since 2009, USDA's Rural Development agency (@usdaRD) has invested \$11 billion to start or expand 103,000 rural businesses; helped 1.1 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 7,000 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; financed 185,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.

REDUCE PLASTIC THIS SUMMER

You can help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up on the side of the road and eventually our local waterways. Here are some ways you can create less plastic waste this summer and beyond!

- ▶ Get your ice cream in a cone instead of in a plastic cup;
- ▶ Use a glass beverage dispenser for your picnic or party; and
- ▶ Use a reusable stainless steel water bottle instead of purchasing water in a plastic bottle.



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



Rodney L. Baker, III
County Executive



Delegation from A1

to invest in Prince George's County. People are coming to this County because they can see great things happening here. It's morning in Prince George's County and we are ready for the migration."

Members of the delegation were extremely interested in how the County was re-branding itself through the steps that the Baker Administration has taken to promote a stable and business-friendly environment that has

helped fuel the County's hyper-growth economy. Through County Executive Rushern Baker's leadership, the County streamlined its permitting process and established the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, established a \$50 million Economic Development Incentive fund and implemented ethics reform to instill integrity and confidence in County government.

"We were delighted with the presentation today from the Economic Development Corpora-

tion," said Donna Wilson, Esq. representing the delegation's investment group. "We've seen that it is a wonderful place to do business and we are so pleased that this office has welcomed us and offered its assistance in ways that we could not have anticipated."

The Nigerian investors are currently looking to invest approximately \$50 million and are looking for mixed use investment opportunities in Prince George's County.

"We have been in Prince George's County for three days

and after hearing the presentation today, I am impressed with the prospects available here," said Kaydoe Amusan, CEO of Kamson Holdings, Ltd, in Lagos, Nigeria. "I am convinced that this is a place I need to invest. I now know what I need to do to get moving in Prince George's County."

For more information on international investment or import/export opportunities, please contact Martin Ezemma at mezemma@co.pg.md.us or call 301-583-46950.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Sing Street

Sing Street
Grade: A-
Rated PG-13, some profanity
and coarse language,
thematic elements
1 hr., 46 min

Boy meets girl; boy likes girl; boy starts band to impress girl. It's a story as old as time, and *Sing Street*—an exuberant musical from *Once* writer-director John Carney—tells it gracefully, with warm humor and a touch of bittersweet nostalgia. Music makes life better, the movie says. And if it doesn't, it at least makes life seem better, and maybe that's good enough.

In Dublin in 1985 there is an apple-cheeked 15-year-old boy, Conor (Ferdia Walsh-Peelo), whose life is being disrupted. His parents (Aidan Gillen, Maria Doyle Kennedy) are on the verge of splitting up, and money problems have forced them to move Conor from a posh Jesuit school to the working-class Synge Street school (a real place) run by the Christian Brothers. Here Conor is hassled by a bully (Ian Kenny) and an officious priest (Don Wycherley) before being taken in by Darren (Ben Carolan), an entrepreneurial red-headed weakling who knows how to operate at the low end of the totem pole. (Darren passes out business cards that don't have a phone number because his family doesn't have a phone.)

At home, Conor dabbles on the guitar and eagerly watches *Top of the Pops* every week, absorbing his college-dropout brother Brendan's (Jack Reynor) opinions on Duran Duran, Joe Jackson, and the like. This comes in handy when Conor notices Raphina (Lucy Boynton), a cool 16-year-old who lives in a girls' home near the school and says she's a model. Conor invites her to be in his band's new music video. Then he tells Darren, "We need to form a band!"

In the time-honored tradition of movie musicals, Conor and Darren have no trouble assembling a group of classmates who can play instruments well enough to perform as a band, and the songs they write are catchy and literate. They call



ROTTENTOMATOES

From director John Carney (*Once*, *Begin Again*), *Sing Street* takes us back to 1980s Dublin seen through the eyes of a 14-year-old boy named Conor (Ferdia Walsh-Peelo) who is looking for a break from a home strained by his parents' relationship and money troubles, while trying to adjust to his new inner-city public school where the kids are rough and the teachers are rougher. He finds a glimmer of hope in the mysterious, über-cool and beautiful Raphina (Lucy Boynton), and with the aim of winning her heart he invites her to star in his band's music videos. There's only one problem: he's not part of a band ... yet. She agrees, and now Conor must deliver what he's promised—calling himself "Cosmo" and immersing himself in the vibrant rock music trends of the decade, he forms a band with a few lads, and the group pours their heart into writing lyrics and shooting videos. Inspired by writer/director John Carney's life and love for music, *Sing Street* shows us a world where music has the power to take us away from the turmoil of everyday life and transform us into something greater.

themselves Sing Street (get it?). What's charming is that instead of being cool, the band members are all scrawny, early-adolescent dorks. One of them, Eamon (Mark McKenna), raises rabbits as a hobby; his mother, clad entirely in acid-washed denim, totters around the kitchen pouring tea for the boys as they plan their careers as rock stars. Another boy (Percy Chamburuka) is recruited only because he's black, which Conor and Darren innocently assume means he knows music.

Their casual, culturally ingrained racism (which pops up only briefly) is a reflection of their naiveté, harmless in context. But it's also a reminder that Dublin in 1985 is a dead-end backwater from which young people with any gumption want to escape. Brendan, Conor's role model, used to strive for that, before his ambition was lost in a cloud of hashish. Raphina, who's only a year older than Conor but seems, to him, so

worldly and mature—which she isn't—talks about running off to London with her sort-of boyfriend, who's older and has a car and everything.

Certain details of the plot are worked out too tidily and improbably (though it's fair to mention that that's often the case in this genre), and in the film's attempt to be both a shiny musical and a kitchen-sink drama, some serious issues are glossed over. Carney makes it work by tapping into two potent forms of cinematic emotional weaponry: nostalgia and music. Seeing Conor walk into school each week with new hair, makeup, and clothes inspired by whichever band he has most recently discovered is universally relatable, regardless of which era you grew up in or whether you ever imitated a pop star yourself. Likewise, Conor and his bandmates' blind zeal and childish ambition must put a smile on the face of anyone who was ever young with big dreams.

And the music? Perfect. Alongside vintage tracks by The Cure, Duran Duran, and so forth are Sing Street's original tunes (written by Carney and Gary Clark), all of them spot-on facsimiles of songs that boys like this would have written in 1985. The film's high point is a rehearsal of a boppy follow-your-dreams anthem called "Drive It Like You Stole It," during which Conor imagines the band performing at a 1950s American prom where his parents reunite, Brendan deals with Raphina's abusive boyfriend, and the stuffy priest dazzles the crowd with his dance moves.

In that fantasy, Conor's problems are easily solved (by music, no less), and we laugh wistfully at the simplicity of it all while secretly clinging to the hope that Conor is right. Kids make cheerful optimism seem so easy. The movie, with its sweet, honest performances and toe-tapping soundtrack, does the same.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Are Brazil's Corruption Scandals Finally Hitting the Olympics?



For months, the disconnect in Brazil has been stunning. High-profile judicial inquiries into government corruption have implicated the nation's most powerful construction firms. Yet the \$10 billion concrete and cement extravaganza otherwise known as the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio, celebrated by the same politicians under investigation and built by the same firms whose executives are being trotted off to prison, has remained largely untouched. Given the history of graft and kickbacks that follows the games from country to country like a communicable disease, this was, to put it mildly, curious. Given that corruption in the political corridors of Brazil is so widespread that, according to *The Globe and Mail*, of the 594 members of their Congress "318 are under investigation or face charges," the idea that the Olympics would be immune from this is the equivalent of thinking that a lumbering elephant could somehow dance amid raindrops and remain dry.

A theory that could be described as common currency in Rio is that, despite the broad-based nature of corruption, the political focus has been on impeaching and removing from power President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party and replacing her with Michel Temer, of the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB).

The Rio Olympics, because of the federalized political system operating in a nation larger than the continental United States, have been under the oversight not of the capital city of Brasilia but of Rio de Janeiro, and Rio is controlled by the PMDB. Under this state of affairs, one can easily see the August Olympics serving as a ceremonial backdrop to celebrate the new people in charge once Dilma takes the fall.

Yet now this Berlin Wall of political spin that Brazil's elite media have built between the Olympics and corruption has been breached. This week, Rio's city council has—at long last—set up a commission to examine corruption in the Olympic buildup. Given that many of the firms involved in Olympic construction have been implicated already in the broader scandals, the only way this commission will find nothing is if it goes about its search blindfolded. Tragically, the blindfolds have already been whipped out. Four commission members hail from Paes's PMDB party, and their first action was to vote as a block to award its two top roles to party members. The council member who pushed for this oversight in the first place, Jefferson Moura, said, as reported by the Associated Press, "I think that the commission got off to a terrible start." He also expressed his belief that they would "lead to nothing."

It took civilian deaths and massive public outrage to even get a commission such as this off the ground. Last week, a brand-new seaside bicycle path, one of the Olympic legacy projects, was knocked down by a wave, killing two people. The bike path arrived six months late and was over budget by more than \$2.5 million. Making the matter even more outrageous, the construction firm that built the cycling path, Concremat, was founded by the family of the city's tourism director, Antônio Pedro Viegas Figueira de Mello. Figueira de Mello served as Mayor Paes's campaign treasurer during his first run as mayor in 2008. Concremat has also been under investigation since December for skimming money off of non-Olympic contracts for months. This stinks to high heaven. The question is whether public anger will push this commission to do more than play Baghdad Bob, existing only to announce that Mayor Paes is an innocent soul and there is nothing to see here.

Even if this commission is a sham, however, an important line has been crossed. The fiction that corruption infects every aspect of Brazil's political world except for the Olympics has been pierced. Even if the compromised commission casually pulls on the loosest of strings, it can all come apart. Already the Olympics in Rio have been a horror show of displacement, debt, and police violence against the city's poorest residents. If it is found that these crimes have been committed in the name of mafia-like construction skims, the political calculus where everything is somehow Dilma's fault could be dramatically upended.

ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April needs you!!

Help Us Celebrate 28 Years in the County!

Andrews Air Force Base
September 26, 2016 all day—The Courses at AAFB

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 27th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Denison Mona Golf Tournament on September 26, 2016, at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2017 program, which renovates the homes of elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

Golfers and sponsors are needed!

Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more.

Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 90 needy families in 2017. Please call soon as space is limited.

Calendar of Events

June 16, — June 22, 2016

Free Tour Day at Marietta House Museum

Date and Time: Friday, June 17, 2016, 1–4 pm
Description: Guests will enjoy a free tour of the Marietta Historic House Museum.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Marietta House Museum
5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544

Sizzling Summer Concerts: The Fabulous Hubcaps

Date and Time: Friday, June 17, 2016, 8 pm
Description: Rock 'n' Roll is alive and well! The Fabulous Hubcaps will perform your favorite 50s and 60s rock 'n' roll classic songs, so plan to sing, dance, and rock the night away.

Cost: \$20/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Publick Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

G.E.A.R.: Roll Into the Holiday Family Skate

Date and Time: Friday, June 17, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Want to get out of the summer heat? Bring a friend and join us for a night of skating, music, fun and much more.

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

Father's Day Olympics

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 10 am
Description: Are you the "Best Dad Ever"? If so, bring the family and come out to the Deerfield Run Community Center to celebrate "YOU" this Father's Day. Be a part of this inaugural event. There will be plenty of food and fun, with some friendly competition and awards too!

Team registration begins at 10 am and the dads will begin their face off at 11 am! The competition will be fierce, but only one man can REIGN supreme as the top pop!

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Deerfield Run Community Center
13000 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-953-7882; TTY 301-699-2544

Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 12 noon–5 pm
Description: Bring your family, blanket, and lawn chairs for a joyous day of live entertainment, genealogy workshops, children's activities, exhibitions, and historical interpretation.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages
Location: Walker Mill Regional Park
8840 Walker Mill Rd., District Heights, MD
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY 301-699-2544

Paper Airplane Day

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 12 noon–4 pm
Description: Build a paper airplane and test it to see how well it flies. Then compete in our annual derby at 3 pm. Fee includes museum admission.

Cost: \$5/Adults; \$4/Seniors; \$2/Children;
Free for 1 & under
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Six Flags Trip

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 1–8 pm
Description: Travel with us to Six Flags for a day of fun! We will depart by 1 pm and return by 8 pm. A signed specialized permission slip is required for attendance.

Participants must sign up and pay no later than June 15, 2016. Please bring your own spending money.

Cost: Resident: \$40; Non-Resident:
\$48 (without Season Pass)
Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$7 (with Season Pass)
Ages: 10–17
Location: Columbia Park Community Center
1901 Kent Village Drive, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-441-2647; TTY 301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Father's Day Basketball Game/ Double Dutch

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Fellas bring your father to our Father's Day Basketball game to compete in a sons v. dads game. See if you have what it takes to take on your father.

Ladies join Mr. JoAnn and Ms. Carolyn for a double dutch and Hop Scotch contest.

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: End of the School Year Game Night

Date and Time: Saturday, June 18, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Join your Xtreme Teens family for a night of fun as you play against one another in board and card games.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: North Brentwood Community Center
4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Circus Elephants: A Thing of the Past for Ringling

Dear EarthTalk:

Dear EarthTalk: Why did Ringling Brothers stop using elephants in its circus performances?

—Marianne Lusko,
Bern, NC

After enduring years of criticism from animal rights activists, Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, announced in March 2015 that it would phase out the use of endangered Asian elephants in its circus performances within three years. Then, less than a year later, the company said it was expediting the process and would be retiring the 11 elephants still travelling for circus shows even earlier—by May 2016.

These last working circus pachyderms are now able to join 31 of their predecessors at the Center for Elephant Conservation, a 200-acre elephant refuge in central Florida created by Ringling Bros. in 1995 to care for, conserve, breed and study Asian elephants.

"There's been somewhat of a mood shift among our consumers," says Alana Feld, the company's executive vice president. "A lot of people aren't comfortable with us touring with our elephants."

No doubt, part of the reason for that mood shift has been the

advocacy work of groups like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)—each which has campaigned tirelessly to halt the use of Asian elephants in America's iconic circus act. Testimonials from former circus employees and photographic evidence provided by these groups helped convince the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fine Ringling Bros. \$270,000 in 2011 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Some of the documented abuses include Ringling Bros. elephants getting whipped and beaten by trainers and "yanked by heavy, sharp steel-tipped bull hooks behind the scenes, prior to performing." A PETA investigator who travelled with Ringling Bros. for several months documented many of the circus' elephants swaying and rocking continuously—"neurotic" and abnormal behavior typically seen in animals who are suffering from extreme stress, frustration, and boredom." Meanwhile, baby elephants were "torn away from their mothers and subjected to violent training sessions [to] learn how to perform tricks." PETA adds that at least 30 elephants, including four babies, have died prematurely from accidents or disease while travelling with Ringling Bros. since 1992.



CREDIT: ARTHUR T. LABAR, FLICKR/CC

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey has transitioned its remaining circus elephants to a Florida-based facility focused on conservation, care and research.

While circus fans will certainly miss the elephants' presence in the ring heralding the opening of each show and performing synchronized dance routines, they'll be glad to hear that these lovable and endangered animals will no longer suffer abuse or be exploited for their entertainment value.

That said, Ringling Bros. does continue to use lions, tigers, zebras, llamas, goats, horses, camels and dogs in its

circus performances—a fact that animal rights activists remain unhappy about. For its part, PETA wants Ringling Bros. to pull all of its animals from their performances immediately. "Tigers and lions spend most of their lives in cramped transport cages," the group reports, adding that these and other animals travelling with the circus "are denied everything that is natural and important to them."

CONTACTS: Ringling Bros., www.ringling.com; Center for Elephant Conservation, www.ringlingelephantcenter.com; PETA, www.peta.org; HSUS, www.hsus.org; ASPCA, www.aspc.org.

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USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Results

By PRESS OFFICER
USDA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 5, 2016)—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the enrollment of more than 800,000 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through the program's 49th sign up period. Through CRP, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) helps farmers offset the costs of restoring, enhancing and protecting certain grasses, shrubs and trees that improve water quality, prevent soil erosion and strengthen wildlife habitat. Farmers' and ranchers' participation in CRP continues to provide numerous benefits to our nation, including helping reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases and providing resiliency to future weather changes.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides nearly \$2 billion annually to land owners—dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs. When these direct benefits are taken together with the resulting economic activity, the benefits related to CRP are estimated at \$3.1 billion annually," said Vilsack. "Over the past 30 years, CRP has created major environmental improvements throughout the countryside. The program has removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere equal to removing nine million cars from the road annually, and prevented 600 million dump trucks of soil from erosion. With today's announcement, USDA is continuing these achievements by maximizing

conservation benefits within the limitations provided by law."

This was one of the most selective sign-up periods in CRP's 30-year history, with a record high Environmental Benefits Index cut-off and the lowest-percentage of applications accepted. The high bar means that the per-acre conservation benefits are being maximized and that acres enrolled address multiple conservation priorities simultaneously.

A nationwide acreage limit was established for this program in the 2014 Farm Bill, capping the total number of acres that may be enrolled at 24 million for fiscal years 2017 and 2018. At the same time, USDA has experienced a record demand from farmers and ranchers interested in participating in the voluntary program. As of March 2016, 23.8 million acres were enrolled in CRP, with 1.7 million acres set to expire this fall.

Over three million acres have been offered for enrollment this year across the three main categories within CRP, with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) receiving over 26,000 offers to enroll more than 1.8 million acres during the general enrollment period, and over 4,600 offers to enroll more than one million acres in the new CRP Grasslands program. Coming off a record-setting 2015 continuous enrollment of over 860,000 acres, more than 364,000 acres already have been accepted for 2016 in the CRP continuous enrollment, triple the pace of last year.

FSA will accept 411,000 acres in general enrollment, the

most competitive selection in the history of the program, with the acreage providing record high conservation benefits. USDA selected offers by weighing environmental factors plus cost, including wildlife enhancement, water quality, soil erosion, enduring benefits, and air quality.

The results of the first-ever enrollment period for CRP Grasslands, FSA will also accept 101,000 acres in the program, providing participants with financial assistance for establishing approved grasses, trees and shrubs on pasture and rangeland that can continue to be grazed. More than 70 percent of these acres are diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, and more than 97 percent of the acres have a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer. FSA continues to accept CRP Grasslands offers and will conduct another ranking period later this year. Acres are ranked according to current and future use, new and underserved producer involvement, maximum grassland preservation, vegetative cover, pollinator habitat and various other environmental factors.

Participants in CRP establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees (known as "covers") to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. Contract duration is between 10 and 15 years.

CRP is currently protecting more than 100,000 acres of bottomland hardwood trees, nearly 300,000 acres of flood-plain wetlands, and 300,000 acres each for duck nesting habitat and nearly 250,000 acres of upland bird habitat. In addition, CRP is creating economic benefits that include at least \$545 million per year in recreation benefits and water quality benefits from reduced sedimentation of \$587 million per year.

Throughout the Obama Administration, USDA has generated thousands of critical partnerships to conserve and protect our natural resources on working landscapes, while enrolling a record number of acres in conservation programs. Seventy-percent of the nation's land is owned and tended to privately, and America's farmers, ranchers and landowners have willingly stepped up to address the growing impacts of a changing climate. With USDA's support, they work to implement voluntary practices that improve air and water quality, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat.

Since 2009, USDA has invested more than \$29 billion to help producers make conservation improvements, working with as many as 500,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide.

To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation or contact a local FSA county office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Budget from A1

able residents; and safer, cleaner roadways and sidewalks."

Overall, 63% of the FY17 budget, \$1.9 billion, has been appropriated for education, which exceeds the Maintenance of Effort state mandate by \$21 million. Additionally, beginning with the FY2017 Budget, 50-percent of MGM National Harbor gaming/tax revenue reserved for education established under CB-33-2015, will be reallocated

to support Pre-K through 12; Prince George's Community College; career training; and County libraries.

The newly-adopted spending plan also provides an additional \$1.5 million for a total \$2.5 million in FY2017 funding to assist domestic violence victims and support families, including children.

"These Council-added resources bolster front-end investment in a continuum of services aimed at addressing

domestic violence, and will coordinate the efforts of the entire community—County Government agencies, law enforcement, the soon-to-open Family Justice Center, and the faith-based, business and nonprofit communities to comprehensively address the scourge of domestic violence and save lives in Prince George's County," said Chair Davis.

In bi-county budget action earlier this month, lawmakers from Prince George's and Mont-

gomery counties unanimously adopted the FY17 Operating and Capital budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). Both Councils approved the WSSC FY2017 Operating and Capital budgets of \$1.4 billion which includes a 3-percent rate increase for water and sewer customers.

The Prince George's Post
301.627.0900