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## Library Access for Every PG County Student

By Kathleen Teaze

One of the most exciting initiatives to come to Prince George's County in recent years is LINK, which stands for Leap Into New Knowledge. As a result of a partnership between the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), Prince George's County Public Schools, the County Executive and the County Council, every public school student in grades K-12 will now have a library account and free access to all of PGCMLS' services, both within its 19 branches and digitally.

LINK accounts for students reflect what libraries have become, no longer plastic library cards, but access to our many services online from anywhere. A student ID



PHOTO COURTESY BONNIE HENESON  
Kathleen Teaze is CEO of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System.

number is all a student will need to access all library services.

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## Hoyer Visits Maryland Start-Up Company FlexEl, Discusses New Make It In America Plan

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office Steny Hoyer

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) visited FlexEl, a custom battery manufacturer based in College Park, Maryland, to discuss the new Make It In America plan launched last month. Founded as a startup at the University of Maryland in 2008, FlexEl is a U.S.-based tech manufacturer and has created dozens of high-skilled jobs

in Prince George's County. "FlexEl is exactly the type of company we need to see more of—one that is innovating and creating jobs here in the U.S.," said Congressman Hoyer. "That's why I announced a new Make It In America plan last month to encourage entrepreneurship and the growth of start-up companies. I was pleased to tour

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PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE  
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman, Team EDC and 70 Local Business Owners Welcome Minister Sandile Tyini from the Embassy of South Africa.

## EDC Hosts Embassy of South Africa

South Africa Minister of Economics Tells Local Companies "Doing Business with South Africa Opens Access to the Continent of Africa"

By LORI VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On July 21st, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and his International Business Development Team had the opportunity to meet with the Embassy of South Africa Minister of Economics for an open discussion about trade and business opportunities. More than 70 business owners came out to hear from key officials with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the EDC's International Business Development Division as they talked about the valuable resources available to local companies who are serious about taking advan-

tage of business opportunities in South Africa.

"This is how we do things in Prince George's County," said Coleman. "County Executive Baker has commissioned the EDC to target high growth countries and explore opportunities for business, investment and economic partnership. Together, with our growth partners at the federal and State level, we are bringing local companies millions of dollars in trade and business that can literally change their lives and the lives of the County residents they will be able to hire. South Africa is just the beginning."

Attendees at this exclusive event heard from Mr. Coleman and his international team who highlighted the benefits of international compa-

nies doing business with Prince George's County and discussed how important international trade missions are for the local economy.

The highlight of the event came with the remarks from the Honorable Sandile Tyini, Minister of Economics from the Embassy of South Africa who talked about the business opportunities that are available to U.S. companies in South Africa.

"There is ample opportunity for trade and investment in South Africa, particularly in the areas of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, research and development, green energy and business processing. Doing business with South Africa serves as an entry point to the 700 million residents throughout the entire continent of

Africa," said Minister Tyini. "Today was an excellent event. I was overwhelmed by the reception, the attendance and the attention to my presentation. I was also impressed by the services and resources the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation has available to its local businesses. We look forward to doing business with Prince George's County."

The panel of speakers received many questions about steps to partnering with local businesses in South Africa and the government of South Africa on investments and development projects. Attendees were very excited about the prospects

See SOUTH AFRICA Page A5

## EDC "Evangelist" Jim Coleman Address Victory Promenade Homeowners Association

By LORI VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LANDOVER, MD—EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was the guest speaker for the Victory Promenade Homeowner Association meeting. Residents interested in the development plans for the Landover area came out to learn what the County is doing to encourage commercial development. Mr. Coleman was joined by Prince George's Planning Department Division Chief Derick Berlage who told the group about the land-use plans to develop more mixed-use communities along the Central Avenue Corridor. Mr. Coleman spoke about the significant interest that Prince George's County was receiving from national and international commercial and retail companies looking to build in the County.

"A powerful value proposition, along with County Executive Baker's streamlining of the permitting process, ethics reform and a laser focus on crime reduction, are the tipping points that are giving developers con-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI VALENTINE  
(EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman (r) and Prince George's Planning Division Chief Derick Berlage addressing home owners at Victory Promenade HOA Meeting.

fidence in Prince George's County," said Coleman. "Our residents deserve more retail, better grocery options and companies that provide high wage jobs. Better jobs bring better retailers—that's what we go after every day."

Coleman elaborated on the EDC's goal to develop innovative economic development solutions to assist the revitalization of commercial areas in the MD 202 Corridor. He also

shared that the County is developing and executing a strategy for transit-oriented, mixed-use development adjacent to the Metro station to take advantage of its strategic location within the County.

Also in attendance at the meeting were State Senator Joanne C. Benson, President of the Victory Promenade Homeowners Association Keith Adams, EDC Executive Vice President Pradeep Ganguly and

EDC Economic Development Director David Lewis.

"We are honored and delighted to have EDC President Jim Coleman attend our meeting this evening," said Adams. "It is important to our residents to know what is going on in their neighborhoods and to know that the County is interested in their opinions. We hope

See EVANGELIST Page A5

## Fort Washington Sailor Participates in World's Largest International Maritime Warfare Exercise

By PRESS OFFICER  
Navy Office of  
Community Outreach

PEARL HARBOR, HI—A 2011 Crossland High School graduate and Fort Washington, Maryland native is serving in the U.S. Navy and is participating in the world's largest international maritime warfare exercise, the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC).

Seaman Danielle Thomas is a personnel specialist aboard USS San Diego, currently operating out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

A Navy personnel specialist is responsible for the processing of all paperwork for the over 400 sailors on board including information for their transfers, retirements, awards and more.

"I'm enjoying Hawaii and the beaches and sun," said Thomas. "I'm looking forward to meeting new people. I've already had a chance to meet some sailors from New Zealand and the embarked Canadians."



PHOTO COURTESY NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
Seaman Danielle Thomas

According to Navy officials, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2016 is the 25th exercise

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### INSIDE

#### "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" Traffic Increasing on Some Parts of the Capital Beltway, Decreasing on Others

Perhaps the Intercounty Connector, Maryland's first all-electronic toll road, is siphoning more traffic off the Beltway, perhaps more drivers are seeking alternate routes, or they are telecommuting more to avoid the infamous gridlock.

Community, Page A3

#### Changing Our Racial Narrative

The great evil of American slavery was the ideology of White supremacy that we made up to legitimize the way we treated people of color, and we didn't deal with that ... And because of that, I don't think slavery ended in 1865. I think it just evolved. It turned into decades of terrorism and violence.

Commentary, Page A4

#### MGM National Harbor Set to Introduce Two Innovative Nightlife and Entertainment Venues

Masi and the Clique team partnered with KNA Design to conceive Felt Bar & Lounge, a dashing cocktail spot with an outdoor terrace featuring striking views of the nation's capital, as well as Blossom Bar & Lounge, a sexy space at the heart of the casino floor.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Captain Fantastic

In the end, Ben finds a middle ground where the family can live by certain principles while still functioning in the real world. It's a thoughtful conclusion to a multi-layered, gently (and not-so-gently) humorous film that forces us as viewers to consider our own beliefs.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How far along are we on efforts to support large numbers of people on the moon or other planets if our population gets too big or we ruin the environment here on Earth?

—Barbara Christie,  
Hull, MA

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return on September 1, 2016

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Clinton United Methodist Church members Marcus Long, Regan E. Denbow, Rosamond Panda, Brian Harper, Anna Tucker, Diamond Hall, Emeke Mbakwe, Ben Caple, Karl Pinkney, Valentine Grant, Donovan Joiner, Kevin Augustus, James V. Dorsett, Norville Hughes, Kourtney Diane Sims, Esther Neckere, Carlton Williams, Georgia Kinard, Jamice Moore and Denia Parelta who are celebrating their birthdays in August.

#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to Clinton United Methodist Church members Elton & Janet Smalling, Wayne & Beverly Baker, Roy & Shela Sedgwick, John & Pamela Stahl, Cameron & Betty Rivers, Umaru & Mariama Davies, William & Judy Terry who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries in August.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bishop Dr. Harry L. Seawright, 9th Episcopal District and Rev. Sherita M. Seawright, Episcopal Supervisor, 9th Episcopal District. Bishop Seawright and Supervisor

Sherita Moon Seawright will preside over the 9th Episcopal District in the state of Alabama.

Bishop Dr. Harry L. Seawright became the 133rd elected and consecrated bishop of the A.M.E Church and Rev. Sherita became the Episcopal Supervisor for the Women's Missionary Society.

#### PRAYER BREAKFAST

United Methodist Men Washington East District Prayer Breakfast Meeting, "Men Boldly Living God," will be September 17, 2016 at Union United Methodist Church. The address is 14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Donation is \$12.00. Please RSVP by August 26, WED President Cary Montgomery, (301) 627-0028 or cman77all@verizon.net.

#### CRAB BOSS

Prince George's County Entrepreneur Lenell Watson A.K.A, The Crab Boss is on the rise with a new location in Brandywine, Maryland. The CrabBoss serves Florida style seafood topped with their famous Crab Boss sauce. County Councilman Mel Franklin attended the Crab Boss ribbon cutting ceremony August 5, 2016. The address is 14125 Brandy-

wine Rd., Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Hours of operation are Wednesdays thru Saturdays.

#### CAR & BIKE SHOW

New Hope Fellowship presents a Car & Bike Show August 27, 2016. Location is Department of Maryland Southern Maryland District Youth camp 9201 Surratts Road, Cheltenham, Maryland 20623. Trophies awarded in multiple categories. All final decisions are made by the Judges.

There will be food and music. Vendor space available is \$30 request via email: NMUMC@msn.com. Hot Dog, Chip and Drink costs \$3, Fish Dinner and Chicken Dinners cost \$10.00 each. water or Soda cost \$1.00. Cost: Car participants pay \$25, Bike participants pay \$15, spectators pay \$5 (free for children 10 and under). Registration is 9: 00 AM-12 (Noon). Judging starts at 12:15 PM. Awards at 3:15 PM. Spectators are welcome all day. Contact NMUMC@msn.com or cgbrown15@verizon.net or iimwilliams@gmail.com or w.moze@att.net. Rev. Constance C. Smith, Pastor. Bring a Can Good to benefit the homeless and the needy in the Greater Baden Area.

## Council Approves Charter Amendment Placing Question for At-Large Council Seats on November General Election Ballot

*Voters to Decide on Proposed At-Large Council Seats*

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

The Prince George's County Council, on July 19 during the final Council session before August recess, voted to approve Council Bill 40-2016, legislation placing the question regarding a proposed amendment to the County Charter on the November General Election ballot that provides for the election of two additional members to the County Council to serve at-large.

The Charter Amendment will be placed on the ballot in the following form:

To provide for the election of council members by district

and at large, to change the composition of the County Council to a system of nine district members and two at large members, and to provide that a Council Member who has been elected to two consecutive terms of office as a district member shall be eligible to be elected as an at-large member.

In other action, the Council unanimously supported Council Bill 41-2016, legislation addressing situations where the County Executive and the County Council may have differing or competing legal interests. CB-41-2016 proposes a Charter amendment to provide that in the event the

County Attorney determines there is a conflict of interest between the executive and legislative branches on matters requiring legal services and advice, both branches will engage outside counsel. The proposed Charter Amendment will be placed on the November General Election ballot.

To view Council Bill 40-2016 and related information, including "Frequently Asked Questions," visit the website at <https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2750252&GUID=95C47151-8705-4C89-852B-5CBCCA04D36D&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=CB-40>.

## Savvy Commuters, County Partnerships Key to Managing Metrorail SafeTrack Surge

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—The second Metrorail safety surge that took place from June 18th through July 3rd closed several stations along the Orange, Blue and Silver Lines and had a considerable impact on commuters in Prince George's County. "I thank the residents of Prince George's County for their patience during the SafeTrack Surge, and commend them for their diligence in planning and preparing for it. They did exactly what was asked of them, and that was key to us navigating through it successfully," said County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III.

The actions of commuters were supplemented through County partnerships that brought additional service options. "We were pleased to have been able to partner with the University of Mary-

land and Transdev to provide alternative transportation options that diverted commuters from impacted rail lines during Surge 2. The shuttles we established through them were able to quickly move travelers and significantly reduce potential delays," said, Darrell B. Mobley, Director, Prince George's County Public Works and Transportation Department.

The shuttles were an important part of a coordinated County SafeTrack Action plan focusing on reducing overall system usage, diverting commuters from impacted areas and promoting alternative transportation options.

- County SafeTrack Street Teams distributed over 40,000 pieces of alternative transportation planning information to commuters at Metro stations.

- Northern shuttle diverted approximately 3,700 passenger trips from the Orange Line at New Car-

rolton to the Green Line Station at Greenbelt.

- Southern shuttle diverted approximately 3,300 passenger trips from the Blue Line at Largo to the Green Line at Suitland.

- Estimated shuttle costs of approximately \$180,000.

In addition to meeting SafeTrack surge needs many travelers found that they actually prefer their newly discovered routes. "Commuters reacted very favorably and some have indicated that they plan to continue to utilize the alternative routes that they discovered during the surge in the future," said Baker.

The next Metrorail surge that will impact the County will be a smaller single tracking operation scheduled for later this fall. The full Prince George's County SafeTrack action plan can be found at [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov). Search: SAFETRACK

## Neighborhoods

### WSSC Kicks Off Water Theft Prevention Program

Laurel, MD—Water is stolen on a regular basis from WSSC. While it's difficult to nail down the exact amount, WSSC estimates that 145 million gallons of water were stolen in just the past year.

To put that in perspective, WSSC produces at least 155 million gallons of water each day to serve our 1.8 million customers. The price tag on the stolen water? Between \$500,000 and \$1 million per year, depending on the tier in our billing structure.

Today WSSC, in partnership with the Montgomery and Prince George's County fire chiefs held a media briefing in the Bentley Park Community of Laurel to kick off a Water Theft Prevention Program.

All too often, hoses are illegally hooked up to fire hydrants to fill up swimming pools, for landscaping purposes, mobile car washes or use at construction sites and neighborhood carnivals.

"Stealing water is a crime," said WSSC Police Chief Harvey Baker. "Our police force is committed to raising awareness about water theft and enforcing the law."

WSSC maintains nearly 42,000 fire hydrants in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. WSSC fire hydrants have a grey body with a green top. Hoses illegally connected to hydrants allow people to steal water. By doing so, the hydrants are often improperly operated, which can affect public safety.

"When there's a fire, it's critical that we have access to fire hydrants in good working order," said Chief Scott Goldstein, Montgomery County Fire & Rescue. "We are in constant communication with WSSC about the status of hydrants."

"If people tamper with fire hydrants and they don't work when we need them, that can be a matter of life and death," said Chief Marc Bashoor, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. "WSSC works closely with firefighters to ensure we know the proper way to operate hydrants."

Opening or closing a fire hydrant too quickly can cause nearby water mains to rupture. That impacts the pressure and the water available to fight fires.

Customers who suspect someone is illegally obtaining water from a WSSC fire hydrant should report it to the WSSC Police at 301-206-8888.

Potable water can be legally purchased from a WSSC fire hydrant by using a fire hydrant meter. WSSC leases meters to individuals and businesses on a limited basis. The meter allows for the purchase of water without paying the sewer charges. For more information, please visit [wsscwater.com/hydrantuse](http://wsscwater.com/hydrantuse).

Water tanker trucks that fill up from fire hydrants on a regular basis have meters installed on the trucks and often display a WSSC permit sticker on the side of the truck.

#### Giant Nutritionists Offer Tips on How to Build a Better Lunch

LANDOVER, MD—To help families stay healthy and keep kids fueled during the busy summer season, Giant Food of Landover, Md.

offers tips to build a better lunch for camps and other summer activities now—or for school lunches in the fall. With guidance from ChooseMyPlate.gov, Giant's licensed in-store nutritionists have prepared five tips, illustrated in a new infographic, that can serve as a reminder to keep healthy choices top of mind when feeding your family.

"Parents are looking for easy ways to pack healthier lunches for their children," said Lisa Coleman, Lead Nutritionist, Giant Food of Landover, Md. "Giant's nutritionist soffer tips to help busy families on the go to save time, save money, and eat well"

Follow these tips to build a better lunch:

- Choose a grain. Whole grain bread, wraps, crackers, pasta, and cereal are all nutritious options.

- Add a protein. These can include deli turkey, chicken, tuna salad, a hard-boiled egg, nut or seed butters, beans or hummus.

- Include a fruit and veggie. Add color to your child's lunchbox with carrot sticks, tomatoes, cucumber slices, apples, oranges or raisins. Each color provides a different health benefit.

- Including a dairy food or dairy alternative such as low fat cheese, Greek yogurt, cottage cheese, or milk.

- Healthy lunch boxes can include something sweet, too. Include a small treat, sticker or note on a napkin to brighten your child's day and create excitement at lunchtime.

For fast, fresh and easy meal ideas, pick up the latest edition of Giant's *Savory* magazine during your next trip to your local store. Families are also encouraged to reach out to their local Giant nutritionist for individualized nutrition recommendations and meal planning:

**Lisa Coleman,**  
MS, RD, LDN  
York Road Giant  
Timonium, MD  
[lisa.coleman@giantfood.com](mailto:lisa.coleman@giantfood.com)  
(410) 308-9791

**Leslie Jefferson,**  
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(301) 306-0498

**MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Introduces New Doctor, Walid M. Chalhoub, M.D.**  
*Dr. Chalhoub brings a New Service Line of Gastroenterology to Area*

CLINTON, MD—Prior to the mid-July arrival of Dr. Walid M. Chalhoub, patients at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center (MSMHC) who were experiencing abdominal pain related to their internal organs or several types of gastrointestinal diseases, would have to be transferred to another facility to meet with a gastroenterology (GI) physician specialist. With this new addition to MSMHC's staff, the facility is able to treat these patients in this specialty, which is expected to grow at MSMHC in the coming years.

Gastroenterology deals with diseases of the gut, liver, pancreas, esophagus, colon and small intestine. It also deals with Crohn's Disease,

Biliary Disease and cancer. Because of this broad range, the GI specialty is in-demand, since many people experience gastrointestinal conditions, requiring procedures as relatively simple as polyp removal to complex procedures requiring surgery for pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Chalhoub comes to MSMHC from MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, where he currently serves on faculty as an advanced gastroenterologist. He will split his time between both facilities, with the majority of his time being spent at MSMHC. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Chalhoub at MSMHC, call 301-877-4599.

To introduce Dr. Chalhoub to the MSMHC community, he will host an "Ask the Doctor" seminar on "Diagnosing Chronic Stomach Pain" on August 17, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in MSMHC's Meeting Room. This free seminar will help attendees understand the causes of abdominal pain, how problems are diagnosed and proposed treatments. Participants are also able to participate in a question and answer session with Dr. Chalhoub following his remarks. Interested community members can call 855-546-1058 to sign-up for this free seminar. Registration is required.

Dr. Chalhoub is licensed to practice in New York, D.C., Virginia and Maryland. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Board Eligible in Gastroenterology. He is a Member of the American College of Gastroenterology, the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the American Medical Association. Dr. Chalhoub is the author of numerous research studies and is fluent in English, French and Arabic and is proficient in medical Spanish.

Dr. Chalhoub earned a bachelor's degree in biology from American University in Beirut, Lebanon and an M.D. from the University of Balamand in Lebanon. His residency took place at Mount Sinai in New York City and he worked as Attending Physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He lives in Virginia with his wife and their three children.



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR  
**Dr. Walid M. Chalhoub**

About MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center:

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, a 192 bed full-service hospital serving the Washington, D.C., metro and Southern Maryland areas, was founded in 1977 and joined MedStar Health in December, 2012. Throughout the hospital's history, it has remained a community leader, a strong supporter of health care education and a dedicated advocate for quality health care services.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### 10 Tips for Becoming a Knowledgeable Renter

On the hunt for a new apartment? A move can be an exciting opportunity to explore a new area or meet new people. However, competitive rental markets can make it difficult to find a desirable place on a budget.

Keep these ten tips in mind to manage the process like a pro. They'll help you stand out from the crowd, get a good deal, enjoy the neighborhood and manage your rights and responsibilities as a renter.



**1. Talk to Other Tenants.** Speak with current or past renters to get a sense for the building and landlord. Ask about the neighborhood, noise, timeliness with repairs and any other pressing questions. Consider looking for online reviews of the landlord as well, and research the neighborhood.

**2. Upgrade Your Application.** Go beyond the basic application requirements and include pictures, references, credit reports and a short bio about yourself and whoever else may be moving in. Try to catch the landlord's eye and show that you'll take care of the property. You can order a free credit report from each bureau (Equifax, TransUnion and Experian) once every 12 months at AnnualCreditReport.com.

**3. Understand Your Lease.** The lease may list the rent amount, terms of the security deposit, guest policies and other crucial details. Read it carefully and ask questions if you don't understand something. State laws regarding rent control or other regulations can impact your situation as well. If you can afford one, you could hire a lawyer to review and explain the lease.

**4. Negotiate the Terms.** You can't always negotiate lower rent (it's worth trying), but there may be flexibility when it comes to the security deposit, parking spaces, administrative fees, or the lease's length.

**5. Learn Your Rights.** Protect yourself by learning about your rights as a renter. They can vary by state, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a directory with links to tenants' rights websites for each state.

**6. Do a Walkthrough.** Walk through the apartment with the landlord, look for damages and document anything you find. You'll thank yourself later when you move out and ask for your full security deposit back.

**7. Consider Renters Insurance.** Renters insurance costs about \$15 to \$30 a month for a policy that covers \$50,000 worth of losses. It reimburses you if your belongings are stolen, damaged or destroyed by a covered cause, such as a fire. The insurance also helps pay for legal fees if, for instance, someone sues after getting injured at your home.

**8. Make Your Own Repairs.** Prior to signing the lease, ask if you can take on some of the maintenance responsibilities in exchange for reduced rent. You could offer to handle and pay for basic upkeep, such as replacing lights or smoke detectors, and making minor repairs.

**9. Pay Attention to Bills.** Evaluate which bills you'll pay in addition to the rent, such as gas, heat, water, electricity, trash, Wi-Fi or parking. A more expensive apartment that includes these can save you money overall.

**10. Talk to Your Landlord.** Hiding financial trouble helps no one. Talk to your landlord and ask for an extension if you can't make rent. Good tenants can be hard to come by, and your landlord will likely prefer open communication and a late check to being left in the dark.

**Bottom Line:** Being an informed renter is especially important in a competitive rental market. Take simple steps to improve your rental and money management skills and you'll benefit for years to come.

### Access from A1

This innovative initiative is a no-cost way to remove barriers and give our students throughout the county access to additional resources that will help them to improve educational outcomes. We want to give students access to the tools that will help them succeed. It has been shown that early readers and library users become lifelong learners.

Access to the many resources the library has to offer will complement the schools' resources. Even if parents have transportation or scheduling difficulties with getting a child to a library branch, the library's online resources will be available to students, opening up a whole new digital world that includes homework help, tutoring, reference material, book recommendations by grade, e-books, children and teen movies, magazines and so much more.

Students visiting any one of our branches, in addition to taking out books and using computers within the branches, will be

able to take advantage of the many programs, activities and clubs for children and teens available. To make it even more appealing for parents wanting their children to use the library, there will be no fines for late or lost books or other fees for students. All library services, including all digital services, are free.

Prince George's County is unique in the state as we are one of the first counties to launch this initiative allowing every student to use their student ID number to be enrolled in the library-user database. Students wishing to have an actual library card will be able to receive one by visiting any library branch.

This is the perfect example of what can be accomplished to benefit a community when different agencies work together. We are very grateful for the support and enthusiasm of both the county executive and county council as well as the PGCPSS for partnering with us to ensure that Prince George's County's 120,000 school children will benefit from lifelong library users.

## “Will the Circle Be Unbroken?” Traffic Increasing on Some Parts of the Capital Beltway, Decreasing on Others

*Things Go From Bad to Worse on Some Stretches of the Iconic Interstate Highway*

By PRESS OFFICER  
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D. C.—It is hard to believe, but traffic volumes are actually decreasing, in some cases lessening by 23,000 to 25,000 fewer vehicles each day, on some critical hot spots along the Capital Beltway in Maryland, as was the case from 2009 to 2015. Yet the busiest segments along the Maryland portion of the 64-mile ring road route got even busier, by as much as 27,000 to 30,000 more vehicles a day in the selfsame seven-year period. That's especially true at the interchanges near the National Harbor and the 270 Spur, an analysis of Maryland traffic volume data by AAA Mid-Atlantic reveals.

All in all, traffic patterns decreased dramatically each day for motorists traveling clockwise and counterclockwise on seven out of ten key corridors or interchanges on the Capital Beltway in Montgomery County from 2009 to 2015. During the same time, traffic volumes also decreased day-to-day on half—ten out of 20—traffic counting locations on Capital Beltway interchanges in Prince George's County. That is according to a review by AAA Mid-Atlantic of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) data tabulated by the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA).

Perhaps the Intercounty Connector (ICC/MD 200), Maryland's first all-electronic toll road, is siphoning more traffic off the Beltway, perhaps more drivers are seeking alternate routes, or they are telecommuting more to avoid the infamous gridlock on the Beltway. But whatever the reason, it is happening although Maryland hasn't added any new lane capacity in years or Express Lanes to its portion of the Capital Beltway (I-495) like Virginia has undertaken. Traffic volume data is collected from over 8,700 program count stations and 91 ATRs, located throughout Maryland.

“Congestion and traffic volumes have increased almost 318 percent on some critical sections of the Capital Beltway since parts of it opened back nearly six decades ago,” said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. “The lion's share of the Capital Beltway runs 41.7 miles in Maryland, compared to 22.1 miles in Virginia. Motorists are experiencing some big bottlenecks in critical spots on the inner loop and outer loop of the Beltway in Maryland and drivers are also finding unprecedented relief in other segments of the circumferential highway in Maryland.”

### FlexEl from A1

FlexEl today and to discuss how the Make It In America plan aims to ensure that entrepreneurs have access to the tools and resources they need to be successful.”

“We are building an innovative eco-system that is dramatically expanding our network of partnerships with the public and private sector,” said Dr. Wallace Loh, President of the University of Maryland. “FlexEl, which originated with the research of

### Take Me to the River.

The Potomac River serves as the line of demarcation for some of the biggest bottlenecks on the Capital Beltway in Maryland, especially at the interchanges nearest the American Legion Memorial Bridge between Montgomery County and Fairfax County and at the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge spanning the river from Prince George's County to Alexandria, Virginia. Consider the sheer volume of vehicles traveling per day along the Capital Beltway interchange from River Road (Maryland 190) to the spur with Interstate 270 (I-270Y). It leapfrogged by nearly 30,000 vehicles per day from 2009 to 2015, as congestion-plagued motorists wasted more fuel, money and the most precious commodity of all, time, whiling away the hours in gridlock.

Traffic volumes also surged by nearly 27,000 additional vehicles per day during the seven-year period on the stretch of the Capital Beltway near the Potomac River from the I-95/I-295/I-495 Interchange near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to the Maryland 210 (Indian Head Highway) Interstate Interchange, according to Maryland's traffic recorder data. The interstate interchanges on I-95/I-495 on the Maryland side of the river were widened in a \$250 million project “to accommodate six highway lanes in each direction in an express/local configuration from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to west of MD 210.” The National Harbor lies to the south, the I-95/MD 210 Interchange lies to the east.

The traffic volume also spiked by nearly 12,000 additional vehicles per day for automobile commuters on I-495, the Capital Beltway, from the Clara Barton Parkway to River Road (MD 190) “paralleling the Potomac River in southwest Montgomery County,” according to AAA Mid-Atlantic's analysis of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) calculations by the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA). It jumped from 214,000 automobiles a day in 2009 to 232, 555 vehicles daily in 2015, a 5.3% change.

In stark contrast, the number of motorists traversing the Capital Beltway/I-495 from the Wisconsin Avenue exit (Maryland 355) to the Connecticut Avenue exit (Maryland 185) dropped by nearly 27,000 vehicle trips day after day in the past seven years. It comprises an 11 percent daily declension in traffic volume on the Beltway exits nearest the Bethesda Naval Center, traffic estimates show. The daily traffic count hovered around 239,000 vehicles each day from 2009 to 2011 before plummeting to 219,770 vehicles daily in 2012 (for an eight percent decrease).

two UMD professors, is a terrific example of this integration of academics and industry. Working alongside community leaders, this eco-system will drive job creation, innovation, and economic development throughout the region.”

Jean-Francois Audebert, President & CEO of FlexEl, said: “FlexEl, which originated from UMD's research eco-system, is a testimony of how successful is the combination of engineers' fearless ideas, the support of the UMD small

Suddenly, traffic then nose-dived to 212,690 vehicles last year in 2015. That big decline emerged on the heels of an uptick to nearly 220,000 vehicles a day in 2013 and 2014, the latest Traffic Volume Trends (TVT) report from Maryland SHA reveals.

Despite jeremiads and prophecies of gridlock doom and gloom on the Capital Beltway (I-495), there are other signs of improvement in congestion on the vintage 60-year old-plus roadway, wending from the Old Georgetown Road interchange (MD 187) in Bethesda down to the Maryland Route 193 partial cloverleaf interchange near University Boulevard.

For instance, the number of daily vehicle trips dropped from almost 231,000 vehicles trip in 2009 to 206,000 vehicle trips daily in 2015 on the Capital Beltway (I-495), east of Washington, D.C. in Prince George's County, from I-595/US 50 (the John Hanson Parkway) to MD 450 (Annapolis Road), according to the AADT database from the Maryland SHA. Overall, it constitutes a decrease of 25,000 vehicles each day for a 10.8 percent decline. AADT is the typical daily traffic measured by automatic traffic recorders on a road segment for all the days in a week, over a one-year period.

From 2009 to 2015, traffic volume decreased by 23,480 vehicles per day, a 10.6 percent declension, along the I-95/I-495 concurrency in Prince George's County, Maryland, from MD 295 (Baltimore Washington Parkway) to the “partial cloverleaf interchange” at Maryland Route 201 in Greenbelt, as AADT estimates reflect. The AADT estimates are derived by taking 48-hour machine count data and applying factors from permanent count stations.

Yet vehicular volume spiked by 10,335 vehicles per day, a 4.3 percent increase, from the MD 650 interchange, New Hampshire Avenue to the Prince George's line. “Daily vehicle miles traveled in the region are projected to grow by 37 percent by 2030, while freeway and arterial lane miles are projected to grow by only 16 percent,” transportation planners in the region have long presaged. “As a result, most of the beltway will reach ‘stop and go’ conditions, with average speeds less than 30 MPH.”

Day-in and day-out, motorists traveling from River Road to I-270 have been coping with a double digit increase, 13.4 percentage points, in the past seven-year period. In fact, vehicular traffic magnified from an estimated 220,000 vehicles per day in 2009 to nearly 250,000 vehicles each day in 2015. As area drivers know, intuit, and fear during the evening commute, “the inner loop of the Capital Beltway

between Virginia 7 and I-270” epitomizes severe congestion and perennially tops the list of “top three longest delay corridors.”

But things are “going to hell in a handbasket” or a “handcart,” for that matter, at the interchange with I-495 and I-270 inside Maryland. Traffic volume remained constant on the Capital Beltway to the auxiliary Interstate Highway corridor from 2009 until 2013, that's when the daily count skyrocketed nearly ten percent year over year to 244,020 motor vehicles in 2013 from 222,233 automobiles a year earlier in 2012, according to Maryland SHA daily traffic counts. In 2009, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) said “The 3.7-mile section of the Capital Beltway” between the American Legion Bridge and I-270 in Montgomery County carried “approximately 226,000 motorists per day.” I-270 “links Rockville and environs northwest to Frederick and I-70 West.”

The number of vehicles zipping along the Capital Beltway from I-295 to Maryland 210 skyrocketed from 141,180 vehicles each day in 2009 to 167,533 vehicles daily in 2015, notes AAA Mid-Atlantic. It comprises an 18.6 percentage increase in daily traffic volumes on a section of the iconic freeway that coined the idiomatic expression “Inside the Beltway.” A recent regional poll of the residents of Maryland, the District, and Virginia found 71 percent of those surveyed favor widening/redesigning the Maryland Beltway to add express-toll lanes and regional express-bus service (47% strongly), 11% are opposed (7% strongly).

Even so, the opinion poll found a large majority (70%) favor widening/redesigning I-270 as a multi-modal corridor in Maryland (47% strongly), only 10% are opposed (5% strongly). The poll was commissioned by the Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance (SMTA) and the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA) and released in April 2016. The survey also found 59% favor adding new express-toll lanes and regional express-bus service to the American Legion Bridge (36% strongly), 13% are opposed (7% strongly). The poll revealed 59 percent of those sampled favor building a new bridge crossing north of the American Legion Bridge (39% strongly), 11% are opposed (7% strongly).

When parts of the Capital Beltway opened to traffic in 1957, Maryland State Highway officials projected 55,000 vehicles would use “that state's portion of the Beltway” each day, reports the *Washingtonian*. “Today the busiest sections of the Beltway can average 200,000 to 225,000 vehicles a day.”

nologies leveraged in our current commercial developments. In our new state of the art facility we have now the floor space needed to start implementing commercial production of our batteries, providing FlexEl with the opportunity to become another dynamic player in the ‘Make It In America’ initiative. The team and I are very thankful and proud to host Congressman Hoyer in our home in College Park, and to

# COMMENTARY

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



### Hoyer Delivers Speech on How to Renew the American People's Faith in Government

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) delivered a speech this afternoon on how to renew the American people's faith in government. The speech, hosted by Georgetown University Law Center, The McCourt School of Public Policy, and The Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation, addressed the loss of confidence in government and explored ways Congress can restore the American people's faith and trust that government can work effectively on their behalf. Below are his remarks as prepared for delivery:

"Thank you, Dean Treanor and Sonal for that welcome and introduction. I'd like to thank Georgetown University Law Center, the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation, and the McCourt School of Public Policy for hosting me today.

"I'm glad to be addressing you at Georgetown. My time at Georgetown Law was an enriching and, as I recall, anxiety-provoking experience. While studying the law I also had the opportunity to see how our nation's laws are made up close as a congressional staffer. I had the chance to observe Congress at work at a time when its Members regularly came together across the aisle to get things done. And our people had faith that the government they elected was doing its job on their behalf.

"In a recent piece in the *Washington Post*, columnist Robert Samuelson wrote: 'A Pew poll late last year found that only 19% of people trust the government all or most of the time. It was not always so. In 1964, fully 77% of Americans answered the question positively ... Politics and government seem broken. There is a palpable

sense of betrayal. Voters are said to be angry. The sour climate suggests people believe the country isn't living up to its potential or, worse, the potential is declining.'

"As I've traveled across the country, meeting with workers, business owners, and community leaders, I've heard the same sentiment. Too many of our people believe that the American Dream is slipping away. They feel that all the hard work they've put in over the years won't be enough to ensure that their children have more opportunities and a better life.

"Americans are asking their government to listen, to help, to lead. Unfortunately, rational responses are too often drowned out by a cacophony of partisan confrontation. As a result, they've come to see government not as an ally to help them seize the opportunities our changing economy presents. Instead, it's seen as a roadblock, standing in the way and making it harder for the American people to build new opportunities together.

"In the past, when confronted with challenges like the ones we face today, Americans would use our democracy to demand action and hold their leaders accountable. Today, however, ordinary Americans feel left out.

"They watch as unrestricted money from wealthy donors and shadow groups crowd out their voices and as super PACs pour millions of undisclosed dollars from opaque interests into attack ads that blanket TV, radio, and the web. They see the victories of the Civil Rights Movement un-

See FAITH Page A5

## Barbara A. Mikulski United States Senator for Maryland



### Mikulski, Cardin Applaud Senate Confirmation of Nominee Dr. Carla Hayden

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin (both D-Md.) today applauded the Senate's confirmation of Dr. Carla Hayden to fill the vacancy of Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden is the 14th Librarian of Congress, and the first woman and first African American to hold the position.

"Our nation and its library will be well served with Dr. Carla Hayden as the next Librarian of Congress," Senator Mikulski said. "For more than 20 years, Dr. Hayden has proven herself as the Director of the Enoch Pratt Libraries. She is a skilled manager of large, complex projects, handling large budgets while avoiding techno-doggles and producing tangible results. From moving the Enoch Pratt into the digital age to managing rare collections, Dr. Hayden has shown she understands the transformative nature of what a library is. With Dr. Hayden at the helm, America's library will have an extremely qualified leader."

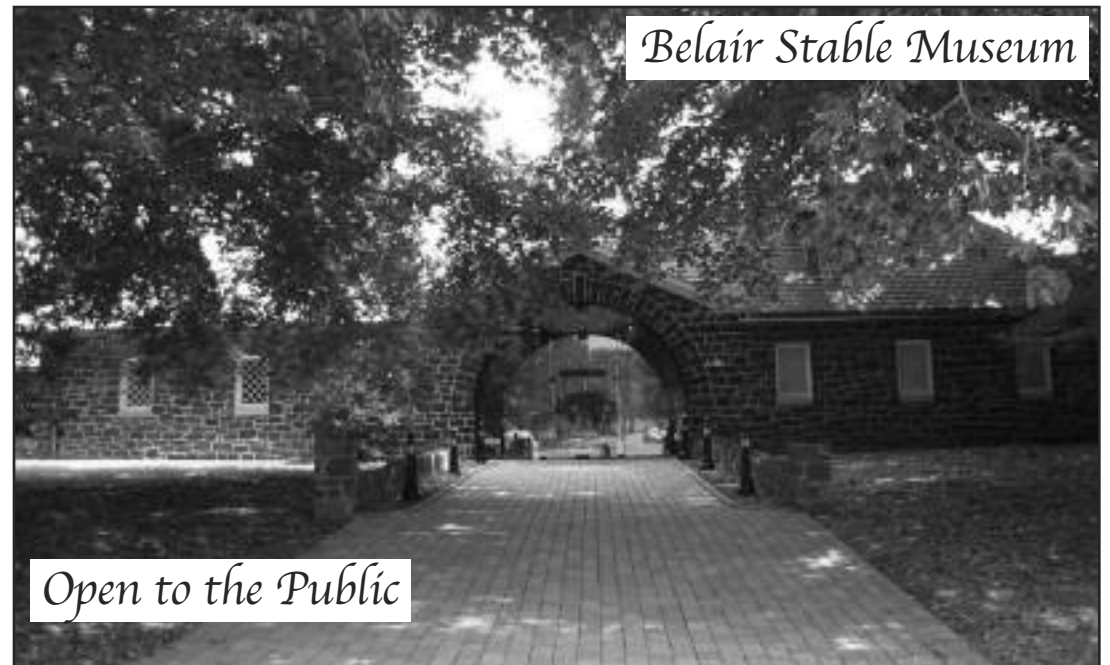
"I congratulate Dr. Hayden on her nomination as the 14th Librarian on Congress. Dr. Hayden's impressive career and diligent service to the people of Baltimore as CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library have prepared her well to serve as the guardian and curator of the world's greatest library," said Senator Cardin. "Dr. Hayden has been a cultural treasure to our city and a long-time,

passionate defender of America's libraries, ensuring access for all through her work to protect the free flow of information, civil rights and privacy protections. In the case of Dr. Hayden's historic confirmation, Baltimore's loss is America's gain."

In October, Senators Mikulski and Cardin wrote to President Obama in support of her nomination. A copy of that letter is available here.

#### DR. CARLA HAYDEN

Dr. Carla Hayden, of Baltimore, Maryland, has been the Director and CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library since 1993. Previously, she worked as a library service coordinator for the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago and taught as an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hayden returned to the Chicago Public Library, where she became the deputy commissioner and chief librarian before joining the Enoch Pratt Free Library as CEO. She received the Lippincott Award in 2013, and is the first African American to receive the Librarian of the Year award in 1995. In 2010, she was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve on the National Museum and Library Services Board and National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities. She received her B.A. from Roosevelt University and her Masters and PhD from the University of Chicago Graduate Library School.



Belair Stable Museum

Open to the Public

#### BELAIR STABLE MUSEUM

The Stable, built in 1907 by William Woodward, was part of the 20th century's famous "Belair Stud Stable," one of the country's premier stables from the 1920's through the 1950's. Belair was home to Gallant Fox (1930) and Omaha (1935)—the only father/son horses to capture Thoroughbred racing's famous Triple Crown Series. In 1955, Belair's Nashua, an incomparable champion, was Horse of the Year. Other champions, including Johnstown, Fighting Fox, and Vagrancy also called Belair home. Open Tuesday through Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. Tours for groups of 10 or more are available by appointment. Admission is free; donations are welcomed. For more information call 301-809-3089.

## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### Changing Our Racial Narrative

Bryan Stevenson, the brilliant founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, believes it's possible to change our nation and world despite the inequality and violence that sometimes threaten to overwhelm us. He's thought long and hard about the steps needed and believes a key to changing America's future is changing the narrative we tell ourselves about our shared past. This is especially true about our legacy of Native American genocide, slavery and Jim Crow, and the injustices throughout our history that linger and simmer under the surface then boil over again and again. He speaks often about the urgent need to confront our historic narrative including recently to young servant leaders preparing to teach children in Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® programs across America.

"There is a narrative that explains how we got here. Mass incarceration was created by policy decisions. We decided to deal with drug addiction and drug dependency as a crime issue rather than a health issue ... We didn't do that for alcoholism. We said, 'Alcoholism, that's a disease,' and now we don't have a consciousness that when we see an alcoholic going into a bar that we have to call the police—but we didn't do that for drug addiction. The reason why we didn't do that was because of a narrative. And there's a narrative of fear and anger out there."

He continued: "You see, there's a smog that's hovering in the air. It's a pollution created by our history of racial inequality ... We've got to talk about the fact that we are a post-genocidal society. There was a genocide on this continent. When White settlers came, they killed millions of Native people. It was a genocide where famine and war and disease destroyed a whole culture, and there are things you have to do to recover from genocide that we haven't done. And because we didn't deal with that, we created this narrative of racial difference that allowed us to tolerate slavery."

"And when we talk about slavery, we have to understand what we're talking about. I don't think the great evil of American

slavery was involuntary servitude and forced labor. I think the great evil of American slavery was the narrative of racial difference that we created to legitimate it. The great evil of American slavery was the ideology of White supremacy that we made up to legitimate the way we treated people of color, and we didn't deal with that ... And because of that, I don't think slavery ended in 1865. I think it just evolved. It turned into decades of terrorism and violence. And we've got to deal with what it's turned into."

"From the end of Reconstruction until World War II, people of color were terrorized, pulled out of their homes, lynched, burned alive, taken from jails, hanged, shot. Older people of color come up to me sometimes and say, 'Mr. Stevenson, I get angry when I hear somebody on TV talking about how we're dealing with domestic terrorism for the first time in our nation's history after 9/11.' They say, 'We grew up with terrorism. We had to worry about being bombed and lynched every day of our lives,' and we've got to tell that story."

"When I look at this country, I look at a country whose demographic geography was

shaped by terror. The Black people that are in Cleveland and Chicago and Detroit—those of you who live in these cities in the North and West, you need to understand how you got there. The Black people in New York and Boston and Cleveland and Chicago and Detroit and Los Angeles and Oakland didn't go to those communities as immigrants looking for new economic opportunities. They came to these communities as refugees and exiles from terror in the American South. And there are things you're supposed to do for refugees that we didn't do, and that turned into this era of segregation."

"And I have to tell you, I think we have to change the narrative of how we think and talk about civil rights ... I hear people talking about the Civil Rights Movement, and it sounds like a three-day carnival: On day one, Rosa Parks didn't give up her seat on a bus. On day two, Dr. King led a march on Washington, and on day three, we changed all the laws and racism was over. And we've got to change that narrative. Because the truth is that for decades in this country, we had

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## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Take Your Stress for a Walk in the Woods

Yes, today's world is a very hectic place. Our cities and towns are crowded with more people and traffic. Constantly-changing technology is always seeking our attention, and daily living has become more stressful. We are over-stimulated and often overwhelmed.

Most of us have learned to cope with our busy lives, but there is a price we are paying for the almost constant stress we face. We may appear to ignore a lot of the stimulation coming at us each day, but doing so takes almost constant unconscious effort. Studies have found that stressful environments can lead to anxiety and depression, and may also be at least part of the reason for headaches, drinking problems, and various other serious health issues.

So how do we deal with a world that is constantly making demands upon us? The simplest answer, according to many experts, is simply to get away from it all, even if just for a short time. While most of us don't want to move to some remote cabin, experts advise adding just a little nature to our daily lives can make an important difference.

Studies find that even small, simple changes help reduce stress. People who have worked in an office with no windows or just a view of a blank wall, report finding their work environment much more pleasant if they are able to look out and simply see a tree or two.

Something as easy as adding a potted plant or two to the area where you spend a good part of your day can also help reduce daily stress.

The biggest benefit appears to come from actually getting outdoors and into nature. Yes, a walk in the woods really can help soothe you and give you a break from a busy life. But there are also benefits from just taking a lunch time stroll through a nearby park or down a tree-lined street.

This time with nature isn't an opportunity to worry about the day's problems or upcoming issues, but rather a chance to actually listen to the quiet of nature, to admire the beauty of an old tree, or just to smile at those squirrels chasing one another.

No, a walk in the woods is not going to be a miracle cure for all of life's stresses, but it does give your mind a chance to relax and regroup, and that's a positive thing.

*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*

### Sailor from A1

in the series that began in 1971.

The theme of RIMPAC 2016 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners," Navy officials explained. The participating nations and forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting. The relevant, realistic training program includes amphibious operations, gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises, as well as counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal and diving and salvage operations.

The Department of the Navy's Great Green Fleet year-long initiative will also play a major role in RIMPAC. The initiative highlights global operations using energy conservation measures and alternative fuel blends to demonstrate how optimizing energy use increases resiliency and operational readiness. During RIMPAC, almost all participating units will operate using an approved alternate-fuel blend.

26 nations, 45 surface ships, 5 submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific Exercise. This year's exercise includes forces from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Den-

mark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a team within the ship doing the mission the nation expects us to be able to accomplish," said Capt. Carl Meuser, commanding officer aboard *USS San Diego*. "I enjoy leading young sailors and watching them develop, and not just as sailors, but as young men and women. RIMPAC has tremendous resources to support all of the platforms involved. Cruisers and destroyers will be shooting weapons, the air wing has evolutions going on and the Marines are out with us conducting amphibious operations."

"I like the people on board the *USS San Diego*," said Thomas.

Challenging living conditions build strong fellowship among the crew, Thomas explained. The crew is highly motivated, and quickly adapt to changing conditions. It is a busy life of specialized work, watches, and drills.

"Since joining the Navy, I've learned that I'm a pretty good leader," said Thomas.

Additional information about Rim of the Pacific Exercise is available on the website <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/>

### Evangelist from A1

that Mr. Coleman will join us again in the near future and keep us posted on development activity that impacts the Landover area."

For more information on business development assistance or expansion, contact the EDC Executive Vice President Pradeep Ganguly ([pganguly@co.pg.md.us](mailto:pganguly@co.pg.md.us)) at 301-583-4602.

## MGM National Harbor Set to Introduce Two Innovative Nightlife and Entertainment Venues

Renowned Las Vegas Nightlife Developer Clique Hospitality to Launch First East Coast Venues

By PRESS OFFICER  
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—MGM National Harbor revealed the first details of two venues certain to become the region's go-to hotspots for sophisticated socializing and inventive cocktails, all within the center of the action. The destination resort has tapped the trendsetting experts at Clique Hospitality to develop two distinct entertainment venues, Felt Bar & Lounge and Blossom Cocktail Lounge.

Clique, a boutique hospitality company led by nightlife impresario Andy Masi, has transformed the nightlife scene in Las Vegas with upscale concepts that set trends rather than follow them. Now the company will bring its expertise and creative forces to the banks of the Potomac with two lounges set to entice guests with refined energy, alluring design and original cocktail programs.

"Andy and the team at Clique are true innovators in the field and will help us define and execute what will become a key component of our resort experience," said Bill Boasberg, general manager of MGM National Harbor. "We believe Felt and Blossom will very quickly become the destinations to see and be seen in the Capital Region for visitors and locals alike."

Throughout his career, Masi has led the development of successful concepts that have defined, and then redefined, the ever-evolving nightlife industry. In the nascent days of nightclubs and lounges in Las Vegas, Masi



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR  
MGM National Harbor's new center bar, Blossom Cocktail Lounge.

pioneered table service and the mega nightclubs that have ruled the Entertainment Capital of the World for the last decade. Foreseeing a change in the way guests enjoy a night out, Masi and his team are now leading the charge in creating curated experiences through interactive lounges and restaurants.

At MGM National Harbor, Masi and the Clique team partnered with KNA Design to conceive Felt Bar & Lounge, a dashing cocktail spot with an outdoor terrace featuring striking views of the nation's capital, as well as Blossom Bar & Lounge, a sexy space at the heart of the casino floor. Both are designed to incorporate the history and beauty of the surrounding region into the design while providing a premier level of service.

Masi, co-founder and CEO of Clique Hospitality, said, "We're looking forward to bringing these two new concepts to life as our first ventures on the east coast. Having a home

base in Las Vegas has allowed us to explore and develop many new concepts and ideas. We're incorporating the best of what we've learned into these new venues at MGM National Harbor and can't wait to get to know the local audience."

### Felt Bar & Lounge

An alluring indoor/outdoor lounge that is equal parts composed, cool and vibrant, Felt Bar & Lounge will become the region's newest hotspot, integrating live music and DJ-driven sounds, while delivering skilled service and breathtaking city views.

Three different interior areas invite guests to enjoy intimate conversations in cozy chairs, mingle with new friends at one of three communal tables or revel in the atmosphere with plenty of space for impromptu dancing. An extension of the superior service and moody vibe of the indoor lounge, Felt will feature a spacious outdoor terrace with views of the nation's

capital. A stone fire pit with comfortable seating, along with vignettes of nautical-inspired chairs and couches will tempt guests to enjoy the outdoors.

Mixology from the minds of the most creative bartenders will take center stage with beloved classics and of-the-moment cocktails featuring fresh juices and colorful garnishes. For the ultimate personalized experience, Felt also will offer table-side mixology for the first time in the region.

### Blossom Cocktail Lounge

MGM National Harbor's center bar will be as beautiful as the exquisite blooming cherry blossom trees that abound in the Washington, D.C. area each year. The 24-hour gaming lounge will offer an easy-going atmosphere along with modern cocktails, micro- and macro-brewed beers and creative, fun shooters to jumpstart the night.

The entrance to the 24-hour gaming lounge, Blossom Cocktail Lounge

Guests enjoying one of Blossom's four table games, or the nearby sofas lining the lounge, may feel they are sitting beneath a cherry blossom canopy. A wood-plank ceiling intermixes with custom-made branch-like light fixtures each supporting delicate, transparent globes emulating petals and flowers. The lounge's focal wall is outfitted with art panels featuring photos of local cherry blossoms.

For additional information and renderings for MGM National Harbor, please visit [www.mgmnationalharbor.com](http://www.mgmnationalharbor.com).

### South Africa from A1

of opening their businesses in South Africa and partnering with South African businesses.

"Today was powerful and very informative," said Renee Miller Clayton, founder and owner of The Elements by Renee, a County jewelry company. "For people interested in getting into export/import industry, this forum was very encouraging and doable. We learned about resources and assistance for our visions. The EDC was very supportive and the information wasn't overwhelming about a country that we usually don't have a connection with."

"I didn't realize there were so many opportunities available in South Africa for people like us. A lot of times, we don't look beyond our own shores, so this

opened up my eyes to opportunities that I need to be a part of," said Vincent Price, CEO of Global Lynz Solutions, LLC in Mitchellville, MD. "I'm glad that local businesses are being included at the table of opportunity. As a long time County resident who is familiar with County agencies, I have to say that this Economic Development Corporation is really making a difference for local companies."

Robert Telchin, Senior International Trade Specialist from the U.S. Department of Commerce provided information about the resources companies can take advantage of to expand their presence in South Africa.

"The Commerce Department is actively recruiting small and medium sized companies for their Doing Business in Africa

Advisory Council, which has provides strategic guidance over the last few years [to American businesses access to trade and investment in Africa]," said Telchin. "It is exciting to see such a terrific turnout today. It shows the seriousness that companies in Prince George's are placing in doing business in South Africa and the rest of the continent. The Commerce Department has invested extensive resources into helping American companies expand and enter different countries, and we look forward to partnering more extensively in the future."

At the conclusion of the briefing, EDC International Business Director Martin Ezemma gave the local businesses an overview of the County's upcoming trade mission to South Africa and en-

couraged the attendees to sign up and participate.

"It is important for Prince George's County to be at the forefront of international trade in this region and to host mutual briefings to venture into new global markets," said Ezemma. "Not only are we uniquely located just outside the nation's capital, but the international briefings are an excellent prelude to potential trade missions with target counties and strengthens our business and cultural relationships."

Over the next four months, the EDC will be hosting other mutual international briefings with the embassies of Canada, Nigeria, China and Mexico. Companies interested in growing revenue through international trade and gaining market leads on lucrative business opportunities.

### Faith from A4

raveling, as new barriers to voting and registration are imposed. They're frustrated when they see how our Congressional districts are drawn.

"All of these problems have resulted in a larger one: a Republican Congress that has become paralyzed by partisanship and is unable to respond to those it serves. But the dysfunction of the legislative branch, unfortunately, damages the other two branches as well.

"Senate Republicans' partisan obstruction of the process to fill the current Supreme Court vacancy—and their denial of confirmation votes for dozens of nominees to lower courts too—has diminished the effectiveness and efficiency of our judicial branch. And when it comes to the executive branch, not only have Republicans blocked the Administration's nominees and

denied critical funding to agencies, but in doing so they have kept those agencies from being able to engage in the kind of long-term thinking and planning needed to stay innovative and achieve significant results.

"Washington is too often dysfunctional, and Americans are angry about it—as they should be. We need to give our people hope that we can fix what's broken in Washington—that we can restore their faith in Congress, renew their faith in government to be an institution that plays a positive role in their lives.

"The question, though, is: how do we do it?"

"When House Democrats held hearings on our new Make It In America plan, we received feedback from Sonal and others who testified that we can't fully tap into our economic opportunities if we don't make sure government works too. Today, I'm going to lay out proposals in four

major areas to get government working again: campaign finance reform, voting rights, redistricting reform, and government technology.

"First, we need campaign finance reform.

"In a democracy, every voice should be heard. However, since the Citizens United decision, the wealthiest individuals and corporations have spent billions to ensure that their voices drown out all others. We need to overturn Citizens United and require super PACs to disclose their donors. Rep. Chris Van Hollen has been leading an effort in the House to address this challenge.

"At the same time, we ought to place reasonable limits on the amount one can donate to campaigns and encourage small contribution funding. President Obama and Sen. Sanders showed us the power millions of small donors can have when they band together. We need to try

replicating this type of widespread small-donor participation. That is real, sustainable campaign finance reform.

"Rep. John Sarbanes is taking the lead in this area and on the issue of public financing, which ought to be part of the discussion as well. He and other House Democrats are working hard to craft reforms that will make our campaign finance system more transparent and reduce the influence of a small number of wealthy donors and special interests.

"I also believe that campaign finance reform will yield additional benefits. As someone who has been involved for years in recruiting candidates to run for Congress, I know the fundraising burden discourages many of the most talented Americans from stepping up to serve in elected office. By lessening that burden, we will at-

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Captain Fantastic

Captain Fantastic  
Grade: B  
Rated R, some F-words  
and a wang  
1 hr., 58 min

It says something about the charm of *Captain Fantastic* that I was able to enjoy it despite either rolling my eyes or frowning in disapproval at most of the main character's parenting choices. I think he's wrong a lot, but most (not all) of his wrongness comes from love for his children, not from self-interest. You can understand him even if you disagree with him.

He is Ben (Viggo Mortensen), a well-educated off-the-grid survivalist who lives in the Pacific Northwest woods with his wife and their six children, ages 5-ish to 18-ish, who have the following made-up names: Bodevan, Kielyr, Vespyr, Rellian, Zaja, and Nai. You'd assume they are Mormons from Idaho, but no: these are the anti-religion, anti-medicine, anti-capitalism types of rugged home-schoolers, not the religious-fundamentalist kind.

Ben teaches them combat skills and gives them weapons as gifts (bows, arrows, knives—no guns), while also providing a thorough education in philosophy, literature, and language. Self-reliance is the goal. When Rellian (Nicholas Hamilton), who must be about 14, injures himself while rock-climbing, Ben refuses to help him to safety, to teach the lesson that you can't assume someone will always be there to assist you. Ben isn't wrong about that, but yeesh.

Anyway, we never meet Ben's wife. Her parents (Frank Langella and Ann Dowd) have already whisked her away to a



ROTTENTOMATOES  
**Deep in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, isolated from society, a devoted father (Viggo Mortensen) dedicates his life to transforming his six young children into extraordinary adults. But when a tragedy strikes the family, they are forced to leave this self-created paradise and begin a journey into the outside world that challenges his idea of what it means to be a parent and brings into question everything he's taught them.**

hospital when the film begins, Ben having relented on his distrust of doctors this one time, and she dies soon thereafter. Her parents resent Ben for taking their daughter and grandchildren into the boonies, and now they want custody of the kids, deeming Ben an unfit parent. (Their names alone are evidence of this.)

On top of that, Ben must grapple with his children's emerging sense of independence. The very principles he's taught them means they might choose not to live this way anymore once they come of age. Rellian is already leaning toward wanting to rejoin society. The oldest, Bodevan (George MacKay), generally supports

Ben, but he wants to go to college. When the family road-trips to see Ben's sister (Kathryn Hahn), her husband (Steve Zahn), and their two couch-potato sons, Ben's children see firsthand how he reacts to people whose lifestyles are different from his: with smug condescension and open hostility. This, while he excuses his own bad acts—like teaching the kids how to shoplift—through his “father knows best” rationalization.

Writer-director Matt Ross (who plays tech guru Gavin Belson on HBO's *Silicon Valley*) shows the good and bad of Ben's parenting philosophy without judgment (unlike me). There are areas where the kids are objec-

tively healthier and smarter than their suburbanite cousins, and other areas where their isolation from the world has made them worse off. The key to the film's success is that Ben begins to realize this. As Ross sympathetically depicts Ben's regrets, fears, and learning process, Viggo Mortensen gives a fully developed performance as a man whose certainty that he's always right is beginning to crumble.

In the end, Ben finds a middle ground where the family can live by certain principles while still functioning in the real world. It's a thoughtful conclusion to a multi-layered, gently (and not-so-gently) humorous film that forces us as viewers to consider our own beliefs.

### Faith from A5

tract a greater diversity of candidates. Additionally, it will provide incumbents with more time to listen to their constituents, craft legislation, and build relationships with one another. Perhaps most importantly, restoring reasonable limits and complete transparency to the fundraising process will, I hope, begin to renew the trust citizens have that their voices are being heard.

“Second, every American who is eligible to vote should be able to vote. Period.

“Throughout our history, too many people lost their lives to secure access to the ballot box for any eligible voter to be turned away. We must enact legislation to modernize our voting system, building on the progress we made during the Civil Rights Movement and when we passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002, which I authored. Such modernization ought to include automatic voter registration, expanded early voting, options to vote by mail and on weekends, and tools to combat voter suppression. But first and foremost, we need to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act that were weakened by the Supreme Court in 2013.

“Third, we need to reform the Congressional redistricting process.

“Congress has become too polarized, with too many ‘safe’ seats on both sides of the aisle. Today, in most parts of the country, congressional district boundaries are drawn by the politicians themselves. I know—I’ve done it. We all have, and I understand that neither party wants

to be the first to step away from doing so, leaving itself vulnerable to the other. That’s why we need a national solution that applies the same rules to everyone. This system isn’t going to end unless both parties work to end it together. So let’s move to a system of national redistricting standards that takes partisanship out of the equation. I’ve cosponsored bills by Reps. Zoe Lofgren and Jim Cooper that would do so.

“Fourth, we need to develop a technologically modern and inclusive system of civic engagement.

“Americans are now accustomed to accessing information, products, and services quickly and reliably online from private companies. But when it comes to government, nobody expects the same quality, speed, or responsiveness. That needs to change.

“For this reason, I’ve introduced the Information Technology Modernization Act. My bipartisan bill would launch an innovative and cost-saving Information Technology Modernization Fund to modernize government technology and strengthen cybersecurity. With a one-time, \$3 billion investment in the Fund, we could finance \$12 billion in technology upgrade projects over the first ten years. Imagine how much more efficient and effective our government would be if government technology systems made use of the same best practices as the private sector.

“We need to make sure that federal departments and agencies are as connected and adaptive as possible. And we need to make certain they are protected against

cyber threats. Americans won’t trust government to help if they don’t trust its systems to protect their private data.

“But it goes beyond investing in better technology infrastructure. One of the ideas we heard during the Make It In America hearings, from Rep. Derek Kilmer, was for the General Services Administration to create a site where citizens could go online to rate and review agencies and offices. Rep. Ron Kind has been instrumental in this effort. Think of it as a “Yelp” for government. And Rep. Suzan DelBene has introduced legislation to authorize the U.S. Digital Service for ten years. Along with the innovative 18-F Group, it has been at the forefront of introducing the latest advances from Silicon Valley into government tech.

“We’re already working on technology reforms for the legislative branch. I’ve been proud to lead a bipartisan effort, along with Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, to improve the House’s use of technology. We’ve hosted “hackathons,” where we’ve invited programmers, coders, and tech companies to come to Capitol Hill and devise new ways to use legislative data and share it with the American people. And last year, my office unveiled “Whip Watch,” an innovative app to provide live updates on House Floor action.

“In addition to these four major steps, there are a host of other things we could do to improve the way our government works.

“One of them is ending partisan obstruction of nominations by the Senate. It’s becoming im-

possible to confirm even routine executive branch nominations, paralyzing agencies that provide services to the American people. No single senator ought to be able to put a “hold” on a nomination for months on end, precluding the will of the majority. When courts or agencies are shorthanded, particularly at the leadership level, government can’t serve the people as well as it ought to.

“And another idea that has been raised, which admittedly may not be very popular, is bringing back so-called earmarks, along with the reforms Democrats made to make them fully transparent. Members know far better than Administration officials what the immediate and long-term needs of their districts are, which is why our Founders gave Congress the “power of the purse” to determine budget priorities. I believe Republicans’ decision to eliminate earmarks altogether has proven unwise. Last month, the *Houston Chronicle* wrote in an editorial: ‘... a Congress without earmarks doesn’t spend less money. It just means that the executive branch has more control over taxpayer dollars.’ Let’s put the people’s representatives back in control as our Founders intended.

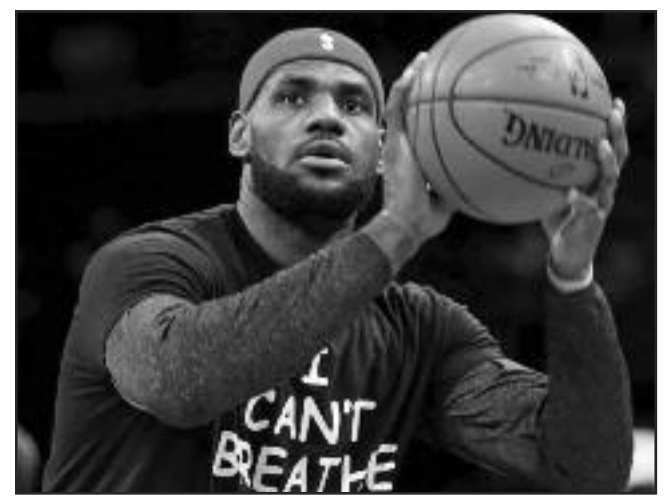
“Those are just two examples of additional changes that could complement the four major reforms for which I am calling. House Democrats are ready to push for reforms in all four of the areas I outlined, and

See FAITH Page A7

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### The Media Are Totally Wrong About the Role of Athletes in Black Lives Matter



On Wednesday I appeared on ESPN's flagship program *Outside the Lines*, along with current and former pro jocks Jason Richardson, Marcus Spears, and Benjamin Watson. The topic was the role of athletes in the Black Lives Matter movement, and how they can exercise their fame and platform for the greater good.

*Outside the Lines* is really a singular show. It's the journalistic jewel of ESPN, and I'm honored every time I'm asked to be a guest. That said, as I was sitting my chair, giving my two cents, there was something about the way the issue was framed that felt odd to me. I couldn't articulate why until after the red light flicked off—always a terrible feeling—so I'll make it plain now. To be clear, this isn't just about *Outside the Lines*, but the way this issue of athletic activism and the Black Lives Matter movement has been framed in mainstream media in the wake of the killings of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and the five police officers of Dallas. I had been seeing it for several days across all of cable television without really seeing it. Here is the way the issue is presented: First there is an intro about the tradition of athletes in social movements, usually featuring Muhammad Ali, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Jim Brown. Then they ask the question: What role can athletes play to be that bridge, that “force for good” between the black community and police?

This very formulation puts us on the wrong path before the conversation about what athletes can do even begins. It warps the proud history of athletic activism and projects a false solution to the problems in front of us. Muhammad Ali did not try to “build a bridge” between the pro-war establishment and anti-war activists. Jim Brown and Kareem did not try to bring together racists and antiracists to agree upon their mutual antipathy. They took a side. They took a side in order to win a political fight. Today, we see politicians across the landscape talking about building trust and “race relations,” as if all we need is for police and their victims to engage in some trust falls and all will be great. This is a bankrupt position that does nothing to address the fundamental problem: that police continue to be above the law, utterly unable to be prosecuted, and that 99 percent of them would rather play a certain NWA song in their cruisers than speak out against their colleagues. This is a broken system that needs to be dismantled, and taking the side of building bridges and “peace” is taking a position in defense of the status quo: a status quo that only ensures a future of more deaths, more hashtags, and more pain.

Many athletes are currently reckoning with what it means to “be political” and are using their hyper-exalted platform for the first time in their lives. This was seen in the incredibly moving opening to the ESPYs last night. Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade, and LeBron James spoke powerfully about police violence, said the names of Philando, Alton, Laquan and Trayvon, and called upon athletes to walk in the path of Muhammad Ali and “educate ourselves.” This is a strikingly positive development. Their goal, however, should not be to become yet another in the already vast legion of feckless actors. Instead, it should be to support those in the streets risking their safety to stand against hyper-militarized police forces who in too many cities show up to these demonstrations dressed for war. That is what a young Muhammad Ali would do. That is what Wilma Rudolph would do. That is what 1968 Olympian John Carlos did when he spoke to Occupy Wall Street in 2011. I was there, and I will never forget what Dr. Carlos said: “The point is not to be a star athlete. The point is to stand up wherever you are. I just happened to be one. If I hadn't made the Olympics, I just would've raised my fist in Harlem instead of Mexico City.” Athletes have a critical role in this struggle: They can raise awareness about people's grievances, attempt to speak to white fans, and legitimize the very question of struggle. But to do that means taking a side, not building a bridge to nowhere. As Howard Zinn said, “You can't be neutral on a moving train.” Or as Boots Riley put it, “You can't change shit by riding the fence.”

Proudly Serving Prince George's County  
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# Calendar of Events

August 18 — August 24, 2016

## I Spy

**Date and Time:** Thursday, July 20–August 18, 2016, 11 am–2 pm  
**Description:** Do you have what it takes to be a spy for General George Washington? Try your hand at new secret missions and learn other spying techniques the Continental Army used during the Revolutionary War in this all new version of I SPY.

Children who participate in the activities must be able to read and write.

This program runs in 30-minute intervals. No reservations are required.

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** Ages 6–12 years old

**Location:** Darnall's Chance House Museum

14800 Governor Oden Bowie Dr, Upper Marlboro, MD

**Contact:** 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

## G.E.A.R.: Make Your Own Scented Bath Salts

**Date and Time:** Friday, August 19, 2016, 7–10 pm

**Description:** Tonight teens will create their own scented bath salts. So come out, learn a new skill and take home your own creation to test it out.

**Cost:** Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID

**Ages:** 10-17

**Location:** Prince George's Plaza Community Center

6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

**Contact:** 301-864-1611; TTY 301-699-2544

## Movie Night at Watkins Regional Park

**Date and Time:** Friday, August 19, 2016, 7–9:30 pm

**Description:** Bring the family and enjoy a 1.7 mile fun walk, fitness activities, face painting and more before the movie! Movie will begin at dusk.

**Cost:** FREE

**Ages:** All Ages

**Location:** Watkins Regional Park

**Contact:** 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## Health and Wellness Zone at Ellen E. Linson Splash Park

**Date and Time:** Saturday, August 20, 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, and activities for all ages! Make a healthy choice with nutrition workshops, line dancing with a live DJ, 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 Campus Drive, College Park, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-3717; TTY 301-699-2544

## Engineering Challenge Series: Balsa Flyers

**Date and Time:** Saturday, August 20, 2016, 2 pm

**Description:** Modify a balsa Jetstream motor plane to fly as many laps as possible around a pylon. Planes will be tethered to the pylon by a 5-foot line.

More information and rules can be found at the website [www.Fieldoffirsts.com](http://www.Fieldoffirsts.com)

**Cost:** Free for contestants; \$5/Adults;

\$4/Seniors; \$2/Children

FREE/1 & under

**Ages:** 8 & up

**Location:** College Park Aviation Museum

1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD

**Contact:** 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## Artist Talk:

### Jackie Brown - Between the Real and the Imagined

**Date and Time:** Saturday, August 20, 2016, 2–4 pm

**Description:** Jackie Brown works to create imagined biological systems that suggest growth, movement, and expansion. It's often ambiguous as to whether her forms are benign or toxic, and she hope to suggest mutation, as if systems are melding into new and uncertain growths. While each work is imaginative, the ideas that are central to the work reference real phenomenon, and Brown is increasingly interested in experiments that involve the human manipulation of living systems.

**Cost:** FREE

**Ages:** All Ages

**Location:** Brentwood Arts Center

3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD

**Contact:** 301-277-2863; 301-699-2544

## Sunset Boat Tour

**Date and Time:** Saturday, August 20, 2016, 6–7:30 pm

**Description:** Board a pontoon boat for a sunset cruise on the picturesque Patuxent River. Light refreshments will be served.

**Cost:** Residents: \$3; Non-Residents: \$4

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Patuxent River Park

16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD

**Contact:** 301-627-6074; TTY 301-699-2544

## Health and Wellness Zone: Fall into Fitness

**Date and Time:** Sunday, August 21, 2016, 2–4 pm

**Description:** Looking for something new to do? Get in the ZONE! Stop by your Health and Wellness Zone for fun, and activities for all ages! Make a healthy choice with nutrition workshops, line dancing with a live DJ, and more!

From hula hoops to horseshoes, the ZONE has something for everyone!

**Cost:** Free

**Ages:** All ages welcome

**Location:** Tucker Road Athletic Complex

1770 Tucker Road, Fort Washington, MD

**Contact:** 301-203-6000; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... If Humans Ruin or Outgrow Earth, Are There Other Planets We Can Hope to Colonize?

Dear EarthTalk:

How far along are we on efforts to support large numbers of people on the moon or other planets if our population gets too big or we ruin the environment here on Earth?

—Barbara Christie,  
Hull, MA

As the human population swells and global warming compounds other environmental problems here on Earth, the notion of colonizing other planets is more appealing than ever. While we are far from being able to support human communities elsewhere in the solar system and beyond, environmentalists are increasingly interested in space exploration as one potential solution to our own earthly woes.

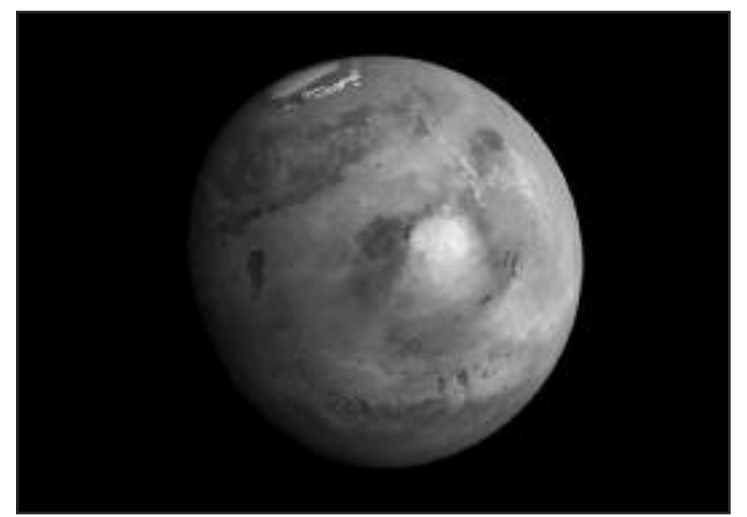
Mars is by far the most promising planet in the solar system on which we could support substantial human life. Currently, Mars is a desolate desert, but the so-called "red planet" once contained liquid water and perhaps harbored life. Many of the elements we depend upon to support life here on Earth, including carbon, silicon, iron and even frozen water, are present on Mars, giving researchers hope that one day some of us could hopscotch through space and set up shop there.

The first challenge of colonizing Mars is transportation.

The furthest a manned mission has ever gone to date is the moon, and Mars is 140 times further away. Currently the biggest hurdle is the cost of spaceflight. But a new breed of private companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin have invested in making launching more efficient by streamlining manufacturing and even reusing rockets. Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, claims he can reduce the cost of spaceflight 100-fold.

The best concrete plan for landing humans on Mars is called Mars Direct. Designed by aerospace engineer and Mars Society founder Bob Zubrin, this plan was rejected by NASA because it failed to fully utilize new technologies such as the International Space Station. Zubrin thinks we could get ourselves to Mars for only \$55 billion, which seems like a bargain compared to the \$250 billion figure suggested for a Mars landing back in 1969 after our first moon landing.

The most immediate problem for human habitation on Mars is the severe temperature. The average temperature on the surface of the red planet is -67° Fahrenheit compared to the balmy 61° here on Earth. Elon Musk suggests there are two ways to overcome this obstacle. The fast way would be by dropping nuclear weapons on Mars' poles, while a slower solution would entail emitting huge amounts of carbon into the Mar-



CREDIT: KEVIN GILL, FLICKRCC

**Colonizing Mars might be our best hope if humans ruin or outgrow Earth.**

tian atmosphere much as we are doing on Earth but to a larger extent. In theory, this carbon seeding plan would cause the atmosphere to grow and eventually shield much of the radiation that would otherwise be harmful to Martians. Since carbon dioxide is the main gaseous nutrient consumed by plants, it's possible that many plants could thrive on Mars. Without competition, plants could take over the planet and put oxygen into the atmosphere, eventually making it possible for humans and other animals to populate Mars without oxygen masks.

There are still problems with colonizing Mars, however. Its low gravity would corrode human bones and giant storms rage across the currently barren

planet. In sharp contrast, Earth is rich in resources and water, making it naturally habitable for plants and animals. Addressing the problems here on Earth will likely be easier than escaping them by fleeing to Mars or other planets.

**CONTACTS:** NASA, [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov); Blue Origin, [www.blueorigin.com](http://www.blueorigin.com); SpaceX, [www.spacex.com](http://www.spacex.com); The Mars Society, [www.marssociety.org](http://www.marssociety.org).

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([www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)).

**Send questions to:**

[earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## County Launches Online Clean Water Mapping Tool

*Interactive Resource Highlights Water Quality Improvement Projects*

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Want to know where the next water quality improvement projects are taking place in your community? Now you can easily locate that information with just a few online clicks. The Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) has launched a new online resource tool for residents and businesses to search for Construction Improvement Projects (CIP) associated with water quality. Called the Clean Water Map, the online map tool uses data from the County's web-based GIS to provide a fully searchable and user-

friendly resource for clean water information which is accessible 24 hours a day.

"This new online resource will become a useful and functional tool for residents and businesses by allowing them to view the water quality projects taking place in their communities," says DoE Director Adam Ortiz. "Our plan is to grow the tool and add more data layers, so we invite the public to browse the site and provide us with their feedback."

The new web-based tool benefits planners, designers and construction teams through GIS-based environmental, geographic, property types, utilities, impervious surface, infra-



GRAPHIC COURTESY THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

structure and other pertinent layers to assist with project development. Some of its unique features include: major watersheds and stream delineations, stream assessments, stormwater management and infrastructure facilities, project inventories (planning, design, construction, completed), project and address

query tools and much more.

To access the DoE Clean Water Map go to the website at <http://princegeorges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dc168a43d3554905b4e4d6e61799025f>

For more information on the County's Clean Water Program, visit [environment.mypgc.us](http://environment.mypgc.us).

## Faith from A6

our candidates around the country are running to implement them next year. But we can't do it alone.

"I realize that some Republicans are happy to obstruct and sow dysfunction whenever they can because they believe that a broken government will eventually become a smaller one. They capitalize on voters' frustrations

that their government doesn't seem to work for them anymore, but what they offer is more obstruction that will only deepen those frustrations and further alienate Americans from their government. The result is a dangerous cycle of cynicism, gridlock, and a declining respect for—and confidence in—our institutions of government.

"We need Republicans who care deeply about making gov-

ernment work to join us in breaking that cycle. And the American people need to reaffirm the demand that their leaders and the government serving them ought to be an expression of what makes this country great.

"We can begin by remembering that civility and compromise are essential in our republic. Some have tried to dismiss civility as political correctness—to suggest that if you are respectful

to those who disagree with you, somehow that makes you weak. That if you compromise, it means you are unprincipled. But our nation deserves to be led by those who understand that compromise is not antithetical to principle, that civility is one of our system's greatest strengths.

"If our voters support candi-

See **FAITH** Page A12

# BIN YOUR BUTTS

No ifs or butts about it, cigarette butts are a #1 source of trash collected along local waterways. A recent study found that when cigarette butts were allowed to soak in fresh and saltwater at a concentration of one butt per liter, half of the fish exposed to the water died. One cigarette filter can take over 18 months to break down making it a real threat to wildlife health.

If you smoke, remember to bin your butts in a proper receptacle because butts are litter too!

Prince George's County Seal (Mascot) is a trademark of the Department of the Environment, Transportation, Safety and Office of Certifications to promote safe, saving and sustainable in our everyday lives.