

The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 84, No. 46 November 17 — November 23, 2016 Prince George's County, Maryland Newspaper of Record Phone: 301-627-0900 25 cents

MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center Introduces New Plastic Surgeon

By PRESS OFFICER
MedStar.net

CLINTON, MD—MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center welcomes new plastic surgeon, Sarah R. Sher, MD. In this position, Dr. Sher will concentrate on breast reconstruction for breast cancer patients, as well as breast reductions and general reconstruction. Dr. Sher will work in close partnership with breast surgeon Ekaterini V. Tsiapali, MD. Together, these surgeons will surgically remove cancerous breast tissue (Tsiapali) and reconstruct breasts (Sher).

"I'm looking forward to playing a positive role in a patient's journey through breast cancer,"



PHOTO COURTESY MEDSTAR.NET
Sarah R. Sher, MD

said Dr. Sher. "It's so fulfilling to be a part of a team of physicians who can understand what

See MEDSTAR Page A3

Bowie State University Partners With Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—Bowie State University (BSU) has partnered with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to expand offerings of quality arts programming for residents of the greater Maryland area at the university's Fine and Performing Arts Center.

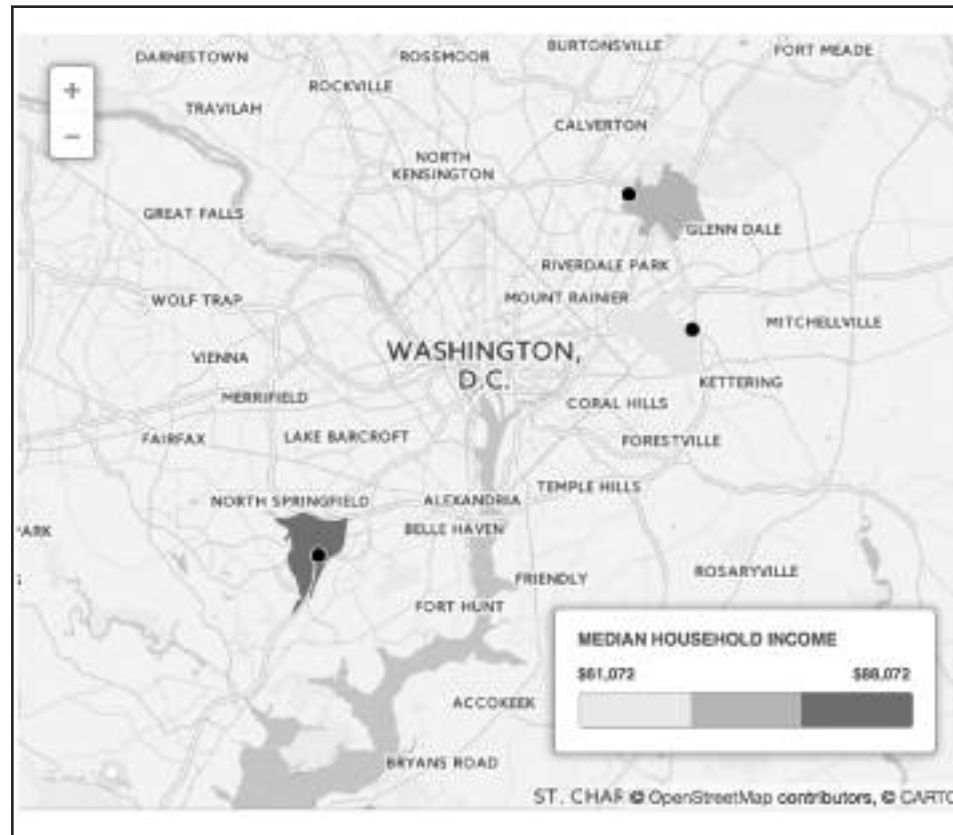
This collaborative effort will help establish BSU's state-of-the-art Fine and Performing

Arts Center as an accessible cultural resource within the local community. A broad range of non-academic cultural activities will be jointly developed by Bowie State and M-NCPPC, to include professional performances, master workshops, small-group classes and camps.

"We are very excited about this innovative joint effort with the Maryland-National

See BOWIE STATE Page A3

FBI Headquarters Relocation to Be Announced in December



Potential Locations for New FBI Headquarters in Maryland Less Wealthy Than Potential Virginia Location

By TERESA LO and DANIEL TRIELLI
Capital News Service

The FBI is in the process of selecting a new location for its headquarters, after deciding to leave its longtime home in Washington, D.C. The move will prove an economic boon for Springfield, Va. or one of two locations in Prince George's County—Landover or Greenbelt—under consideration for the FBI's new home.

Which area stands to benefit the most? It could be Landover, where the median household income is 35 percent lower than region's median household income of \$91,756. That's below Greenbelt (32 percent lower) and Springfield (4 percent lower).

The two Maryland locations also have a significantly larger minority population than Springfield. Greenbelt is 31 percent white, Landover is 10 percent white, and Springfield is 57 percent white. The Washington metro area is 56 percent white. Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2014.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY TERESA LO AND DANIEL TRIELLI

By SYDNEY TONIC and
KIMBERLY ESCOBAR
Capital News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The final decision on the location of the new FBI headquarters is expected to be announced in December, and Maryland state and local officials are optimistic their state will get the nod.

Two of the three possible sites are Greenbelt and Landover in Maryland. The other is Springfield, Va.

The FBI headquarters, currently located in the hulking J. Edgar Hoover Building on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, houses about 5,000 employees. The Hoover Building was built in 1975, but after 40 years, the General Services Administration has determined the structure no longer meets the FBI's needs.

The Hoover building houses only slightly more than half of the FBI headquarters' employees, and there are multiple FBI divisions scat-

tered throughout the Washington metropolitan area that will be consolidated in one location when a new headquarters is built.

Garth E. Beall, an attorney who is the developer for the Greenbelt site, said the GSA started to seek interest for a new site in 2009, but the deep recession at the time forced the agency to put the search on hold.

"They did confirm that the mission of the FBI changed after 9/11 and they had signifi-

cantly more employees than they had before 9/11 and they had outgrown the Hoover Building; it was falling down," Beall said.

In December of 2012, the GSA issued a request for information seeking developers interested in housing a consolidated FBI headquarters. In July of 2014, the agency selected the two sites in Maryland and one in Virginia as finalists.

See FBI Page A5

Tech Bosses Join Forces to Upstart County Ecosystem

15 Thought Leaders Have Roundtable Discussion to Expand Technology Sector in the Region

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—Last week, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) hosted a Technology Executives Roundtable sponsored by the Peterson Companies at their impressive National Harbor headquarters along the Potomac River waterfront. The Roundtable discussion allowed for top technology leaders to discuss how the EDC, Prince George's County Tech Council, and regional firms can work together to share trends and create more tech opportunities in Prince George's County. EDC President & CEO Jim Coleman likened this Roundtable to the building of a community to rival Silicon Valley.

"The Roundtable is just the start of a powerful relationship with the Prince George's County Tech Council and the technology community," said Coleman. "Prince George's



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
EDC President Jim Coleman and CEO Jim Coleman (3rd from the right) with Technology Roundtable participants.

County is blessed to have the talent and the ability to start up our own ecosystem to support these great companies in the technology sector. Listening and learning from the top bosses in the industry gives me confidence that within the next three

years, we will have created thousands of high-wage, competitive jobs in a nurturing technology community and become a global leader."

Participants in last week's Roundtable seized the opportunity to share their expertise on

trends in technology, as well as voice their strong support for engaging in open, candid and results-driven dialogue with their colleagues.

See ECOSYSTEM Page A5

Updated Law Concerning Fire Pits and Related Devices in Effect

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Fire/EMS

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The popularity of fire pits and chimneas has created a need to update the Prince George's County laws concerning the safe use of these devices. Prince George's County Fire Safety Law (Subtitle 11) – Section 11-268 "Open, Burning, Recreational Fires and Portable Outdoor Fireplaces" has been updated and is in effect.

In General With All Recreational Fires

Recreational fires must be attended at all times by a person 18 years of age or older who is in direct view of the fire until it is completely extinguished. No fire should be left to smolder.

A water hose, fire extinguisher or other means to extinguish the fire must be available.

Only dry natural wood (firewood) can be burned in a recreational fire. No yard waste materials should ever be used.

Recreational fire will be prohibited during drought condi-

tions, which include strong winds, or air pollution events (Code Red or Code Orange).

Thick smoke and visible smoke that steadily crosses property lines are prohibited.

Fixed or Portable Fire Pits, Fireplaces and Chimnea's



PHOTO COURTESY
PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Fires in these devices must be 30 feet away from any road, sidewalk or public way.

Fires must be 30 feet from any structure.

Fires are not allowed on any balcony or deck.

See FIRE PITS Page A3

INSIDE

HHS Launches 2017 Open Enrollment

Eighty-four percent of current Marketplace consumers receive tax credits, which are designed to increase along with benchmark premiums to protect consumers from rate hikes. More current Marketplace consumers will qualify for next year.

Community, Page A3

America Faces a Time for Racial Healing

Over two-thirds (67 percent) of educators reported that young people in their schools—most often immigrants, children of immigrants, Muslims, African Americans and other students of color—had expressed concern about what might happen to them or their families after the election.

Commentary, Page A4

MGM National Harbor to Open December 8

Surrounded by the lush woodlands and rolling riverscape of Prince George's County, with sweeping views of the capital's iconic monuments, MGM National Harbor will be a destination distinct to its setting with contemporary and bold architecture and design inspired by the historical region.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review:

Ouija: Origin of Evil

Aided by her daughters, teenage Lina (Annalise Basso) and 9-year-old Doris (Lulu Wilson), Alice sweetly bilks gullible sad people out of their money by pretending to contact their dead loved ones, but she believes she's ultimately doing good by helping them find closure.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How has wildlife been affected around the site of the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in Russia three decades ago?

Walter Scinto,
Hartford, CT

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Wacky Wednesday, hand dancing and more at VFW Post 9619

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9619 in Morningside has a Membership Drive on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you're interested in knowing more, bring your discharge papers (DD 214) and see about becoming a member.

And there are other interesting activities going on there:

Wacky Wednesday happens every Wednesday, with all-you-can-eat and a raffle. Hours are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and the cost is \$9. (No carryout, no sharing!)

There's hand dancing—which Nola tells me mean jitters—on Thursday, Friday and Sunday nights, beginning at 6 p.m. And it's free.

For more information about VFW activities, call Nola Cook at 301-735-5290. And congratulations to Nola who celebrates her 40th anniversary at VFW Post 9619 on Nov. 19. She started as a bartender and two years later became manager—and still is.

People

We have a newly-published author right here in Skyline: Dorothy Powell. *Reflections and a Time to Recover* which was published in June, tells the story of her troubled life. For more information, go to www.barne-sandnoble.com.

Thank you to Clifford Brown who makes his way every week up and down Elmendorf Drive in Skyline, putting all the trash cans back. He's been doing it for years.

The 2016 Miss World Grand Finale will be held in Prince George's County at the Gaylord Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor and televised on Dec. 18.

Coming up

Sat., Nov. 19: Let's R.O.C.K. Outreach Church is holding Ribbon-Cutting, Dedication & March In at 12 noon to celebrate the opening of a new church building at 6501 Suitland Road.

Sat., Nov. 19: A Healthy Holiday Cooking Demonstration by the Dept. of Parks & Recreation

at 12 noon at Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road. Info, 301-203-6040.

Sun., Nov. 20: In celebration of Black History Month, Deacon Keith Somerville will deliver the homily at the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Philip's Church, in Camp Springs. New Vision Choir from St. Margaret's Church in Seat Pleasant will sing. All are welcome.

Sat., Dec. 3: E-cycling (electronics recycling) at Surrattsville High School, 6101 Garden Drive in Clinton, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Dec. 3 & 4: The 15th annual Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd House in Waldorf, decorated, as it would have been in the Victorian period. Enjoy Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, Civil War encampment, music, refreshments, and a walking tour of the House. Hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission: \$8 for adults and \$2 for children. Info: 301-274-9358.

Vote for your favorites at the 17th Annual Gingerbread House Contest & Show at Darnall's Chance House Museum, on a hill overlooking Schoolhouse Pond in Upper Marlboro. Fridays thru Sundays: Nov. 25–27, Dec. 2–4 and 9–11; Weekdays, noon to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1. Info: 301-952-8010.

Smoking Cessation classes are held every Wednesday, 6 to 7 p.m., at MedStar Health in the Brandywine Community Room, 13950 Brandywine Road. Registration required. Call 301-374-9098.

Morningside Memories: November 1953

From the *Morningside-Skyline Bulletin & Adviser*: "The M.V.F.D. proudly announces the arrival of a bouncing new 10-ton 'baby,' affectionately called Jimmy (G.M.C.). Complexion? Red and white. This squalling young monster will be dedicated Sunday, Dec. 1953, at the Morningside Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Carr has kindly consented to officiate."

May they rest in peace

Walter Harrison "Bey" Carter-Bey, 66, of Temple Hills, who saw action with the Army in Vietnam

and was recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, died Oct. 20. A native of Charlottesville, he grew up in Asbury Park, N. J., and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. After leaving the service as a sergeant, he moved to Washington, was an engineer for Stanton Glen Apartments and Chief Security for Kaiser Permanente. In retirement, he founded Carter-Bey Home Improvement. He was a huge Redskin fan and liked playing the lottery and sharing his wealth with his children and grandchildren. Survivors include his wife Shirley and his former wife, Stacie Branham-Smith; five children, Deljuan, Walter, Edna, Renee and Michelle; five stepchildren; and 11 grandchildren. Service was at Hunt Funeral Home, burial at Quantico and repast at the home of Stacie and John Smith in Skyline.

John Joseph Glynn, 85, a founding member of St. Philip's Parish in Camp Springs and an Air Force veteran who later worked for the Department of Defense, died Nov. 4 in Edgewater. A New York City native, he moved to Maryland and was State Deputy for the Knights of Columbus. At St. Philip's, he was president of the Holy Name Society, active with the annual retreat and coach for parish sports teams. Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Patricia, six children, 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was at Our Lady of perpetual Help Church in Edgewater, with burial at Maryland Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Herbert Hanson and Andrew Boone, Nov. 20; Linda Cullinan and Brea Sandy-Hanson, Nov. 21; Dolores Steinhilber, Sharon McKlveen and Jill Flaherty Kimmel, Nov. 22; Leslie Greene, Nov. 23; Ben Gryskewicz and Mike Waby, Nov. 24; Ray Call, Avanna Williams, Andrew Gryskewicz and Mary Gaither, Nov. 25.

Happy anniversary to Paul and Sharon Locke on Nov. 22.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Christian Panda, Darius Paul Kerrick, Dicon Jalloh, Owen Johnson, Ugo Mbakwe, Shurrell Bell, Jack Matthews, Marilyn Panda-Massey, Ronald Crawford, Jr., Moyah Panda (Atty), Daphne Rojas, Evangeline Crawford, Sheila Holmes, Dorothea Belt Stroman (Pastor), Maly Escanilla, Wade Garrett, Beverly Holman, Grace Omogrebe, Pauline Clark and Dorothy Glasgow-Reid who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays in November.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Happy anniversary to Barron & Kendra Neal who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their wedding anniversary during the month of November.

ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Come and fellowship with us at St. Philip's Annual Prayer Breakfast St. Philip's Episcopal Church Baden Parish Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 9:00 AM. Guest Speaker is Pastor Kermit C.C. Moore. Admission: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children 10 & under. The church is located 13801 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandy-

wine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is (301) 888-1536.

ROCKING READERS

Providence-Fort Washington United Methodist Church Rocking Readers are meeting with kindergarten students at Fort Washington Forest Elementary School each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. This is a program where they spend time with an individual child, a background check is required. Church telephone number is 301-292-2323.

BREAKFAST

United Methodist Women at Union United Methodist Church will sponsor their Annual Prayer Breakfast Sunday, November 27, 2016 at 8:00 AM. Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, Pastor. The address is 14418 Old Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number 301-627-5088.

HANSEL & GRETEL TEA PARTY

Visit Darnall's Chance's beautifully decorated like a gingerbread house and listen to the story of *Hansel and Gretel*. Enjoy dessert and tea, and participate in a craft activity. Registration fee required for all attendees, children and adults. Reservation and payment required in ad-

vance. Hurry and register because capacity is limited. Ages: 5 years and up; fee for resident is \$17; Non-resident is \$20.

The address is Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Telephone number is 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544.

ANNUAL PRAYER SENIOR PROGRAMS

Enjoy a wide range of recreation services for seniors in arts, recreation classes, senior clubs, health and fitness programs, nutrition programs, tours and trips, and many other activities. Contact pparks.com, 301-699-2255 and TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

A free weight loss surgery seminar and support group meeting is held the fourth Tuesday of every month at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Library (ground floor), 7:00 P–to 8:00 PM. Support group is from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The address is 7503 Surratt Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Registration is required. Telephone number is 301-774-8962. Seminar is conducted by bariatric surgeon John Brebbia, MD, MBA, FACS, CNSC.

Neighborhoods

Maryland Awarded Health Insurance Enforcement and Consumer Protections Cycle I Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded approximately \$249,070 to Maryland to use for enforcement and oversight of issuer compliance with select Affordable Care Act (ACA) key consumer protections. In total, CMS awarded approximately \$25.5 million to 22 states and the District of Columbia. These awards allow Maryland to use the funding for activities related to planning and implementing selected Federal market reforms and consumer protections that may include: essential health benefits, preventive services, parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, appeals processes, and bringing down the cost of health care coverage (also known as medical loss ratio (MLR) provision).

These additional grants will help support Maryland's efforts to make sure their laws, regulations, and procedures are in line with Federal requirements and that states are able to effectively oversee and enforce issuer compliance with consumer protections guaranteed by the ACA. State Departments of Insurance are vital to the oversight of health insurance issuers and are responsible for ensuring premiums are reasonable and justified, companies are solvent, and consumers are protected.

Grant Awards Overview:

In the 22 states receiving an award, approximately \$21.6 million is being awarded to assist State Departments of Insurance in planning and implementing select key insurance market reforms and consumer protections (see Table 1 for a breakdown by market reform). The remaining funds will be used towards other allowable expenses under the grant to fund other activities that are not directly related to planning or implementing a single market reform, but that extend across all of the select key market reforms (such as travel, supplies and equipment, and indirect costs). The grant will have a project and budget period of 24 months from the award date, October 31, 2016, to October 30, 2018. Each applicant awarded a grant will receive a minimum baseline amount of \$476,998 (see table 2 for award totals by state). However, some states chose to request less than the minimum baseline amount. In addition to receiving a baseline award each applicant awarded a grant will also receive funding for the "Selected Market Reforms" and "Workload" funds. Workload funds are determined based on the population and number of health insurance issuers in the State.

Grants will be awarded to the District of Columbia and the following states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, and Washington.

Background on Funding:

The ACA provided \$250 million in state rate review grants to improve the process for how states review proposed health insurance rate increases and hold insurance companies accountable for unjustified

hikes. In 2015, rate review led to an estimated \$1.5 billion in savings for consumers. The funds announced today are unobligated rate review grant funding from prior years. Consistent with statute, rate review grant funds not fully obligated by the end of fiscal year 2014 are available to HHS to issue grants to states for planning and implementing the insurance market reforms and consumer protections under Part A of title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act.

Governor Larry Hogan, Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman Honor Ellicott City Heroes

Dozens Recognized for Heroic and Selfless Acts During Historic Flooding

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today joined Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman for a ceremony honoring the dozens of individuals who displayed extraordinary acts of heroism and support following the historic flooding in Ellicott City in July. The event, held on Main Street in Ellicott City, recognized citizens and organizations for their efforts during and following the storm.

"I would like to congratulate the outstanding men and women who selflessly gave their time and talents in service to this historic community," said Governor Hogan. "These brave citizens selflessly answered the call of their fellow Marylanders and lent a helping hand—in some cases literally—to assist those in need."

"We've made incredible progress because of the hard work and strength of the property owners, businesses, and residents of Historic Ellicott City," said County Executive Kittleman. "Those who were honored today have led this remarkable recovery. I have great confidence that the work and recovery efforts will continue by these fine people and others to continue to show that Ellicott City is a model resilient community."

On the evening of July 30, 2016, a storm cell dumped nearly six inches of rain in the area during a few hours timeframe, causing massive flooding on Main Street. Tragically, two people lost their lives in the storm, dozens of buildings—many a mix of business and residential—were damaged and about 200 vehicles were swept downstream or flooded.

Following the flooding, many accounts of heroism emerged of citizens who worked tirelessly to help fellow Marylanders. From people banding together to form a human chain to rescue a stranded woman; to those who organized and made food deliveries; to those who volunteered to help clean up the debris, Maryland citizens worked together in the face of tragedy.

"During the past three months, much progress has been made to repair and rebuild, and by continuing to work together, Ellicott City's future is sure to be even bigger and brighter than its historic past," said Governor Hogan.

On July 31, 2016, Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency and directed state agencies to work with all levels of government to assist the residents and businesses of Elli-

cott City and Howard County in their recovery efforts. In August 2016, Governor Hogan requested federal aid for Howard County as a result of the floods, which was approved in September. Additionally, the Hogan administration provided \$5 million in state funding to assist small businesses and property owners.

WSSC Engages Minority and Women Business Enterprises and Stimulates the Small Local Business Economy

LAUREL, MD—WSSC released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise (SLMBE) Program Performance Results Report yesterday to members of the Maryland General Assembly in Annapolis. The report's results show a continued effort to engage Minority and Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE) and Small Local Business Enterprises in contracting and business opportunities with WSSC.

In FY 2016, WSSC paid \$114.4 million to M/WBE firms. This represents 20 percent of the overall amount paid to vendors (\$587.5 million). In addition, WSSC awarded approximately \$151 million in contracts to M/WBE firms. This represents 27 percent of the total contract awards (\$565.7 million). WSSC is required to annually submit its Performance Results Report (formerly Legislative Report) to the Maryland General Assembly.

"Our SLMBE Program continues to receive local and national attention for affording our diverse business community access to business opportunities at WSSC," said Carla A. Reid, WSSC's GM and CEO. "These program efforts are a reflection of our Commissioner's and Leadership Team's commitment to supplier diversity, a commitment reflected in our dynamic MBE and SLBE Programs."

Milestones for the SLMBE Program in FY 2016 included the completion of the 2015 Disparity Study and WSSC's 2016 Women Business Owners Expo, which hosted more than 450 participants as a part of Women's History Month in March.

The MBE Program is predicated on a disparity study, which is conducted every five years, and assesses WSSC's procurement activity with M/WBE firms. The findings of the most-recently completed 2015 Disparity Study, which was concluded in July 2016, can be found on WSSC's website at www.wsscwater.com/disparitystudy.

"I am encouraged by the results of this year's SLMBE Performance Program Report," said Towanda R. Livingston, WSSC's SLMBE Office Director. "At WSSC, Supplier Diversity is a strategic priority, embedded in the fabric of our organization and 'just the way we do business.' Our commitment will not waiver as the SLMBE Office continues to support the economic success and vitality of the small, local and diverse business communities that we serve."

WSSC's MBE Program is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2017. WSSC plans to work with legislators in Annapolis during the 2017 Legislative Session to ensure this vital Program is reauthorized.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Changes to the FAFSA Make It Easier to Apply for Student Aid

Do you have a high school senior who is knee deep in the college admissions process? Writing essays and filling out forms can be a stressful process for students, just as covering the cost of college can be for parents. This year, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) submission period opened on October 1—three months earlier than in previous years.



That extra time to get financial information in order could be a big benefit to many families. Don't put off completing the application, sending the FAFSA in early could increase your financial aid package and give you more time to compare aid offers from different schools.

Understanding this form of student aid. The FAFSA determines your family's expected contribution to the cost of higher education and serves as an application for federal financial aid, such as student loans, work study and the Pell Grant. It's also used by some state agencies and schools to determine aid, including merit-based awards, and some scholarships require applicants fill out the FAFSA.

Current and prospective college students must complete a new FAFSA each year. Dependent children will need their parents' financial information to complete the form, and parents may want to work on the application alongside their child.

Most students complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov. While it can be complicated, once you have all the paperwork in order, the application could take less than 30 minutes.

New changes in tax requirements make filling out the FAFSA easier. The earlier submission period isn't the only difference for the FAFSA this year, there's also a change in the tax information you need to submit. You'll now report your income based on the student's and parents' tax return from two years before the school term begins. Your 2015 tax return for the 2017-2018 FAFSA for example.

You might be able to electronically transfer your tax return information to your FAFSA using the Internal Revenue Service's Data Retrieval Tool. If you're unable or don't want to use the tool and don't have a copy of your 2015 tax return, you can order a free tax transcript of your return online, by mail or by calling 1-800-908-9946.

The 2017-2018 FAFSA requires that applicants use their 2015 tax return information even if there have been significant changes in your financial situation since then. After submitting, applicants can contact schools' financial aid offices to make adjustments.

Pay close attention when filling out the FAFSA because some of the questions, such as those pertaining to current assets, are based on when you fill out the form, not your tax return.

Submitting your application early offers several advantages. The federal deadline for the 2017-2018 FAFSA is June 30, 2018, but don't wait that long to complete your application. States and colleges have deadlines of their own, and your eligibility for aid can depend on meeting these deadlines.

Some states and schools also distribute aid on a first come, first served basis. Submitting your application early can help ensure you'll receive the aid you're eligible for before the funds run out.

Prospective students who submit the FAFSA early might receive estimated financial aid offers from schools earlier as a result. This gives families more time to compare the offers before making the big decision on which school to attend.

You can list up to 10 schools on the FAFSA, including schools you're considering but haven't applied to yet. Submitting your info holds your place in line for aid, and you can switch out schools later if you want. You'll also receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) after submitting the FAFSA that you can send to additional schools.

Many states require you send your FAFSA to at least one in-state school to be eligible for state grants, and some states require you list a state school in the first or second position to be eligible. The Department of Education has a list of each state's requirements.

Bottom line: The FAFSA's submission period opens up three months earlier than in previous years. Sending your FAFSA in early could increase your eligibility for financial aid and give you more time to compare aid offers from schools.

Fire Pits from A1

PROPANE and NATURAL GAS FUELED FIRE PITS



PHOTO COURTESY PG COUNTY FIRE/EMS

Fixed or portable fireplaces or pits that are fueled by natural gas or propane are

permitted at single-family dwellings and townhomes when used according to manufacturers guidelines.

Any such device used on a deck must be at least 10 feet from the house and the combustion area cannot make contact with combustible decking.

These laws are designed to keep you safe. If found guilty of violating Section 11-268 the maximum penalty is up to \$1,000 and/or 6 months in jail.

For additional information on the regulation of open burning and recreational fires, please contact the Prince George's County Office of the Fire Marshal at 301-583-1830.

HHS Launches 2017 Open Enrollment

More Than 85% of Marketplace Consumers Will Qualify for Tax Credits

By PRESS OFFICER
HHS/ASPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On November 1, HHS announced that the Health Insurance Marketplaces are open for business, and Americans can again shop for high-quality, affordable coverage on an open, transparent market. This year, most Marketplace consumers will again have plan options for less than \$75 per month, thanks to financial assistance.

"This Open Enrollment, we're encouraging every American who might need coverage to visit HealthCare.gov, where they'll find options for affordable health insurance. This year, the vast majority of consumers will qualify for tax credits that help keep coverage affordable, and it's easier than ever to shop around and compare options," said HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "As we sound today's opening bell, let's also take stock of the historic gains in coverage we've made as a country, and work together to continue that progress."

Since the Marketplaces opened for business, they've helped drive

the national uninsured rate down to historic low after historic low: it reached 8.6 percent in the first quarter of 2016, down from 16.3 percent in 2010. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 20 million more Americans have coverage today. The Marketplaces—along with the expansion of Medicaid in 31 states and the District of Columbia and the ability for young adults to stay on their parents' plans up to age 26—have been an important contributor to those gains.

This year, thanks to financial assistance, more than 70 percent of Marketplace consumers will be able to find plans for less than \$75 per month. Eighty-four percent of current Marketplace consumers receive tax credits, which are designed to increase along with benchmark premiums to protect consumers from rate hikes. More current Marketplace consumers will qualify for next year. About 85 percent of Marketplace-eligible uninsured Americans could also qualify for tax credits.

HHS is encouraging Americans to take a fresh look at their

options, because on the Marketplace, shopping for a better deal pays off. This year, the average consumer will be able to choose from 30 plans, with an average of 10 plans per issuer. More than 7 in 10 current Marketplace consumers could save by coming back to shop instead of re-enrolling in their current plan. If every returning consumer nationwide selected the lowest-cost plan within the same metal level, average premiums paid would fall by \$28 per month—20 percent—compared to 2016, after factoring in financial assistance.

"We want to make sure everyone knows it's easier than ever to visit the Marketplace, compare your options, see if you qualify for lower costs, and sign up for the plan that best meets your needs and budget," said HealthCare.gov CEO Kevin Counihan. "That's why we're going all-out for Open Enrollment this year, with a top-tier public education campaign and on-the-ground partnerships to reach people where they are and spread the word

about the opportunity to enroll in affordable coverage."

The HealthCare.gov team has continued to improve a user-friendly website so that 2017 shoppers will be better able to navigate plan options. This year, HealthCare.gov will be piloting and then phasing in further improvements to make the shopping experience more intuitive and streamlined, particularly for users who access the site from their mobile phones. This new Plan Compare 2.0 will offer a simpler, step-by-step sign-up process that integrates improved physician and drug look-up tools directly into the shopping experience.

Open Enrollment is available now and continues through January 31, 2017, with a December 15th deadline for January 1st coverage. Thirty-nine states are using the federal HealthCare.gov platform this year; 11 states and D.C. use their own Marketplace websites. For enrollment assistance, consumers can call 1-800-318-2596 or visit localhelp.healthcare.gov.

Maryland Health Care Commission Approves Prince George's Hospital Plan

Vote of 11-0 Clears Certificate of Need for \$543M Regional Medical Center

By PRESS OFFICER
HHS/ASPA

BALTIMORE, MD—The Maryland Health Care Commission voted 11-0, with one recusal, to approve the Certificate of Need application (CON) by Dimensions Health Corp. to relocate and to replace the Prince George's Hospital Center and its Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital unit, creating the Prince George's Regional Medical Center at a site in Largo.

When completed, PGRMC will have 205 acute-inpatient beds and will provide all of the services available at the current hospital, including the 15-bed

special pediatric unit of Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. The replacement hospital will be owned and operated by the University of Maryland Medical System. Funding for the project comes from \$127 million in new debt, \$208 million from Prince George's County; and \$208 million from the State of Maryland.

"The state's approval of the medical center represents a significant step in strengthening the healthcare delivery model in Prince George's County," said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Van T. Mitchell. "I have been working and looking forward to this day for more than 10 years."

In presenting his Recommended Decision to the Commission, Commissioner Moffit emphasized the need for a robust ambulatory and primary care network in Prince George's County as crucial components to the long-term financial success of the project and critical to improving the health of Prince George's County residents. Under a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Dimensions and UMMS on August 30, 2016, UMMS will become the sole corporate owner of Dimensions.

As proposed in the revised project submitted to MHCC on August 31, 2016, Dimensions, under the ownership of UMMS,

will develop the Prince George's Regional Medical Center while continuing to partner with Prince George's County on programs to revitalize the county's health care delivery system.

"It is critical that the people of Prince George's County have access to quality primary and ambulatory care, if we are to build a health care system that delivers high-quality, safe, satisfying, and efficient care to all residents of the County," said Commissioner Moffit. "The project, as modified, will meet that objective and establish a first-rate financially sustainable Regional Medical Center in Largo."

MedStar from A1

patients are going through. I want potential patients to know that most breast reconstruction procedures are covered by insurance, and that many problems, like asymmetry, can be easily fixed. A two to four hour procedure can change a woman's life."

Prior to joining MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center, Dr. Sher served as assistant professor at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital's Department of Plastic Surgery, and will continue to see patients at that location. Dr. Sher

has extensive training on all the typical plastic surgery procedures, such as tummy tucks, skin cancer excisions, general reconstruction, breast augmentation, facial rejuvenation, blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery), surgery after weight loss, rhinoplasty, liposuction, Botox and fillers, chemical peels and Latisse. Dr. Sher will offer consultation in all areas of plastic surgery at MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital Center.

"We're thrilled to make this announcement during Breast Cancer Awareness Month," said MedStar Southern Maryland

Hospital Center President Christine R. Wray. "Dr. Sher brings much-needed expertise to our hospital, and I know the community will greatly benefit from her expertise, as we serve the women of southern Maryland. Breast cancer surgeon Dr. Ekaterini Tsiapali and plastic surgeon Dr. Sarah Sher are an integral part of a comprehensive chain of gifted physicians who treat women at every stage of health."

Dr. Sher received her undergraduate degree from Southwestern University and her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center

at San Antonio. She completed her internship and residency in plastic surgery at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Sher also volunteered on a mission trip fixing cleft lips and cleft palates with Operation Smile in India.

Dr. Sher has published numerous papers on plastic surgery procedures and has won several awards, including the honor of Top Resident in Hand Surgery at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Sher is also fluent in Spanish. To refer a patient or make an appointment, please call 301-877-5607.

Bowie State from A1

Capital Park and Planning Commission," said BSU Provost Weldon Jackson. "We firmly believe that this initiative will enable us to share the phenomenal resources of Bowie State University's Fine and Performing Arts Center through a variety of programs open to more of our neighbors in the region."

The partnership provides a framework for cooperative development of activities, programming and events that will utilize the main stage and black box theaters, recital hall, movement studio and classrooms throughout the facility. In ad-

dition, M-NCPPC will provide a part-time, on-site project manager to support program development and management.

"We wholeheartedly believe this partnership will be mutually beneficial for BSU, M-NCPPC, the greater Washington region and beyond," said Ronnie Gathers, director of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation. "We look forward to expanding community access to the arts and hosting world-class productions right here in Prince George's County at Bowie State University."

The oldest historically black university in Maryland, Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher education ac-

cess portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education.

The Fine and Performing Arts Center, a \$71 million state-of-the-art facility on the campus of Bowie State University, is home to aspiring students and accomplished faculty in art, music and theatre programs. The 123,000 square-foot building includes two theaters, a recital hall and movement stu-

dio. Spacious classrooms, laboratories and office suites are strategically placed throughout the building to accommodate various faculty and programs. The facility's status as an all-Steinway venue adds another signature distinction featuring 10 baby grand pianos and 23 practice pianos.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgpc.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

COMMENTARY

Cong. Chris Van Hollen House Democratic Minority Whip



Van Hollen, Lee, Frick, Kelly, Korman, and Berliner Request School Zone Designation for River Road Near Walt Whitman High School

WASHINGTON, DC—Today Maryland Congressman Chris Van Hollen joined State Senator Susan C. Lee, Delegates C. William Frick, Ariana B. Kelly, and Marc Korman, and Montgomery County Council Vice President Roger Berliner in requesting that the State Highway Administration (SHA) designate a section of River Road (MD 190) near Walt Whitman High School as a School Zone. This section of River Road has long been a safety concern, and was the scene of a tragic accident last year that cost the lives of three members of a Bethesda family.

“Drivers on this section of River Road, which crests just before a major entrance point to the school, simply go too fast,” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to SHA Administrator Gregory Johnson.

They continued, “We urge you to recognize the reality on the ground—not the formal address—in designating this stretch of River Road as a School Zone. We believe that doing so will help save lives.”

The full text of the letter to Administrator Johnson is below:

Dear Administrator Johnson:

Last February, three members of a Bethesda family were killed when their vehicle was struck by another vehicle as they were attempting to cross River Road (MD 190) to Braeburn Parkway. They were on their way to a school play at Walt Whitman High School.

Since the crash, which took the lives of a mother, father and their son who was set to grad-

uate from Whitman High School in May, the State Highway Administration (SHA) has agreed to add traffic-activated overhead flashing signs and implement turning restrictions in an interim effort to enhance safety. The SHA is also studying concepts for creating a new intersection at the nearby pedestrian crossing at River Road and Pyle Road, which would close the intersection where this tragedy occurred.

Despite these changes, we believe that there is an equally important step your agency should take as soon as possible: designating this stretch of River Road as a School Zone. This designation would allow SHA to lower the current speed limit from 45 miles per hour. Lowering vehicle speeds is vital to making this area safer, and that will continue to be the case even as your agency implements its planned improvements for the existing intersection.

In the case of the February 27, 2016 crash, police reported the driver of the vehicle who hit the victims’ vehicle was traveling at speeds as high as 115 miles per hour before braking and colliding into the family’s vehicle at about 75 miles per hour. Drivers on this section of River Road, which crests just before a major entrance point to the school, simply go too fast.

While Walt Whitman High School has a Whittier Boulevard address, the day-to-day reality is that a substantial percentage of students,

See **SCHOOL ZONE** Page A5



Maryland State House

Open to the Public

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS PHOTO BY: MARTIN FALBISONER

MARYLAND STATE HOUSE
Completed in 1779, it was the site of nationally important events during the American Revolution, including George Washington’s resignation as commander in chief of the Continental Army from the army, and the ratification of the Treaty of Paris. The rich architecture and history of the building was recognized in 1960 when the State House was designated as a National Historic Landmark. The State House is open to the public every day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas and New Years Day. To help make your visit to the Maryland State House more enjoyable, and to provide you with an understanding of its rich and historic past, self-guided tour information is available in the Office of Interpretation on the first floor.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Keep Moving Forward on the Path Towards Justice

“You know, it was pretty staggering. It put an end to essentially something that the Civil War was unable to end.”

—Legal Defense Fund Attorney Jack Greenberg, describing his reaction after the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*

I was heartbroken by the recent death of Jack Greenberg, one of the last great legal links to *Brown v. Board of Education* and my first boss out of law school. What a privilege to work in a legal powerhouse with Jack and Constance Baker Motley, Derrick Bell, James Nabrit, III and many other gifted and committed civil rights attorneys. As the son of European Jewish immigrants growing up in Brooklyn and the Bronx, Jack Greenberg learned to hate prejudice and injustice. In 1949 at age 24 he became an assistant counsel to Thurgood Marshall, the lion who was the founding head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Over the next five years he was part of Marshall’s team of extraordinary lawyers arguing the cases that led to the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown* that “separate but equal” public schools were unconstitutional.

When Thurgood Marshall was named to the federal bench in 1961, he chose Jack Greenberg to succeed him as head of what had become simply the Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Jack spent the next 23 years fighting and winning a number of key court decisions, including rulings on school desegregation, employment discrimination, and voting rights. Julius Chambers who later succeeded Jack Greenberg as director counsel and I were lucky enough to be the first two LDF Lehman Fellowship interns—new lawyers who wanted to practice in the South after a year of training with LDF’s extraordinary lawyers. I headed off to Jackson, Mississippi to set up a “legal factory” to handle the many cases generated by hundreds of civil rights arrests during the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. Julius opened a civil rights practice in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Years later Jack Greenberg explained that the courts had to become a crucial instrument in finishing some of the unfinished business of the Civil War and Re-

construction because the original legal protections offered to Black citizens had never been honored, including the critical right to vote: “Blacks couldn’t vote in the South ... Southern states engaged in all kinds of stratagems to keep Blacks out. So there was absolutely no political power. It was impossible even to pass an anti-lynching bill. There was talk about armed revolution, but that would be suicidal. And so the only place to turn was the courts.” And the courts still are—in the South and North—the only means of stopping large scale voter suppression methods today from Ohio to North Carolina.

The landmark court victories of the Civil Rights era changed our nation forever. Yet we are once again facing a future where millions of America’s children of color still have separate and unequal chances during their early years of greatest brain development and in their school classrooms. As the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights explains: “It took ten years after *Brown*, but beginning with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the nation committed to desegregation and it worked. Courts and executive agencies consistently supported desegregation plans and from 1968 to

1988, as more schools integrated, academic achievement increased for African American students. But the legal and political tide turned against integration during the 1980s. Courts stopped ordering desegregation plans and began dismantling existing plans—both court-ordered and voluntary. Federal agencies stopped aggressive enforcement and by 1989 schools were beginning to resegregate, reversing many of the academic gains of the previous 20 years.”

The Leadership Conference added: “For African Americans in the South, which is now significantly more integrated than most of the rest of the country, the rate of resegregation since 1988 is the worst. In the Northeast, where schools have been getting more segregated since the 1960s, and in many large cities, minority students are the most segregated. For Hispanic students, integration never had a chance to take hold in any region ... At the same time, rapid growth in the Hispanic and African American population and growing income disparities have increased the concentration of minorities in high poverty districts.”

See **WATCH**, Page A12

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



America Faces a Time for Racial Healing

“I wish I could say that racism and prejudice were only distant memories. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust ... We must dissent because America can do better, because America has no choice but to do better.”

—Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall

As far back as June of last year, the National Urban League called upon all Presidential candidates to refrain from using racially divisive and disparaging language in their campaigns.

In the ensuing months, we heard an unprecedented call to ban all Muslims from the nation, even United States citizens. That call was followed by more than two dozen anti-Muslim attacks in the United States, ranging from a cab-driver shot in Pittsburgh to the deliberate torching of a Somali restaurant in Grand Forks, N.D. The owner of a food market in Queens was beaten by a customer who vowed to “kill Muslims.”

The level of vitriol against immigrants and racial and ethnic minorities was amped so high during the campaign that the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups, coined the term “The Trump Effect” to describe the alarming level of fear and anxiety among children of color over racial tensions and their fears of being deported.

According to an SPLC survey of teachers:

- More than two-thirds of the teachers reported that students—mainly immigrants, children of immigrants and Muslims—have expressed concerns or fears about what might happen to them or their families after the election.
- More than half have seen an increase in uncivil political discourse.
- More than one-third have observed an increase in anti-Muslim or anti-immigrant sentiment.
- More than 40 percent were hesitant to teach about the election.

Other children have been using the word “Trump” as a taunt or as a chant as they gang up on others.

Over two-thirds (67 percent) of educators reported that young people in their schools—most often immigrants, children of immigrants, Muslims, African Americans and other students of color—had expressed concern about what might happen to them or their families after the election. Close to one-third of the students in American classrooms are children of foreign-born parents. This year, they are scared, stressed and in need of reassurance and support from teachers. Muslim children are harassed and worried. Even native-born African American children, whose families arrived here before the American Revolution, ask about being sent back to Africa. Others, especially younger students, have worries that are the stuff of nightmares, like a return to slavery or being rounded up and put into camps. Overall, these vulnerable students are disillusioned and depressed at the hatred they’re hearing from candidates, in the news, from classmates and even, sometimes, from trusted adults.

As we have said throughout this campaign, religious and racial bigotry are not core American values. In fact, such bigotry is more than unpatriotic; it threatens our national security.

So, where do we go from here?

We are hopeful now that the heat of the campaign begins to cool, our President-Elect and his supporters will adopt a more sober approach to issues of racial justice. He has called for the country to unite, and we will take him at his word.

Our duty as citizens is to hold him to his word. We have the power to define patriotism in the 21st Century, and there’s no room in that definition for bigotry. Some have mused that this campaign has served as a poultice of sorts, drawing the poisons of hate and intolerance to the surface. This is our opportunity to cleanse them away.

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260
Email: pgpost@gmail.com
Contents © 2016, The Prince George's Post

Publisher/Senior Editor Legusta Floyd	Editor Michal W. Frangia
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Typesetter/Page Layout Jennifer Sheckels
Legal Advertising Assistant Robin Boerckel	Web Manager Kyler Quesenberry

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

BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

When It's Time to Have "That Talk" With an Aging Parent

It's an increasingly common situation that many families face. Improved health care and healthier lifestyles have many people living well into their 70s, 80s and beyond. And while many of these folks may be in relatively good health, it's natural that their children begin to worry that their aging parents can no longer care for themselves as well as they once did.

Such situations can result in a variety of emotionally-laden decisions that require family discussions.

It can often be extremely difficult to discuss, never mind reach decisions, about issues such as where elderly parents should live, what health services are needed, current financial situations, wills and estate planning, the surrendering of a driver's license and related topics.

But, while such discussions with an aging parent may be difficult, they are necessary. And there are ways to make such talks less prone to disagreement and more apt to lead to productive results.

Start by picking a time and place for important conversations that will make your parent feel comfortable.

A big help in holding useful discussions is to speak in a way that avoids judgmental "you" statements, such as, "Dad, you have to accept. ..." Instead, talk about what you feel and think about an issue, rather than taking the position that what you believe is correct while your parent's views are simply wrong.

It's vital that you respect your parent's right to argue and disagree. Listen to your parent's feelings, views and ideas, especially when the subject involves major decisions. Realize that your job is to offer advice and support, not to dictate how things "must" be. It helps for you to see how difficult it may be for a parent to admit that he or she is becoming limited and less capable.

You might also include someone you and your parent mutually trust, but don't make your parent feel he or she is being ganged up on.

Accept that reaching necessary decisions may take time. See initial discussions as door openers, chances to get the process started.

It's emotionally difficult for parent and child when an aging parent can no longer handle daily life on his or her own. Holding effective discussions on changes to be made can be much more productive, and far less traumatic, than simply trying to dictate decisions. If extra help is needed, seek out a professional counselor who specializes in geriatric issues.

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

School Zone from A4

parents and visitors access the school via Braeburn Parkway. There is also a marked but non-signalized pedestrian crosswalk just east of the intersection that is widely used by students who walk to the school from the south side of River Road. Both the Braeburn Parkway intersection and the pedestrian crosswalk are within half a mile of the school's entrance. This pedestrian crosswalk is in dire need of more prominent road markings and flashing lights/signage indicating an upcoming pedestrian crossing.

There is precedent for designating this type of area as a School Zone. We understand that SHA recently gave the School Zone designation to a similar section of roadway near a school in Prince George's County. We urge you to recognize the reality on the ground—not the formal address—in designating this stretch of River Road as a School Zone. We believe that doing so will help save lives.

Long before the February 2016 crash, many in the community urged the SHA to make safety improvements to this intersection, efforts that resulted in studies but no action. There is now no excuse not to take every action available to us.

We look forward to your response.

Ecosystem from A1

"The time is now," said Alfred G. Edwards, President & CEO of Exceed Corporation. "The County couldn't be better positioned to have top thought leaders join forces to expand and strengthen the technology sector."

The Roundtable also has the support of the Prince George's County Tech Council.

"The EDC's 'Technology Executives Roundtable' is the first step in organizing our tech community in Prince George's County," said Tony Marshall, President of the Prince George's County Tech Council. "The Prince George's County Tech Council welcomes the partnership and collaboration with PGCEDC on

their Technology Executives Roundtable initiative."

The Roundtable will meet monthly to share the latest trends in the technology sector, discuss opportunities to bolster the technology ecosystem, and develop strategies to create a culture of innovation in Prince George's County in collaboration with the Prince George's County Tech Council. The Roundtable also plans to participate in job fairs and meet-ups while fostering a relationship with the Tech Council to make the County a place that tech companies come and thrive.

Learn more about the Technology Executives Roundtable, contact Veronica Jeon at the website vjeon@vagencyinc.com or Lori Valentine, EDC Communications Director at 240-478-7336.

MGM National Harbor to Open December 8

Capital Region's First Luxury Gaming Resort Now Accepting Room Reservations for December 2016

By PRESS OFFICER
MGM National Harbor

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD—Bringing the first luxury gaming resort experience to the Capital Region, the \$1.4 billion MGM National Harbor will make its highly anticipated debut Thursday, December 8, just minutes from Washington D.C. on the banks of the Potomac River.

The resort is accepting room reservations for stays beginning December 10 via mgmnationalharbor.com or (844) 646-6847. Nightly room rates start at \$399 and suite rates begin at \$599.

"After years of planning, designing and developing, we are thrilled that the moment is almost upon us to share this very special resort with the community and visitors from around the world," said Lorenzo Creighton, president of MGM National Harbor. "We are grateful to Prince George's County, the state of Maryland and all of the local designers, artisans and businesses that have collaborated with us to deliver this international resort with very local roots."

Bill Boasberg, the resort's general manager, said, "On December 8, MGM National Harbor will introduce something unprecedented to one of the country's most popular travel destinations. Under one roof, guests will enjoy a sophisticated hotel experience, high-energy casino, celebrity-chef restaurants, world-class entertainment, nightlife, destination spa, upscale retail and curated art, complemented by incredible panoramas of D.C., Maryland and Virginia."

Surrounded by the lush woodlands and rolling riverscape of Prince George's County, with sweeping views of the capital's iconic monuments, MGM National Harbor will be a destination distinct to its setting with contemporary and bold architecture and design inspired by the historical region.

A Glimpse Into MGM National Harbor

• **Accommodations**—Clean lines, modern functionality, signature wood millwork accents



PHOTO COURTESY MGM NATIONAL HARBOR

and floor-to-ceiling windows boasting stunning views define the 308 rooms and suites, ranging in size from 400 to 3,210 square feet. Complementing the resort's modern elegance, room and suite designs draw inspiration from forest and water elements native to Maryland while incorporating vistas of the surrounding landscape.

• **Culinary Delights**—The chef-driven food and beverage program at MGM National Harbor captures flavors of the Capital Region in both upscale and casual dining options. Acclaimed chefs José Andrés, Marcus Samuelsson, and Bryan and Michael Voltaggio each will introduce exclusive concepts to the resort. Delivering the vibe of a gourmet food festival, National Market will boast nine distinct venues inspired by local and global flavors. Pan-Asian restaurant Ginger will serve authentic cuisine from regions throughout Asia, while TAP Sports Bar will offer regionally inspired comfort food to be enjoyed while watching the latest sporting events.

• **Bellagio Pâtisserie**—A European-inspired pastry shop reminiscent of its namesake in Las Vegas, will feature a 26-foot-tall chocolate fountain—one of the world's largest—circulating nearly two tons of sumptuous melted chocolate.

• **Entertainment**—MGM National Harbor has partnered

with entertainment giant Live Nation for entertainment programming at The Theater at MGM National Harbor, an intimate 3,000-seat venue slated to host the entertainment industry's biggest acts and events. Complete with VIP suites and reconfigurable seating arrangements, the venue will welcome A-list concerts, comedy shows, UFC fights, boxing matches and other special events.

• **Art**—Furthering the rich local flavor of MGM National Harbor through art, the thoughtfully curated Heritage Collection will be woven throughout the resort's public spaces, featuring commissioned and procured artwork by renowned local and international sculptors, photographers and mixed-media artists including Bob Dylan, Margaret Boozier, Alice Aycock, Ron Beverly, Martha Jackson Jarvis, Sam Gilliam, John Dreyfuss, John Safer, Liao Yibai and Chul Hyun Ahn, among others.

• **Conservatory**—Entering the hotel, guests will be welcomed by a stunning two-story Conservatory featuring intricate design elements and vibrant floral combinations masterfully interwoven by famed designer Ed Libby. Certain to become a must-see attraction in the region, The Conservatory will be visible throughout the central portion of the resort and viewable from several vantage points around

the property. The display will change five times per year—one for each season plus a dedicated display in celebration of Lunar New Year.

• **Meetings & Events**—Available for small private gatherings, engaging meetings and elegant galas, MGM National Harbor will be a premier destination for groups that expect the best in amenities and service. With 50,000 square feet of versatile meeting space, MGM National Harbor Conference Center will include two boardrooms, the 16,200-square-foot MGM Grand Ballroom with floor-to-ceiling windows and a 6,000-square-foot terrace with spectacular views. For unconventional meeting and event locations, the flexible 3,000-seat Theater at MGM National Harbor with VIP suites and scalable chair and table designs, and the outdoor Potomac Plaza with breathtaking views of the nation's capital, can set the stage for memorable weddings, social gatherings or important business receptions.

• **Potomac Plaza**—Fresh air meets breathtaking views on MGM National Harbor's incredible outdoor plaza, which will feature a beautiful fountain and reflecting pool alongside sweeping vistas overlooking the har-

See MGM Page A6

FBI from A1

The government envisions a building of 2.1 million square feet to accommodate 11,055 employees, at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion.

"Generally, the site should be served by mass transit, have adequate surrounding highways infrastructure, and be in substantial conformance with local land use plans," Kevin Perkins, the associate director of the FBI, told Congress in 2013.

David Iannucci, Prince George's County assistant deputy chief administrative officer for economic development, said in an interview with Capital News Service he did not want to choose between Greenbelt and Landover, but did give reasons why either place would meet the FBI's requirements.

"The Greenbelt site is an excellent site," Iannucci said. "It has very strong mass transit opportunities, it meets the security requirements for the GSA and

FBI, and it also meets all of their logistical requirements as well as cost and so forth."

"The Landover site is clear, it's ready to be developed, it's the largest of the three sites, it's got outstanding highway access, and it could provide and meet all the GSA and FBI requirements," he said.

In Springfield, the site for the new headquarters is currently occupied by a government-owned warehouse that is operated by the GSA, according to Fred Selden, director of Fairfax County's Department of Development and Planning. Springfield would prefer not to partner with a private developer, he said.

"We thought that not only was the site convenient to Metro and other attributes, but it was also a redevelopment that could be accomplished using government land," Selden said.

With plans to build around the Greenbelt Metro before FBI headquarters relocation news

was announced, Beall said that a lot of the preparatory work already was done.

"The preliminary plan, construction site plan, and the storm water plans... all of those had been advanced very far along before we even started pursuing the FBI headquarters as a potential use for the site," he said.

Frank Hoeppel, an employee at the Department of Agriculture, said as he was leaving the Greenbelt Metro station that the residents would benefit greatly from the FBI moving there.

"Generally speaking, I think it's a great thing for suburban Maryland and I think it's a really good thing for Greenbelt. Obviously you're bringing (in) a lot of jobs, you're bringing in people who are going to be interested in moving closer to the facility," Hoeppel said.

At each of the three sites, officials have said they have received largely positive feedback.

Still, there has been concern among some area residents about the impact such a large facility could have on local traffic. In order to address such worries, Beall said that he is working with Metro to put together a plan to combat traffic around the Metro station.

"We are replacing all the Metro facilities there, other than the station itself," Beall said. "The first part of it really is we build the garage south of the parking lot, so that it doesn't interfere with the existing parking at all."

If the FBI headquarters were to come to Greenbelt, Hoeppel acknowledged it will get more crowded at the Greenbelt station.

"Other stations are very crowded and people move on with their lives and do fine with it," Hoeppel said. "I think, overall, the positives outweigh the negatives by a long shot."

The GSA declined to comment on the project for this story.

The Prince George's Post *Subscribe Today!*

Call (301) 627-0900 | Fax (301) 627-6260

Serving Prince George's County Since 1932

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK
Movie Review

Ouija: Origin of Evil

Ouija: Origin of Evil
Grade: B+
Rated PG-13, a lot of
spookiness and terror, and
a little profanity
1 hr., 39 min

I “missed” (if that is the right word) the 2014 film *Ouija*, based on the pretend-satanic board game beloved by imaginative adolescents since time immemorial. It got almost nothing but bad reviews, and I’ll take my colleagues at their collective word. So the prequel, *Ouija: Origin of Evil*—from *Oculus* and *Hush* director Mike Flanagan and co-writer Jeff Howard—is a pleasant, creepy surprise, a stylish funhouse that, like Flanagan’s other films, finds new life in old scenarios.

The setting is 1967 Los Angeles, where young widow Alice Zander (Elizabeth Reaser) runs a fake medium business out of her home (her very old, very large home, the sort of home that probably has a tragic history). Aided by her daughters, teenage Lina (Annalise Basso) and 9-year-old Doris (Lulu Wilson), Alice sweetly bilks gullible sad people out of their money by pretending to contact their dead loved ones, but she believes she’s ultimately doing good by helping them find closure. Lina suggests introducing a Ouija board into the act, maybe use some magnets to move the planchette around and really give customers a thrill. Imagine everyone’s surprise when little Doris exhibits prodigy-level Ouija use and actually summons spirits—including, possibly, her own father (played in flashbacks by Michael Weaver).

Well! Now business is REALLY booming! There are downsides, though. Lina moves



ROTTENTOMATOES

In this horror sequel, a game of Ouija leads to supernatural activity. Annalise Basso, Henry Thomas, Doug Jones, and Elizabeth Reaser star. Directed by Mike Flanagan.

from skepticism to fear when she sees how Doris becomes a channel for these spirits; Doris, for her part, enjoys communing with her new “friends” and is happy to do their bidding. Father Tom (Henry Thomas), the top priest at the girls’ Catholic school, is concerned for a number of reasons, not all of them theological. Alice is flabbergasted to be in contact with her dead husband, convinced of the spirits’ authenticity and unaware of the effect they’re having on Doris.

Flanagan, an inventive filmmaker with a sharp eye (he’s also the movies’s editor), revels in the variety of opportunities afforded by the premise: haunted house,

creepy kids, demonic possession, malevolent spirits—all the old standbys. He uses atmospheric music (by The Newton Brothers) and excellent sound design (by Trevor Gates) to amplify tension, avoids cheap jump scares, and rewards attentive viewing with blink-and-you-miss-them glimpses of lurking spirits. The dialogue is above-average, including a ghastly monologue from adorable li’l Doris about what it’s like to be strangled.

Flanagan is also committed to the retro vibe, in ways both in obvious (the old-style Universal logo and title card) and not-so-obvious: burn marks where the reel changes would be, reliance on the type of filmmaking equip-

ment and techniques that were in use 45 years ago, and a shunning of gore, sex, and nastiness. He wants to scare and delight us, not shock or nauseate us. For a lot of filmmakers, being hired to make a prequel to a minor horror hit would be an excuse to phone it in. Flanagan took the challenge and came up with something more meticulously spooky than almost every other horror film this year.

(Note: Though it is a prequel, *Origin of Evil* works just fine as a standalone story. If you saw *Ouija* you’ll see the connections. If you didn’t, don’t worry about it. Worry about the evil spirits that are going to follow you home.)

MGM from A5

bor, Potomac River and the nation’s capital.

• **Nightlife**—Clique Hospitality, the trendsetting experts who have defined Las Vegas’ famed nightlife industry for more than a decade, is creating two distinct venues certain to become go-to spots for sophisticated socializing and inventive cocktails. Felt Bar & Lounge is an indoor/outdoor lounge featuring the region’s first tableside mixology program; and Blossom Cocktail Lounge, in-

spired by Washington, D.C.’s famed cherry blossoms, will be at the center of all the action.

• **Spa & Salon**—Guests can replenish their mind, body and spirit through the tranquil offerings within MGM National Harbor’s 27,000-square-foot Spa & Salon. Timeless modern design, minimal ornamentation and light-soaked spaces will create a relaxing experience for guests looking to indulge in a brief respite or an all-day escape. Situated on the corner of the resort, wrap-around windows will fea-

ture views of its beautiful natural surroundings. Also capitalizing on the stunning views, a spacious fitness center located adjacent to the salon, will feature a wide variety of cardio machines and free weights, all overlooking the resort’s outdoor pool.

• **Pool**—Beginning in spring 2017, hotel guests of MGM National Harbor will be invited to relax and unwind at the resort’s outdoor, heated, infinity-edge pool. Overlooking the resort’s peaceful surroundings, this sophisticated yet energetic

setting will offer a respite from the action with lush seating, private cabanas and poolside cocktail service.

• **Casino**—More than 125,000 square feet of dynamic casino space will feature poker, a variety of table games and more than 3,300 slot machines to keep the energy going all night.

• **Retail**—For those seeking a little retail therapy, MGM National Harbor will feature 18,000 square feet of luxury retail with brands to be announced soon.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Not in My Locker Room



Let’s discuss “locker-room talk.” At the second presidential debate, Donald Trump defended taped comments that he likes to “grab [women] by the pussy” as simply “locker-room talk” instead of what it was: boasting about sexual assault.

Immediately, social media were flooded with pro athletes, people who assumedly have spent a hell of a lot more time in locker rooms than Donald Trump, saying that this is a slander on their workplace.

I have also spent my share of time in locker rooms, and while I understand the desire to brand Donald Trump as a uniquely misogynistic liar, I cannot say that his comments are alien to a locker room. If only the sole alleged rapist to emerge from a locker room in this country was Donald Trump, but that’s just not the truth. Read Jessica Luther’s book *Unsportsmanlike Conduct* and get a crash course about how the locker room can be an incubator of rape and a fortress against anyone who would challenge this culture.

I also, however, have no doubt that the athletes who are coming forward to say that they never heard rape talk in the locker room are telling the truth. Again, I have been in many locker rooms and it is absolutely true that there is no steady stream of banter—liberated to talk freely without the tender ears of lady-folk—blabbing about how they love to assault women. I personally have heard it only twice out of hundreds of locker-room interactions as an athlete or reporter. But both times, the words and deeds were anything but benign.

The first time was in high school. An upperclassman, call him “Brett,” was next to me bragging to a friend about how he, if at the right party and in the right scenario, “could grab any tits without even talking and make [any woman have sex with him].” He told a story in detail about the previous Saturday night when “[his] hands were all over her body and it was over.” He then quoted a rap song by Nice & Smooth—of all people—where Greg Nice says, “Sex sex sex is the liggaligga law when a guy gets a girl behind the bedroom door.”


I was a 15-year-old silent bystander to this. I stood and said nothing. I’d like to say I was concerned that I’d be beat up or pushed in a locker, but that would be bullshit. The truth was, I thought I’d look like a loser if I said anything. I was Billy Bush. I didn’t know what “rape culture” or being a “passive bystander” meant. I knew I left that locker room feeling like shit, embarrassed to face my big sister that evening.

That same student, Brett, was accused of rape as a senior. His parents had some sway and the choice was to kick him out of school quietly. His senior year quote, at a new school in a new yearbook, was more rap lyrics about rape. It was all a joke to him. (It’s at this point where I feel obliged to say that this person was white, wealthy, and entitled.)

The second time was also in high school. I had a very peaceful hippie, vegetarian basketball coach who once came into the locker room and told us to get our clothes on because one of the girls’ team coaches, Coach Deb, was about to come in and say a few words. We all reached for our pants, except a teammate I’ll call “Tim.” Tim saw this as a moment for humor and said, “Let’s keep our pants off because then we can rape her!”

I wish I could tell you whether laughter followed, but we didn’t even get the chance to react. Coach Dan backhanded Tim across the face. Seeing a coach or adult authority figure hit a 14-year-old, even a huge one like Tim, was shocking enough. Seeing Hippie Dan do it was unreal. We all stood there either stunned or shaking. Coach Dan finally spoke and said, “I’m sorry but there are some things you don’t joke about.” He then walked out of the locker room and practice was done. The incident was never mentioned, but Dan lost his joy for the job, Tim became sullen in practice, and that was the first and last locker-room rape joke of the season.

I am not writing about that last interaction positively. Using violence to teach a teenage kid that rape is wrong seems like being caught in the same cycle of toxic masculinity that produces rape and rape culture in the first place. But even though I disagree with what Coach Dan did, he wasn’t a passive bystander. I never heard about Tim being accused of assault. One wonders if someone had intervened with Brett if a woman—or women—could have been spared his predations. One wonders if someone had smacked a teenage Donald Trump, if women could have been spared the decades of degradation he has so willingly projected both in his public and personal life. It is because of people like Donald Trump that a locker room can become an incubator of rape culture and a fortress against anyone who would challenge it from the outside. Inside the locker room, all athletes need to pledge that this will not fly. No one—well, maybe almost no one—needs to be smacked. But the predators need to be confronted and removed. Don’t be a rape-culture bystander. Just be clear that “pulling a Trump” will not be tolerated, and say loudly and proudly, “Not in my locker room.”



NATURAL AIR FILTERS

Looking for an eco-friendly way to filter the air in your home or office?

NASA, looking for ways to detoxify the air in its space stations, conducted a study to determine the most effective plants for filtering the air of toxic agents and converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. Consider including one of the following plants for cleaning indoor air in your home or office space. View the full list of NASA’s best air-filtering houseplants at www.good.is.

- ▶ Boston Fern
- ▶ Chinese Evergreen
- ▶ Dwarf Date Palm
- ▶ Weeping Fig
- ▶ Devil’s Ivy
- ▶ Peace Lily
- ▶ Florist’s Chrysanthemum

Calendar of Events

November 17 — November 23, 2016

Public Reception:

"Urban Color" by Susan Stregack and Rollin Fraser

Date and Time: Friday, November 18, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: "Attention must be paid," a quote from Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman*, exemplifies the photographs presented in Urban color. Susan Stregack and Rollin Fraser isolate the very small parts found in urban settings as representations of the whole image.

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

Xtreme Teens: Glow Roller Skating

Date and Time: Friday, November 18, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Enjoy skating to your favorite music and hanging out with your peers. Don't forget to bring socks for your skates.

Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID
Ages: 10–17
Location: Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

Nicole Saphos Live at the Listening Room

Date and Time: Friday, November 18, 2016, 8–10 pm
Description: Jazz Vocalist and Bassist, Nicole Saphos honed her skills at Temple University prior to emerging onto the D.C. jazz scene in 2012.

The bold bass playing songstress has since established herself as a compelling performer.

Drawing upon her unique collection of influences, ranging from Charles Mingus to Fiona Apple, Saphos couples a strong sense of musicality with her achingly nostalgic sound and inventively hypnotic and rhythmically driven arrangements.

Listen to her music at <http://www.nicolesaphos.com>.
Cost: \$15/person (Register in the Parks and Rec E-store)
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Bicycle Nature Tour

Date and Time: Saturday, November 19, 2016, 1–3 pm
Description: Take a nature tour by bike and enjoy the sights and sounds of the wetlands, birds and more! Participants under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Bring your own bike or call the park to reserve one for your trip. Remember your helmet, water, sunscreen, and bug spray.

Cost: Resident \$3; Non-Resident \$4
Ages: 12 & up
Location: Patuxent River Park Group Camp
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-6074; TTY: 301-699-2544

Thanksgiving Glitterfest

Date and Time: Saturday, November 19, 2016, 2–4 pm
Description: Join us for a free one-day workshop for young artists and families to decorate sparkling centerpieces with glitter for their Thanksgiving table.

Nothing says "Thanks!" like glitter—and all the mess can stay in our classroom. Families are encouraged to bring their own items to decorate, but can also choose from a limited selection of free centerpiece items at the workshop.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Brentwood Arts Center
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

Festival of Lights Trot for a Turkey

Date and Time: Saturday, November 19, 2016, 6 pm
Description: Enjoy a walk or run through the Winter Festival of Lights. Throughout the 3.1 miles course you will see dazzling light displays up close. Your registration fee includes a commemorative long-sleeve tee and will provide a family in need with a holiday turkey.

Registration is available online at www.pgparcs.com (E-store) through November 17 before 5 pm.
Cost: \$30/person
Ages: All ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-7755; TTY 301-699-2544

The Sovereign Social: Mulan's Glorious Gala

Date and Time: Sunday, November 20, 2016, 1–4:30 pm
Description: Slide on your sparkling geta or odobo (flip-flops), grab your tiara, and adorn yourself in jewels for a glorious good time. Music, games, crafts, lunch, prizes, etiquette and more. All participants must be in semi-formal attire to participate.

Cost: Residents \$15 Residents; Non-Residents \$20
Ages: 5–13
Location: Upper Marlboro Community Center
5400 Marlboro Race Track Road,
Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-627-2828; TTY 301-699-2544

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society

Date and Time: Sunday, November 20, 2016, 2 pm
Description: Enjoy a performance by talented area musicians and mingle with them at a reception after the concert. Stay tuned for program details.

Cost: Free
Ages: Ages 12 & up
Location: Riversdale House Museum
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544
riversdale@pgparcs.com

EARTH TALK ... Chernobyl Wildlife Thriving 30 Years Later

Dear EarthTalk:

How has wildlife been affected around the site of the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in Russia three decades ago?

Walter Scinto,
Hartford, CT

The Chernobyl disaster confirmed everyone's worst nightmares about the awesome power of nuclear reactions. When the Ukrainian reactor collapsed, the radioactive fallout profoundly contaminated the surrounding environment, affecting any living beings located within the so-called "Exclusion Zone" of 30 kilometers around the reactor's shell. Acute radiation poisoning annihilated a large pine stand, since renamed "the Red Forest," while many animals suffered significant physical or mental abnormalities.

Invertebrates in the area suffered particularly dramatic population crashes, as most radioactive material resides in the topsoil layer where such insects survive and reproduce. Even apparently healthy wildlife was forbidden from resale because of the dangerous levels of radioactivity. The dangers of radiation led to a government-mandated eviction of the radioactive territory soon after the 1986 explosion.

However, 30 years of isolation from humans has proven to be the most beneficial consequence of the disaster. After the initial devastation of the radioactive

fallout, species began to adapt to the higher levels of radiation. Indeed, species diversity and populations are actually healthier now than in most other forests in Eastern Europe. This recognition from the Ukrainian government led to the Exclusion Zone's establishment as one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in Europe in 2007. Some rare and endangered species, including lynx and the European bison, have returned to the area and can be found in higher densities than in radiation-free forests. Even the Przewalski's Horse, extinct in the area and artificially reintroduced to the Exclusion Zone in the 1990s, has flourished; the population has reached stability and is even starting to spread out beyond the protective fencing of the Zone.

The question remains of how these animals are able to sustain such high levels of radiation without succumbing to its deadly effects. Recent studies of the Chernobyl region by wildlife biologists Anders Pape Møller and Timothy Mousseau have identified serious consequences of radiation, even within thriving populations. Mutations among affected Exclusion Zone species include higher rates of cataracts, partial albinism, and physical variation. However, it appears the deadly mutations took their toll on populations immediately. Subsequent surviving generations have shown amazing adaptability.

Møller and Mousseau conclude that while radiation is



CREDIT: NASA

These days, wildlife is thriving around the site of the nuclear reactor meltdown at Chernobyl in the Ukraine three decades ago.

inarguably bad for the environment, its impact on wildlife is far overshadowed by the effects of typical human development. While no one would have wished for the Chernobyl meltdown, environmentalists point out the silver lining of being able to monitor wildlife population in the absence of human populations and activities.

Chernobyl is a primary example of ecosystem resilience as capable of overcoming radioactive devastation—and can teach us all a lesson about the importance of setting aside at least some wild areas just for wildlife. Furthermore, the experiences at Chernobyl and in the intervening years illustrate the benefits of preservation over conservation. While conservationists encourage sustainable use of natural resources as op-

timal for wildlife health, Chernobyl shows the incredible benefits to wildlife of just leaving vast swaths of land alone and letting the animals just get on with their lives.

CONTACTS: "Animals Rule Chernobyl 30 Years After Nuclear Disaster," news.national-geographic.com/2016/04/060418-chernobyl-wildlife-thirty-year-anniversary-science/; "Wolves in Chernobyl Dead Zone," documentaryheaven.com/wolves-in-chernobyl-dead-zone/.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Sneak Peak of Development and Construction Opportunities in Prince George's County at Trade Association Breakfast

"We're Cutting the Crap and Closing the Gap on Construction," says Coleman

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

LINTHICUM, MD—EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman spoke at the Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) annual Construction and Economic Outlook Breakfast at the Doubletree by Hilton Baltimore. Regional leaders from commercial construction companies, subcontractors, material suppliers and service providers, who depend on the economic vitality of Prince George's County and the region for their livelihoods were very interested to learn about the prospective developments and construction opportunities that may be coming online in 2017.

"With more than \$10 billion in the pipeline for new construction over the next 18 months, Prince George's County is on fire," said Coleman. "Our economic climate is healthy; job creation is up, private investment is up and construction projects are up. After many years of waiting for the Regional Medical Center, just this week, County Executive Baker was able to get the Certificate of Need approved and we will be breaking ground on a brand new hospital in the first quarter of next year. Along with the opening of MGM National Harbor on December 8th, and the exciting mixed use developments projects sprouting up around the County's five targeted Metro Stations, it's time to cut the crap and close the gap on construction in Maryland."



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman speaking to Maryland Associated General Contractors of America at the Economic Outlook Breakfast.

Attendees also heard from the AGC of America's Chief Economist, Ken Simonson who told them to expect more airport construction in the region and that there are great opportunities for expansion throughout the State. Simonson cautioned the contractors that there are not enough carpenters, plumbers, and glazers in the pipeline, which could make projects more difficult to complete. Maryland AGC of America President and CEO Champagne McCulloch believes that it is important for the trade association to keep its member to gain insight into the outlook for construction and development activities in the central part of

Maryland, especially as it relates to trends in the region.

"We are grateful to Jim Coleman and his Economic Development team for sharing their strategies in capitalizing on the success of National Harbor with us today," said McCulloch. "Prince George's County's attractiveness to millennials gives them an environment to be diverse in multiple skill sets."

Economic development experts from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard and Montgomery Counties and the Baltimore Development Corporation also spoke from their respective perspectives about prospective development and construction opportunities in their jurisdictions.

The Maryland Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America is a part of the nation's largest and oldest trade association for the construction industry. AGC of America represents more than 26,000 firms, including 6,500 of America's leading general contractors, 9,000 specialty contracting firms, and over 10,000 service providers and suppliers.

For information on how the EDC can assist businesses with access to capital, site selection and other business support services, contact John Mason, Director of Economic Development (jmason@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650.

The Prince George's Post
Serving Prince George's County Since 1932