

# The Prince George's Post



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PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE  
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman addressing Local Business Leaders at The Arc of Prince George's County Inclusion Works Breakfast.

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration Opens Doors for Individuals With Differing Abilities

EDC Partners With The Arc of Prince George's County to Challenge Local Employers to Hire the Disabled

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

FORESTVILLE, MD—Last month, EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was among the featured speakers participating in National Disability Employment Awareness Month at The Arc of Prince George's County's 'Inclusion Works' Breakfast. Robert Malone, Executive Director of The Arc of Prince George's County, Peter Berns, CEO of The

Arc of the United States, along with other top executives from companies such as Comcast, Thompson Creek, University of Maryland, the Federal Communications Commission and State Senator Joanne C. Benson were also in attendance to celebrate the important role individuals with differing abilities plays in workforce diversity. Partnering with the EDC and The Arc of Prince George's County was Comcast NBCUniversal, an em-

ployer partner that contributed a computer learning lab to The Arc's Employment Center to assist its clients in becoming more familiar and confident with computer technology.

"The EDC is proud to be a part of the good work that is going on here at The Arc of Prince George's County," said Coleman. "National Disability Employment Awareness Month is all about inclusion; leveling the playing field and not leaving

anyone behind. Today is a great opportunity for us to reflect and to celebrate the 'angel network' of employer partners that have already committed to doing all they can to assist individuals with differing abilities get back to work and become productive members of our County. EDC will be joining that network very soon and I encourage other

See **DISABILITY** Page A5

## Council Action Keeps Safeway Distribution Center in Prince George's County, Saves Jobs

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, during its final Legislative Year 2016 session Tuesday, approved a measure endorsing an \$850,000 loan from the Maryland Department of Commerce supporting a Safeway, Inc. development project in Prince George's County. State law requires the endorsement. The County Council previously approved an Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) loan of \$500,000 in support of the Safeway project.

Under this \$14.5 million project and with Council approval of CR-083-2016, Safeway, Inc. will remain in Prince George's County; expand and

renovate its distribution facility in the County; and retain 625 employees in distribution center jobs that average more than \$50,000 and offer competitive benefits. Safeway further committed to creating an additional 15 full-time positions over three years. According to company reports, more than half of Safeway's current workforce is composed of County residents.

This project will also offer local contracting opportunities, as Safeway works with Prince George's County to meet 20-percent Local-, Small- and Minority-owned Businesses goals and requirements during the project's construction phase.

Council Chair Derrick Davis

See **JOBS** Page A8

## Library to Circulate Educational Smartspot With Free WiFi Access

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) announces the addition of the educational Kajeet Smartspot® with free WiFi access to its circulating collection. PGCMLS is the first library in the state of Maryland to offer this service. The devices may be borrowed for 9 weeks at the Accokeek, Hyattsville and Spauldings branches by adult

customers with library cards in good standing and valid photo identification. The Smartspot is operational from 6 am to 1 am and is filtered and restricted to educational purposes only.

The device is to be returned to the original borrowing branch location. There are no reserves or renewals. To learn more about the fees and charges associated with overdue Smartspots or lost

See **WIFI** Page A2

## Quality of Life Legislative Package Approved Unanimously

Council Member Taveras' "Take Pride in Our Community" Initiative Advances With Adoption of CB-59-2016, CB-63-2016 and CB-64-2016

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, during the final session for Legislative Year 2016 on Tuesday, November 15, enacted a trio of bills sponsored by Council Member Deni Taveras (D)—District 2, addressing public safety and health concerns in the County.

Council Bills 59-2016, 63-2016 and 64-2016, which passed unanimously, are a part of Council Member Taveras' Quality of Life legislative package, included in the District 2 "Take Pride in Our Community" initiative promoting safer, cleaner, and more attractive neighborhoods in Prince George's County.

Council Bill 59-2016 expands and clarifies laws governing the use of an apartment for

drug activity or prostitution. Under the legislation, landlords, owners, management staff, or tenants could be held liable if their property is used for drug activity or prostitution, including human trafficking.

Council Member Taveras says human trafficking in Prince George's County must be stopped and CB-59 brings us one step closer to that goal.

"If we are going to eradicate human trafficking in Prince George's County, it is important that there is a level of accountability for those who are found to be complicit," said Council

See **PGCC** Page A2

## Democrats Keep Firm Hold on Maryland Congressional Seats

By SAM REILLY and  
MAYA POTTIGER  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Democrats took the state's open U.S. Senate seat on Tuesday, as well as seven of eight House seats.

Democratic Rep. Chris Van

Hollen, of the 8th District, won 60 percent of the vote in his bid for the Senate, beating Republican Kathy Szeliga and Green Party candidate Margaret Flowers.

At his election night party in Silver Spring, Van Hollen thanked voters for "uniting behind the common purpose of trying to make sure every Mary-

lander is treated with dignity and treated with respect and has an opportunity to have a fair shake in America."

Van Hollen will replace Sen. Barbara Mikulski, who was first elected to the Senate in 1992.

"Senator Mikulski's departure from public office, her retirement from the U.S. Senate is a great loss, not only to women, not only to Maryland, but to this country," Congressional-elect

See **CONGRESS** Page A3

## Veterans Day Event Recognizes Fading Corps of World War II Veterans

By PRESS OFFICER  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

BOWIE, MD—Sixteen million men and women served in the U. S. military during World War II. Today, approximately 620,000 are still alive; 11,000 of whom live in Maryland. The window of opportunity to honor and serve them narrows every day. This is why Hospice of the Chesapeake chose to pay

a special tribute to World War II Veterans during its annual Veterans Day Celebration held Friday, Nov. 11, in Boswell Hall at the Knights of Columbus in Bowie.

Around 375 people attended the event, including Veterans, active military personnel, elected officials and Hospice of the Chesapeake sponsors, staff and volunteers. Also serving in honor of Veterans was a

contingency of Midshipmen from the U. S. Naval Academy, led by their Superintendent, Vice Adm. Walter E. "Ted" Carter Jr., who was the keynote speaker for the event.

Admiral Carter spoke about the debt the nation owes to the World War II Veterans, calling the name of each in attendance and asking if they could stand or wave so they could be applauded.

The World War II tributes continued as Sol Goldstein of Pikesville, a World War II Army Veteran who was assigned to the Big Red One, 1st Infantry Division, shared his firsthand accounts of the D-Day Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp. The horrors he saw in that camp changed his life, and he vowed that if ever there were a Jew in need, he would be there to help. He made good on that oath, spending the decades following the war



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TAYLOR DIMARTINO  
Fort George G. Meade Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes, center, leads active duty and veteran military personnel in Honor Salutes to World War II Veterans, all Veterans and to those who have passed away. The salute is a signature feature of Hospice of the Chesapeake's Veteran events.

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### INSIDE

#### Social Security and Veterans Affairs Partnership Means Faster Disability Decisions for Veterans

The new Health IT program was tested successfully at Social Security locations around the country. On Veteran's Day, November 11, the eHealth Exchange [went] live, nationally, to all Social Security disability case processing sites.

Community, Page A3

#### Looking for Ways to Make Democracy More Democratic

The idea that all citizens of the nation should have an equal say in electing the highest office in the land was far from the minds of the framers of the Constitution in 1787. The Constitution did not specify who could vote; that was left to the states and most granted suffrage only to white male adult property owners.

Commentary, Page A4

#### From Desert to Oasis, EDC Updates County Council on Plans to Bring New Life to Food Deserts

"At the EDC, we are committed to first world access to quality grocery stores which improves our health and ultimately brings down the cost of medical care in the County. We pledge to make healthy food options available for all and to leave no resident behind!"

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Jack Reacher: Never Go Back

Anyway, this week's wrongly accused military officer is ... Maj. Turner herself! When Reacher shows up in D.C. for an impromptu first-time face-to-face visit, Turner has coincidentally just been arrested a day earlier, charged with espionage pertaining to two Army analysts killed in Afghanistan.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What kinds of changes to federal environmental policies can we expect to see from Donald Trump when he assumes the presidency?

—D. Shelley,  
Boulder, CO

Features, Page A7



# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

With Mary McHale, will return next week

### Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

#### CHRISTMAS GOSPEL PROGRAM

Please join us Sunday, December 4, 2016 from 3:00 PM–7:00 PM for our Christmas Gospel Program at St. Philips Episcopal Church Hall. Donation is \$7.00 at the door only. The program will be featuring the Zion Specials, the Gospels Disciples, the Voices of Harmony, the Southern Maryland Harmonizers and the Burning Lights Singers. St. Philips Episcopal Church Hall is located at 1801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

#### DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Henrietta Brown, Clinton Holland, Mary Lou Lee, Donald Magruder, Stephanie Pinkney, William Pinkney, Terry Windsor, Ernestine Dorsey, Lisa McKelvy, Arietha Savoy, and Renie Spriggs who are celebrating their birthdays during the month of December.

#### THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

Celebrating 30 years is a can't miss event for the whole family featuring a dynamic choir

in a 30-foot tree, live orchestra, thousands of twinkling lights and a heartwarming holiday drama. Come and join us December 9–11 (Friday: 7:30 PM, Saturday: 1:30 & 6:00 PM, Sunday: 1:30 PM) at Riverdale Baptist Church. The address is 1177 Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774.

Tickets cost \$12 (10 Seniors/children 10 & under. Get tickets online at livingtreetikets.com or call 301-249-9111. Reserved seating, tickets limited, group pricing available. Live nativity opens 1-hour prior to each performance.

#### NATURE PROGRAMS

Experience and learn about your natural surroundings through hands on exhibits, evening programs, theme gardens, guided programs and excursions, volunteer opportunities and other programs. Visit [www.pgpcmls.com](http://www.pgpcmls.com) or call 301-699-2255, TTY 301-699-2544 to learn more about nature programs.

#### THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Southern Area

Aquatic and Recreation Complex was held at the Volunteer Fire Department of Brandywine on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 10:30 AM. The facility will be located along Missouri Avenue in Brandywine, Maryland.

Key building features include the Community Zone which include three multipurpose rooms, two program rooms and two party rooms directly accessible from the atrium lobby. A Fitness Zone located on the mezzanine level. Two group exercise rooms are located on the ground floor. Aquatic Zone will have a lap pool and a leisure pool. A spa is included. Gymnasium Zone is a two court gymnasium that will accommodate sports activities as well as community events.

#### DeSOUL CAFE

DeSOUL CAFE is a sensational soul food dining restaurant. They are looking for hostesses and servers. If you would like to join their team, walk-in interviews will be held on Tuesdays from 3:00 PM–5:00 PM. The address is Matapeake Business Drive, Brandywine, Maryland.

### PGCC from A1

Member Taveras. “CB-59 sends a strong message that if you allow human trafficking to take place on your property, you will be held accountable.”

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission Executive Director Michael Lyles thanked Council Member Taveras for her work on CB-59, and noted the measure's significance.

“The Human Relations Commission applauds Council Member Taveras, her team, and the entire County Council for providing leadership in the fight against sex and labor trafficking,” said Lyles. “CB-59 -2016 gives our County agencies and business owners more tools to help Prince George's County residents root out sex and labor trafficking in some of our more challenged communities.”

Council Bill 63-2016 prohibits the illegal sale of vehicles on County roads, more commonly known as “curbstoning.” Council Bill 64-2016 addresses public health concerns related to the accumulation of garbage or litter following an eviction, and mandates landlords to remove all garbage, litter and trash from the property within one business day.

Council Member Taveras says these bills will improve public safety and public health by elimi-

nating “curbstoning” and mandating that accumulated debris following an eviction is collected in a timely manner.

“Residents deserve to live in an environment that is clean, safe, and attractive,” said Council Member Taveras. “This legislative package offers tools whereby residents and county agencies can better work together to improve our quality of life. This is an effort that also helps economic development because safe and stable neighborhoods go hand-in-hand with a thriving business sector.”

Council Resolution 90-2016, legislation also sponsored by Council Member Taveras and enacted unanimously by the council on November 15, designates an area of incorporated land in northern Prince George's County as the Prince George's County Northern Gateway.

“As the most densely populated area of the County, the Northern Gateway is potentially a strong emerging market for business development. Yet it is underdeveloped in terms of public infrastructure and community development,” said Council Member Taveras. “CR-90 will help spearhead the much-needed community bridging and economic revitalization efforts that will benefit our diverse residents, local businesses, and strategic relations with our D.C. and Montgomery County neighbors.”

### WiFi from A1

related items such as USB charger, USB cable or Smartspot case, visit our website at [www.pgpcmls.info](http://www.pgpcmls.info). A Kajeet Smartspot® quick start guide is also available at these three participating branch locations. “Parents are encouraged to empower students to succeed with increased, fast internet access offered with our educational Smartspot,” stated Michael Gannon, Chief Operating Officer for

Support Services.

#### About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, Artist-Works for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early liter-

acy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready 2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack and Playaway Launchpads. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Media) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at [www.pgpcmls.info](http://www.pgpcmls.info).

## Neighborhoods

### Homelessness Declines in Maryland in 2016

PHILADELPHIA, PA— Homelessness continues to decline in the U.S., specifically among families with children, veterans, and individuals with long-term disabling conditions, according to the latest national estimate from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Meanwhile, HUD's 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress found the number of persons experiencing homelessness in Maryland on a single night in 2016 fell 8.4 percent.

More specifically, HUD estimates Maryland experienced a 10 percent decrease among homeless families, a 22.2 percent decrease in veteran homelessness, and a 26 percent decline in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

In making the announcement, HUD Secretary Julián Castro noted that though the nation is making significant progress in reducing homelessness, the number of ‘doubled up’ or rent-burdened families remains a vexing problem.

“Every person deserves a safe, stable place to call home,” said Secretary Castro. “The Obama Administration has made unprecedented progress toward ending homelessness and today marks the seventh straight year of measurable progress. While we know that our work is far from finished, it's clear we're on the right track to prevent and end homelessness for good.”

“Maryland is making significant strides in reducing homelessness among veterans, families and those living on the streets day after day,” said Jane C.W. Vincent, Regional Administrator of HUD's Mid-Atlantic region. “Since 2010, there has been a 29 percent decrease in overall homelessness in the state.”

During one night in January of this year, tens of thousands of volunteers across the nation sought to identify individuals and families living on their streets as well as in emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. These one-night ‘snapshot’ counts, as well as full-year counts and data from other sources (U.S. Housing Survey, Department of Education), are crucial in understanding the scope of homelessness and measuring progress toward reducing it.

#### Key Findings

On a single night in January 2016, state and local planning agencies in Maryland reported:

- 7,689 people experienced homelessness, representing an 8.4 percent decrease between 2015 and January 2016. Most homeless persons (6,161) were located in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs while 1,528 persons were unsheltered.
- The number of families experiencing homelessness decreased 10 percent between 2015 and January 2016.
- Veteran homelessness decreased by 22.2 percent (or 159 persons) between 2015 and January 2016. On a single night in January 2016, 555 veterans were experiencing homelessness.
- Chronic or long-term homelessness among individuals declined by 26 percent (or

483 persons) between 2015 and January 2016.

The number of unaccompanied homeless youth and children appeared to decrease in 2016 to 279 though HUD will launch a more robust effort to more accurately account for this important population in January of 2017.

The Obama Administration's strategic plan to end homelessness is called Opening Doors—a roadmap for joint action by the 19 federal member agencies of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness along with local and state partners in the public and private sectors. The plan offers strategies to connect mainstream housing, health, education, and human service programs as part of a coordinated plan to prevent and end homelessness.

#### NW Bio Announces Phase II Clinical Trial Program

#### Combining DCVax®-L and Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®) for Colorectal Cancer

Trial to Be Led By University Of Mainz Center of Excellence

BETHESDA, MD— Northwest Biotherapeutics (NASDAQ: NWBO) (“NW Bio”) a U.S. biotechnology company developing DCVax® personalized immune therapies for solid tumor cancers, today joined the University Medical Center (UMC) of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germany in announcing a Phase II clinical trial program combining DCVax-L and Pembrolizumab (Keytruda) for colorectal cancer with liver metastases.

The trial will be conducted as an investigator-initiated trial led by the University of Mainz, thereby substantially reducing the costs involved. NW Bio will provide the DCVax-L products and MSD Sharp & Dohme GmbH will provide the Pembrolizumab. (MSD Sharp & Dohme is the operating name used by U.S.-based Merck & Co., Inc. outside the U.S. and Canada.) All of the parties contributed to and approved the novel trial design.

This trial will combine a broad spectrum personalized vaccine (DCVax-L) with a highly targeted checkpoint inhibitor drug (Pembrolizumab). In contrast, most combination trials to date have combined two specifically targeted agents, with no broad spectrum agent included.

Colorectal cancer represents a major unmet medical need. The number of new cases per year is second only to lung cancer, and colorectal cancer results in approximately 700,000 deaths per year in the Western world. Colorectal cancer is very heterogeneous and various therapies to date, including various immune therapies when used as a single agent, have been disappointing.

The UMC of Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is a leading Center of Excellence for colorectal cancer, and especially liver metastases of colorectal cancer. The 1st Department of Medicine provides a wide range of treatments and conducts a variety of clinical trials, especially in gastrointestinal oncology. After the

parties complete certain preparatory activities, including obtaining regulatory approvals, the Phase II trial will treat patients for up to 6 months with DCVax®-L and Pembrolizumab, followed by long-term follow-up regarding patient survival.

Linda Powers, CEO of NW Bio, noted that, “More than 2 years of planning and work have gone into developing this Phase II trial program. We are excited to work with a leading team to test the potential synergies of combining broad spectrum DCVax-L and targeted Pembrolizumab to treat a heterogeneous and challenging disease such as metastatic colorectal cancer.”

The University of Mainz's own announcement can be found on their website at <https://www.unimedizin-mainz.de/home.html?L=1>

#### \$8 Million Chocolate Factory Starts Construction in Middle River

TOWSON, MD—The maker of Mary Sue, Naron and Glauber's candies has begun construction of a new \$8 million headquarters and manufacturing plant in Middle River. Ruxton Chocolates is consolidating three locations into a 100,000 square foot facility at Baltimore Crossroads @95, a 1,000-acre development along Maryland Route 43 in eastern Baltimore County.

“We are pleased that the company that makes some of Maryland's iconic candy brands has picked Baltimore County for its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility,” said Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz. “Ruxton Chocolates is the latest in almost \$1 billion in recent private investment in the White Marsh-Middle River area.”

Ruxton Chocolates will bring 43 new jobs to Baltimore County when the facility opens in summer 2017.

Baltimore County helped Ruxton reduce the cost of borrowing by supporting an \$8 million industrial revenue bond, a financing tool that allows manufacturers to borrow at a lower interest rate for major capital projects such as a new factory. With technical assistance from the County's Department of Economic and Workforce Development, the bond was issued to 1412 Tangier LLC, a company leasing the building to Ruxton Chocolates. The County does not incur any financial obligation for industrial revenue bonds.

“Baltimore County has worked with us every step of the way as we put the pieces in place for this new building. We are very excited about growth opportunities as we expand our nationwide private label business,” said Bill Buppert, President of Ruxton Chocolates.

“It's great news when another manufacturer chooses to bring jobs and new investment to Middle River,” said Councilwoman Cathy Bevins.

Baltimore County is home to 492 manufacturers, with 13,800 jobs pumping \$948 million in total annual wages into our county economy, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Year-End Tax Moves That Could Save You Money

The end of the year is approaching and between visiting friends and family and celebrating the holidays, your taxes may be the last thing on your mind. However, putting off tax preparation until later could be a costly mistake. While tax season doesn't start until mid-January, if you want to affect the return you file in 2017, you'll need to make some tax moves before the end of 2016.



You might make this a yearly tradition—while there may be slight alterations in the rules or numbers from one year to the next, many of the fundamentals behind tax-saving advice remain the same.

**Sell losing investments and offset capital gains or income.** Do you have property, stocks or other investments that have dropped in value and you're considering offloading? If you sell the investments before the end of the year, you can use the lost value to offset capital gains (profits from capital assets). Excess losses can offset up to \$3,000 from ordinary taxable income and be rolled over to following years.

**Optimize your charitable contributions.** Many people make an annual tradition of donating their time and money to support charitable causes. It's a noble thing to do and could come with a tax benefit. The value of your donation to a qualified charitable organization, minus the value of anything you receive in return, could offset your taxable income.

Charitable contributions are deductible if you itemize deductions. However, most taxpayers find it best to take the standard deduction—\$12,600 for married people filing jointly, \$9,300 for heads of households and \$6,300 for single or married people filing separately for the 2016 tax year. If it's best for you to take the standard deduction for 2016 but you think you may itemize your deductions next year, consider holding off until the new year to make the donations.

**Defer your income to next year.** You might be able to lower your taxable income for 2016 by delaying some of your pay until after the New Year. Employees could ask their employer to send a holiday bonus or December's commission in January. It could be easier for contractors and the self-employed to defer their income since for them, it's as simple as waiting to send an invoice.

**Don't let FSA savings go to waste.** Employer-sponsored Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) let employees contribute pre-tax money into their FSA accounts, meaning you don't have to pay income tax on the money. FSA funds can be spent on qualified medical and dental procedures, such as prescription medications, bandages or crutches and deductible or copays.

FSA funds that you don't use by the end of the year could get forfeited. However, employers can give employees a two-and-a-half month grace period or allow employees to roll over up to \$500 per year. Check with your employer to see if it offers one of these exemptions, and make a plan to use your remaining FSA funds before they disappear.

**What can wait until after January 1?** Procrastinators will be pleased to hear that there are tax moves you can make after the start of the new year.

You have until the tax return filing deadline, April 18 in 2017, to make 2016-tax-year contributions to a traditional IRA. The money you add could offset your income, and you'll be saving for retirement—a double win.

The maximum contribution you can make is \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you're 50 or older) for the 2016 tax year. However, the deductible amount depends on your income and eligibility for an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

**Bottom line:** Don't wait for the tax season to start to take stock of your situation and get your finances in order. While there are a few tax moves that can wait, what you do between now and the end of the year could have a significant impact on your return.

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## Social Security and Veterans Affairs Partnership Means Faster Disability Decisions for Veterans

By PRESS OFFICER  
Social Security Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Social Security Administration announces the launch of a new Health IT initiative with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that enables all Social Security disability case processing sites to receive medical records electronically from all VA facilities. Veterans will receive a faster decision on their Social Security disability claim, speeding them and their dependents through this new process. Both agencies will save time and money with an automatic request through the eHealth Exchange.

"President Obama has said, 'we must maintain the sacred covenant we share with our veterans by ensuring they have the care and benefits they deserve,' and I could not agree more," said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "We are committed to pro-

viding our veterans with the world class service they so richly deserve and improving the speed and efficiency of our disability program."

The new Health IT program was tested successfully at Social Security locations around the country. On Veteran's Day, November 11, the eHealth Exchange [went] live, nationally, to all Social Security disability case processing sites.

Social Security requests nearly 15 million medical records annually from healthcare providers and organizations to make medical decisions on about three million disability claims. Medical documentation is essential to make a disability determination. Historically, the agency obtained medical records through a manual process (mail, fax, secure mail). This new national initiative puts in place an automated process to obtain medical records electronically without human intervention.

"VA is currently improving quality of life by enabling Veterans to share their health information with federal partners and integrating their data into a safe and secure health-related consumer application," said Dr. David Shulkin, Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs. "Currently, when eligible Veterans apply for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits the average wait time for Social Security to receive paper records from VA can take months; this partnership allows Social Security and VA to share the Veteran's health information electronically in minutes. The Social Security and VA partnership allows VA to continue to be a leader in interoperability efforts among federal partners while improving overall quality of life for our Veteran patients."

This partnership adds the VA to Social Security's more than 50 other Health IT partners, including the Department of De-

fense, in approximately 7,000 facilities across the United States providing electronic health records. Social Security's goal is to continue expanding the number of health-care organizations and federal agencies providing electronic health records within a safe and secure environment.

To learn more about Health IT, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityss/hit](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityss/hit).

Social Security offers two other programs to expedite disability claims filed by veterans. Wounded Warriors and veterans with a VA disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total have their Social Security disability claims treated as high priority and receive expedited decisions. For more information about these programs, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people/veterans).

To get more Social Security news, follow the Press Office on Twitter @SSAPress.

### Veterans from A1

traveling to Somalia, Lebanon, and the Soviet Union to rescue Jews and help them find a new home in Israel.

Also speaking was Steven Fenves of Rockville, a Holocaust survivor, who was liberated from Buchenwald at the age of 13. He was on death's door when he was taken to a field hospital to be fed intravenously. He later immigrated to the United States where he served in the Army.

The event culminated with a moment of gratitude as Hospice of the Chesapeake recognized Fort George G. Meade Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Rodwell L. Forbes for his dedication to the nonprofit. Forbes, who will be retiring in 2017, has led several Honor Salutes at Hospice of the Chesapeake events and played a key role in the formation of the nonprofit's partnership with the Fort Meade community. He surprised and moved many in attendance when he shared that a Vietnam Veteran he met at the nonprofit's Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day event

prompted him to seek counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder. He said was diagnosed with PTSD and bi-polar disorder and wanted to encourage active-duty and veteran military personnel to seek help. Veterans in need will not be forgotten, he said, "not on my watch."

Other highlights include Sir Andrew Motion, United Kingdom Poet Laureate from 1999 to 2009, who read his poem, "Veteran," which is a tribute to World War II Veteran father; the fifth-grade class of Hilltop Elementary School, who performed "God Bless America" and read letters of thanks to Veterans; and performances by Hospice of the Chesapeake volunteer Donna Stewart-Moore and Quintin Lyton, a Navy veteran and the director of Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling Gospel Choir.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH MARCUSSEN, HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE

World War II Army Veteran Sol Goldstein, right, shakes hands with Army First Sgt. David Steger's son, Parker.



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS TAYLOR DIMARTINO



Dr. Steven Fenves of Rockville, a Holocaust survivor from Yugoslavia, shares how he was near death when he was liberated from Buchenwald at the age of 13. He later immigrated to the United States where he served in the U.S. Army, and then used the GI Bill to study engineering, eventually earning his doctorate.



The event's keynote speaker, U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Walter E. "Ted" Carter, Jr., left, poses for a picture with Midshipman First Class Matthew Robbins. During his time at the USNA, Robbins has played an important role in the development of the Honor Salute program at Hospice of the Chesapeake, and was the master of ceremonies at last year's Veterans Day event.

### Congress from A1

Anthony Brown said. "She has been a fireball and blockbuster advocate on so many issues: women's issues, veterans' issues, seniors. She's irreplaceable."

Mikulski endorsed Van Hollen as her replacement.

"Chris Van Hollen was a strong player in the House, he will continue being a strong player in the Senate," said Steven Cennema, a general assembly worker from Rockville who campaigned for Clinton in Ohio. "He'll bring home the bacon for Maryland."

With Van Hollen's victory, his House seat went to Democrat Jamie Raskin, who clinched 59 percent of the vote. Raskin currently is a state senator and will resign that post.

"A lot of what I've done is cross the aisle," Raskin told Capital News Service at the University of Maryland. "I hope to play the same kind of role in Washington, to bring Republicans and Democrats together."

Democrats were hoping to claim the Senate majority from Republicans, who currently hold 54 seats compared to the Democrats' 46.

"I'm a passionate Democrat,"

Raskin said. "I would like the Democrats to take the majority back, (but) even more important than that is to end this system of gerrymandering so we have more fair election."

All six incumbent representatives for Maryland kept, including Andy Harris, who remains the sole Republican representing Maryland in Congress.

Harris, first elected to the House in 2011, won 68 percent of the vote. The other winners were Democratic Reps. Dutch Ruppersberger of Timonium (2nd District), John Sarbanes of Towson (3rd District), Steny Hoyer of Mechanicsville (5th District), John Delaney of Potomac,

(6th District), and Elijah Cummings of Baltimore (7th District), will keep his seat.

Mark Plaster, who challenged Sarbanes was not discouraged.

"The advantage of the US House of Representatives is both a curse and an advantage, and it is," Plaster said. "It rolls over every two years, and folks, I'm coming back."

Barbara Martin, 94, who voted a straight Democratic ticket, said, "I just thought I was voting for the best ones, (who will) try to do the best they can. They are experienced."

Anthony Brown won the 4th District seat with 74 percent of the vote and will

replace Donna Edwards, who lost the Senate Democratic primary to Van Hollen.

Brown's win in the House is a political comeback after his 2014 loss to Republican Gov. Larry Hogan.

Without Mikulski and Edwards, Maryland does not have any female representation in Congress.

"People want to make sure a woman stays in the Maryland delegation, and I'm proud, obviously, to represent that," Szeliga said prior to the election results.

All percentages referenced in this article were recorded as of 11:55 p.m. Tuesday, November 8, using data from the Associated Press.



# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin Statement on Trump National Security Positions

*"Individuals Not Willing to Support and Defend the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of All Americans Should Have No Place in Our Government."*

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, issued the following statement on the announcement of members of President-elect Trump's national security team.

"I did not support Donald Trump for President because we disagree on nearly every issue of concern to the American people. However, as president, I believe he generally has a right to have a team around him that he trusts and supports him. As a United States Senator, I take seriously the Constitutional responsibility to provide Advice and Consent for those nominees. Unlike my Republican colleagues who have failed in their duty to provide a timely confirmation hearing for President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, I will do my best not to prejudge any individual before a proper hearing. I will, however, freely raise what issues I think need to be a priority for the incoming administration.

"If Mr. Trump truly wants to be a president for all the people, he must renounce the ugly rhetoric of the campaign and surround himself with men and women of the highest character who want to bring communities together rather than tear one another apart. His nominees—men and women—should support and defend the full Constitution—

not only their interpretation of the Second Amendment. Of utmost importance is the First Amendment: 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.' Hate and fear should not the ruling forces for our nation. The rise in race- and religious-based hate crimes and incidents across the country since the election have been troubling and need to be repeatedly discouraged at the highest level. We need individuals who will help to rebuild the trust that has eroded between law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to protect. Individuals not willing to support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans should have no place in our government.

"As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, I urge President-elect Trump to take seriously the warnings and assessments from our intelligence community and national security professionals. I believe America must lead the world by standing up against violations of international law, against war crimes, against human rights violations and by speaking up for democracy and freedom of speech. These core values must be at the forefront of America's foreign policy agenda. We must be there for our allies and stand firm against illegal aggression. Russia must be regarded as the global bully and adversary that it is, and not a partner. Russia has committed cyberattacks against the United States and war crimes in Syria; it should be held accountable and not be permitted to manipulate facts or ignore international norms and the rule of law. We need leaders who will treat climate change as a national security imperative, putting put science and the public health before politics. I believe that America should be embracing our diversity while leading the way in support for human rights at home and around the globe. Embracing these values has never been more important than it is today."

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Looking for Ways to Make Democracy More Democratic

*"Can we forget for whom we are forming a government? Is it for men, or for the imaginary beings called States?"*

—James Wilson, delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787

When the United States of America was born, emphasis was far greater on "States" than "United." Citizens of the newly-formed nation identified first and foremost as "Pennsylvanians" or "Georgians," for example, and as "Americans" only as a distant second. Our method for selecting a chief executive originally was devised to serve interests of each state, rather than each citizen.

The idea that all citizens of the nation should have an equal say in electing the highest office in the land was far from the minds of the framers of the Constitution in 1787. The Constitution did not specify who could vote; that was left to the states and most granted suffrage only to white male adult property owners. Delegates to the Constitutional Convention considered election of the President by Congress, election by state governors, election by state legislatures and direct election by voters.

Direct election was considered, though not seriously, and twice rejected. It can be argued that the framers of the Constitution were far more concerned about electing a qualified President than a popular one. The Committee of Eleven on Postponed Matters came up with the Electoral College as a compromise.

Today's Electoral College would be as baffling and unforeseen to the Framers of the Constitution as Twitter or the Mars Exploration Rover.

Over the next two centuries, the United States grew to cherish democracy as an American ideal. As the right to vote was expanded and the principle of "one person one vote" overtook the nation, the

justification for the Electoral College diminished. Five times the winner of the popular vote has been denied the Presidency because of the Electoral College—twice in the last 16 years.

Today, one Wyoming voter has roughly the same vote power as four New York voters. Minnesota has 22,000 more people than Colorado and one more electoral vote, while Wisconsin has 33,000 more people than Minnesota and the same number of electoral votes. According to a study conducted during the 2012 Presidential election, the candidates conducted two-thirds of their public events in September and October in just three states—Ohio, Florida, and Virginia. At the same time, the candidates failed to hold a single public event in 40 states. Overall, campaign events and advertising took place in only 12 states.

As a nation that cherishes the "one person one vote" ideal, we should find these facts offensive.

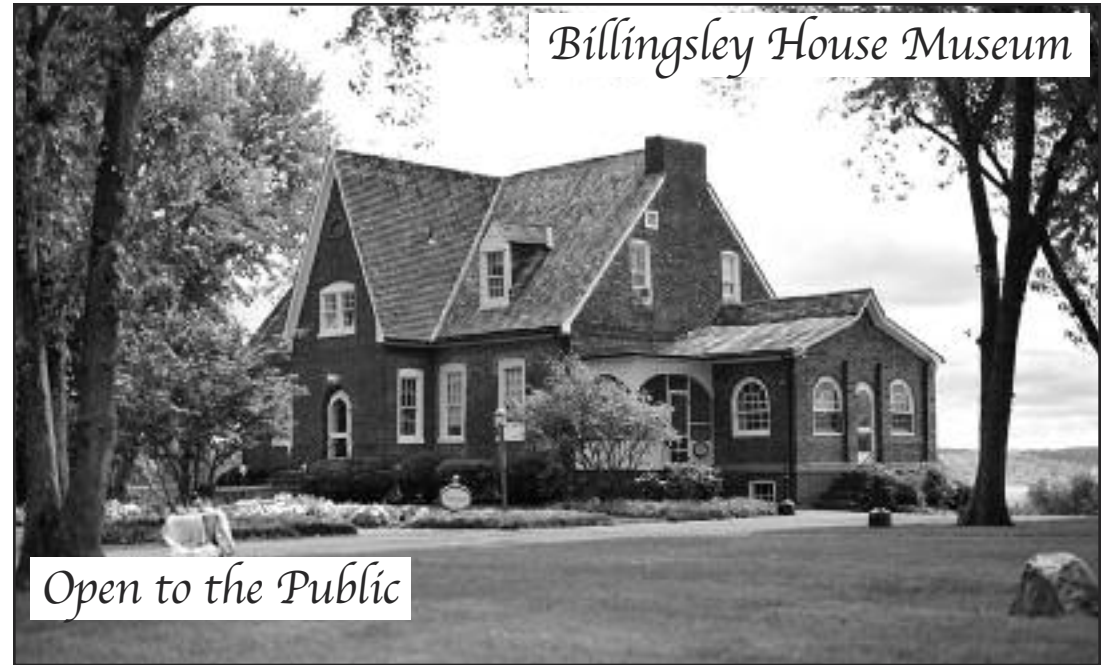
Abolishing the Electoral College would require the consent of the legislatures of the very states that benefit from this imbalance in power. In the current political climate, chances are almost nil.

However, the Constitution does not specify how each state must apportion its electoral votes. If states agreed to award their votes to the winner of the national popular vote, the anti-democratic influence of the Electoral College would be eliminated.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It has been enacted into law in 10 states and the District of Columbia, representing 165 electoral votes. It will take effect when enacted by states with 105 more electoral votes.

Public opinion surveys consistently find solid majorities in favor of eliminating the Electoral College. Even our current President-Elect, the most recent beneficiary of its anti-democratic effect, has called it "a disaster for a democracy."

While the road to actual elimination appears long and fraught, eliminating its anti-democratic influence appears to be within our grasp.



Billingsley House Museum

Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY BILLINGSLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

#### BILLINGSLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

Billingsley House Museum is a brick Tidewater Colonial plantation house that sits on 430 acres overlooking the confluence of the Patuxent River and the Western Branch. The house and land were named for Major John Billingsley, the original 1662 land grant owner. Even though Major Billingsley never lived on the property and there have been 27 title adjustments over its long history, the name "Billingsley" remains. The present house was built around 1740 by the prominent Weems family on or very near the site of an older 1695 house built by Colonel James Hollyday, first Chief Justice of the Prince George's County Court. Billingsley has been substantially altered and modernized both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, however, it is still one of the oldest structures remaining in the County and a unique example of a plantation house. As such, it is of great historical and architectural importance. Billingsley features rooms furnished in period decor ideal for both large and intimate gatherings as well as business meetings.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Our Nation to Stand Up for All Our Children

Lord I can't preach like Martin Luther King, Jr.  
or turn a poetic phrase like Maya Angelou  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to move our children forward in this time of Thanksgiving.*

I don't have Harriet Tubman's courage  
or Eleanor Roosevelt's political skills  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others to save all our children no matter how hard the challenge.*

I cannot sing like Marian Anderson or Fannie Lou Hamer  
or organize like Ella Baker and Bayard Rustin  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand up with others until all our children get health care.*

I am not holy like Archbishop Tutu, forgiving like President Mandela  
or disciplined like Mahatma Gandhi  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others until child poverty is abolished.*

I am not brilliant like Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois or Elizabeth Cady Stanton  
or as eloquent as Sojourner Truth and Booker T. Washington  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others until every child has an equal and quality education.*

I don't have Mother Teresa's saintliness  
or The Dalai Lama's or Dorothy Day's or Cesar Chavez's gentle tough spirit  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others until no child is hungry or homeless in rich America.*

God it is not as easy as the 60's to frame an issue and forge a solution  
*but we will keep trying until we succeed because we care and are willing to serve and stand together with others to protect our children.*

My mind and body are not so swift as in youth and my energy comes in spurts  
*but I care and am willing to serve and stand with others and organize and do whatever is necessary to protect our children from gun violence.*

Some will think I'm so young nobody will listen  
I feel invisible and hopeless and I'm not sure what to say or do  
*but you can say I care and am willing to serve and work with others to break up the Cradle to Prison Pipeline.*

Some say we can't see or hear well, don't speak good English, stutter sometimes  
and get real scared, standing up

before others  
*but let's take a stand and do whatever we can to organize with others to save all our children.*

God, in this time of Thanksgiving  
use me as You will to save Your children today and tomorrow and to keep building a nation and world fit for children and where no child is left behind and every child is welcome and valued.

*Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org. Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.*

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Don't Let the Holidays Get You Down

While the holiday weeks from Thanksgiving thru New Years are a period of enthusiasm and joy most of the time, it can also be a period when it's easy to become frustrated, stressed, overtired and depressed.

Thanks to all the media focus on the holidays, we often create expectations and obligations for ourselves that simply aren't realistic. So this year, why not do a little planning to help reduce holiday stress and make the season more enjoyable?

Start by being realistic. While it's easy to envy the beautifully decorated homes, homemade gifts and gourmet holiday meals you see on TV and in magazines, you're only going to frustrate yourself trying to replicate the work of paid specialists. Instead, focus on a few holiday preparations that you truly enjoy. If baking cookies with the kids is fun, do it. If hanging big strings of outdoor lights is frustrating and exhausting, skip it.

It also helps to keep gifts and gift giving under control. Advertisers and retailers would like you to believe that your holidays can't be happy without all those Black Friday and Cyber Monday specials. But instead of going for quantity and expense, choose gifts with special meaning for the recipient. When a gift is personal and appropriate, it's appreciated because it shows you were thoughtful and that you really care.

Another way to avoid holiday anxiety, especially the type that often comes with that January credit card bill, is to set holiday budgets. Have a family discussion, with the kids included, on spending limits. Consider paying in cash to help avoid starting the year with those credit card blues.

A good way of limiting holiday frustration is to focus on the real meaning of the holidays. For many people, they have a religious or spiritual purpose, but it can also be a time for showing appreciation for family and friends. Many families, including the children, find satisfaction and joy during the holiday period by sharing with those less fortunate. Whatever your personal interpretation of the season, emphasize it in your family.

The key to happier holidays is taking control of the season and personally shaping it to make an enjoyable time for you and your family. Simplify things to help minimize the stress and frustration the season can bring, and instead focus on creating memories you can enjoy and cherish.

*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*

### Disability from A1

business to do the same. I am committed to putting my money where my mouth is plan to employ from the disabled community as soon as possible. Everyone counts in Prince George's County."

The Arc of Prince George's County, a membership organization with 600 members that include people with developmental disabilities, their families and friends, the professionals who work with them, and other concerned citizens. Through its partnerships with the business community, companies gain a greater understanding of how individuals with disabilities are trained, prepared and supported to go into the business world.

"Today we are celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month to celebrate the skills and talents and commitment that people with disabilities bring to the workplace," said Malone. "The purpose of today's event is to get rid of some myths and fears that people may have about the concept of hiring people with disabilities. We also want to make sure that the business community knows that The Arc and the EDC are here to partner with them to make sure they have a strong, consistent and reliable workforce. It's a fantastic day for us at The Arc of Prince George's County."

Today's event was also a celebration of the contributions of workers with disabilities and educate the business community about the value of a diverse workforce, inclusive of their skills and talents. Thompson Creek, the University of Maryland and the Fed-

eral Communications Commission are just a few of the local employers who have hired individuals with differing abilities. Each company, represented by both its company 'champion' and its employee with differing abilities, spoke on the importance workplace inclusiveness in giving individuals with differing abilities the opportunity to succeed without judgment or fears. The employees stressed their gratification and sense of pride in being able to go to work. But today's event was not just a celebration, it was a call to action to the business community to raise the bar and provide more employment opportunities to the disabled community.

"Today, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation continued to demonstrate its support for the hardest to serve in Prince George's County!" said Walter Simmons, Director of Workforce Service at the EDC. "Through partnerships with The Arc of Prince George's County and local employers, highlighting the abilities of our disabled community and the successes they are experiencing in workplaces, there isn't a question of 'If a person with disabilities can be successful on a job site?' The question is 'How much success is available for that person?' Everyday our staff are working, asking the 'right' questions to ensure that EVERYONE in the County has the opportunity to have success and wealth in Prince George's County."

For more information on workforce development and job placement services, contact Jeffrey Swilley (email: jswilley@co.pg.md.us), EDC's Assistant Director of Business Services at 301-618-8400.

## From Desert to Oasis, EDC Updates County Council on Plans to Bring New Life to Food Deserts

*"We Can't Tolerate Third World Access to Healthy Food Choices in Prince George's County," Says Coleman*

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—During the last week in October, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman appeared before the Prince George's County Council Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (PZED) to discuss trends in retail, particularly grocery stores, as well as the County's plans for continued investment in existing stores in the region. Mr. Coleman and Business Development Director, Larry Hentz highlighted the causes that are contributing to food deserts in the County and outlined the strategies the EDC is engaging to address this regional trend and ensure that quality grocers are thriving throughout the County.

"We will not tolerate third world access to healthy food choices for any of our residents in Prince George's County," said Coleman. "At the EDC, we are committed to first world access to quality grocery stores which improves our health and ultimately brings down the cost of medical care in the County. We pledge to make healthy food options available for all and to leave no resident behind!"

Sections of Prince George's County have been labeled 'food deserts' by the U.S. Department of Agriculture due to the lack of fresh food choices available in local grocery stores. In some areas, primarily inside the Beltway, individuals must travel a significant distance away from their homes before they find a full service grocery store. The EDC has been diligently work-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE  
**Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC (left) with Council Member Andrea Harrison, (center) and Cailey Locklair Tolle, President of the Maryland Retailers Association at PZED Committee Hearing.**

ing with regional officials from the top grocers in the Metropolitan area, as well as newer grocery store chains to eliminate those deserts. Many of these grocery chains are moving toward a new model for the delivery of their services, including home delivery and online shopping as a means of providing residents with fresh produce from local farmers, keeping store costs down, and respecting the needs of their customers.

In developing an in-depth strategy to stem the tide of food deserts in Prince George's County, the EDC is: 1) meeting with regional headquarters for grocery stores on a regular basis; 2) participating in regional and national conferences to identify and attract new grocers; 3) encouraging current grocery store chains to expand; 4) developing a list of possible backfill grocery stores from outside the area; and 5) utilizing economic development tools such as the Grocery Store Tax Credit

and Enterprise Zone Tax Credits, workforce training and employment services, site tours, and attendance at the International Council of Shopping Centers Conference. As a result of these current strategies, five new grocery stores have opened in Prince George's County in the past 18 months, and a College Park Whole Foods will open this quarter.

"For quite a while now, the Council has been concerned about why grocers are leaving our communities; especially the larger ones because they have such a presence," said County Council Member Andrea Harrison (Dist. 5). "Today, we learned more about how to embrace the new strategies that will allow all of our grocers to provide products for all of our residents. We truly appreciate the EDC's phenomenal presentation, which provided the insight and research support to help us understand what is going on much clearer."

Council members were pleased to hear about other incentives and partnerships that the EDC is working, including converting older shopping centers into food depots for convenient shopping in food deserts. They were also pleased to hear that Weis and LIDL are coming to the market, Harris Teeter is searching for more County locations, Whole Foods and Walmart are assessing this market, and several independent grocery concepts that will be expanding into the County. Council members also heard from Cailey Locklair Tolle, President of the Maryland Retailers Association and Dyana Forester, Community and Political Lead Representative with UFCW Local 400.

For more information about grocery store strategies to eliminate food deserts in Prince George's County, contact Larry Hentz, EDC Business Development Director, at 301-583-4650 or lhentz@co.pg.md.us.

## Local Firm KDA LLC Introduces New Architectural Design Services to the Region

By PRESS OFFICER  
KDA LLC

KDA LLC has acquired Greenbelt-based design firm Walton Madden Cooper Robinson Pones, Inc. (WMCRP Architects). The company will join the KDA portfolio of design service firms doing business in the Mid-Atlantic Region with a vision of bridging design excellence with livable communities. The firm will continue to provide award winning design services for the Higher Education, K-12 Education, Synagogues and Churches, Energy Retrofits, Hospitality, and Commercial Office sectors under the current name. The acquisition will strengthen KDA's position in the educational and faith-based facility marketplace. WMCRP Architects has been providing high end architectural design solutions to the MD-DC-VA region since 1950. The firm can trace its roots back to early offices of Walton and Madden in 1943. Recent projects include Oxon Hill High School in Prince George's County, MD and Har-

Shalom Synagogue in Potomac, Maryland.

KDA LLC is managed by Chief Executive Officer, Kathy Denise Dixon, AIA, LEED AP+ who has been in the design & construction industry for over twenty-three years. She was recently recognized by the Capitol Region Minority Supplier's Diversity Council as a leader in the business community. In addition to being a business leader, Ms. Dixon is a licensed architect and inspirational educator.

### About Walton Madden Cooper Robinson Pones, Inc (WMCRP)

Established in 1950, WMCRP is one of the longest operating architecture firms in the region. The firm specializes in design of K-12 facilities, synagogues, and religious buildings, and has also designed numerous other buildings including hotels, university buildings, and office towers.

### About KDA LLC

A holding company formed in 2014 for the purpose of organizational growth and



PHOTO COURTESY KDA LLC  
**Chief Executive Officer,  
Kathy Denise Dixon**

### About K. Dixon Architecture, PLLC (KDA)

Established in 2003, KDA provides professional architectural services to the Mid-Atlantic Region. KDA has provided design services for public and private clients on a variety of building types including government, institutional, residential, commercial, civic, and educational facilities.

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Jack Reacher: Never Go Back

Jack Reacher: Never Go Back  
Grade: C  
Rated PG-13, a lot of strong violence, some profanity  
1 hr., 58 min

When *Jack Reacher* came out, in 2012, its box-office performance was only so-so, leading fans to worry that the snappy, raucous action flick wouldn't get a sequel. What a happy day when those fears proved false! And what a sad day when the follow-up, *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back*, turns out to be a bland disappointment that bleaches nearly every colorful thing about the character. Instead of Jack Reacher, he's any garden-variety prime-time TV detective, goin' around, solvin' crimes, and this is a run-of-the-mill episode. The credits even use the *Law & Order* font.

As the film begins, Reacher (Tom Cruise) is still off the grid, showing up when wrongs need to be righted or justice administered. He has a new contact in the Army, Maj. Susan Turner (Cobie Smulders), who apparently feeds these assignments to him. How he found her (they've never met in person) and how long this has been going on aren't explained, but the implication is that they have many episodes' worth of history together. So maybe this is the second or third season of the Jack Reacher TV show?

Anyway, this week's wrongly accused military officer is ... Maj. Turner herself! When Reacher shows up in D.C. for an impromptu first-time face-to-face visit, Turner has coincidentally just been arrested a day earlier, charged with espionage pertaining to two Army analysts killed in Afghanistan. Her crusty Army lawyer, Col. Moorcroft (Robert Catrini), barks two



Tom Cruise returns as Jack Reacher in this sequel based on Lee Child's bestselling novel *Never Go Back*, which finds the itinerant problem-solver accused of murder, and learning that he may have a child he has never met.

pieces of information to Reacher: 1) that Turner does NOT want him getting involved in the investigation, even though she's innocent and Reacher is very good at clearing innocent people's names (this is not explained); and 2) someone has filed a paternity suit with the Army, claiming that ex-Maj. Jack Reacher has a 15-year-old daughter.

All the pieces are on the board by the first commercial break. Reacher breaks Turner out of Army jail, and they find the alleged daughter, a street-wise shoplifter named Samantha (Danika Yarosh). Her life is in danger now too, because someone was spying on Reacher when he was spying on her, so the three of them go on the lam while playing Sherlock, pursued by various pos-

sibly corrupt Army officers and military police.

The first Jack Reacher movie (adapted, like this one, from a novel by Lee Child) was written and directed by Christopher McQuarrie (*The Usual Suspects*, *The Way of the Gun*), and it had his blunt, stylish wit. The sequel, directed by vanilla-flavored Edward Zwick (*The Last Samurai*, *Blood Diamond*), was written by Zwick, his frequent collaborator Marshall Herskovitz, and Richard Wenk (*16 Blocks*). It's defanged and ordinary, almost devoid of sharp dialogue, and has no compelling fight scenes. (Reacher's latest skill is punching people exactly hard enough to knock them unconscious without causing a stir.) The banter is along these lines:

TURNER (after being rescued): Why do I feel like you're enjoying this?

REACHER: You have a funny way of saying thank you.

Oh, man! Will this be the episode where Reacher and Turner finally kiss??

Even on auto-pilot, Cruise's charisma is a remarkable thing, and Cobie Smulders is a welcome addition whether she gels with Cruise or not (she doesn't). Adding a teenager to the mix, unsurprisingly, only weighs the film down further preventing Jack Reacher from fulfilling his awesome potential. It's like they conscientiously took everything that people liked about the first movie and weakened it. Now watch, THIS one will make \$500 million and they'll make five more just like it.

## Prince George's County Announces 2016 Warming Center Locations

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

LANDOVER, MD—As we continue to move into the winter season, bitter cold temperatures will become more prevalent. The Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security/Office of Emergency Management reminds all citizens to take steps to prepare themselves for extreme cold temperatures.

The Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with the Prince George's County Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has designated twelve warming centers in the County. Warming centers are heated public facilities

where any resident can temporarily go to during periods of extreme cold temperatures to stay warm and safe. Residents are reminded to call the center to obtain specific hours of operation.

### Prince George's County Warming Center Locations:

- **Bowie Community Center**—3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715, Phone: 301-464-1737
- **Camp Springs Senior Center**—6420 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, MD 20748, Phone: 301-449-0409
- **JE Howard Community Center**—4400 Shell Street, Capitol Heights, MD 20743, Phone: 301-753-3340

- **Kentland Community Center**—2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD 20785, Phone: 301-386-2278
- **Langley Park Community Center**—1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD 20783, Phone: 301-445-4508
- **Laurel Beltsville Senior Activity Center**—7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD 20707, Phone: 301-206-3350
- **Palmer Park Community Center**—7720 Barlowe Road, Landover, MD 20785, Phone: 301-773-5665
- **Peppermill Community Center**—610 Hill Road, Landover, MD 20785, Phone: 301-350-8410
- **Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center**—6120 Sar-

gent Road, Chillum, MD 20782, Phone: 301-853-2005

- **Southern Regional Technology and Recreation Complex**—7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744, Phone: 301-749-4160
- **Suitland Community Center**—5600 Regency Lane, Forestville, MD 20747, Phone: 301-736-3518
- **Temple Hills Community Center**—5300 Temple Hills Road, Temple Hills, MD 20748, Phone: 301-894-6616

**Note:** Due to safety concerns during inclement weather, the County warming centers may have their operating schedules altered.

Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Alert Prince George's, the County's mass notification system that sends important information directly to you, before, during, or after an emergency or disaster.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### Sports and Laying Siege to Racism in Seattle



For a city with a black population of just 8 percent, Seattle has always had a rich tradition of resistance to racism, stretching from the civil-rights movement to a particularly unique and effective chapter of the Black Panther Party to today's movement for black lives.

On Wednesday, another chapter in that history will be written. Over 1,000 Seattle educators plan to attend school wearing T-shirts to school that read "Black Lives Matter/We Stand Together." This action was supported unanimously by their union, the Seattle Education Association, and has been backed by people like 1968 Olympian Dr. John Carlos, Noam Chomsky, Jonathan Kozol, and Melissa Harris-Perry. These prominent names and others signed onto a statement of support that reads:

Seattle teachers ... have our full support. In the United States today, we cannot do enough to affirm and support our black students. Seattle's teachers are not only well within their right to exercise freedom of speech by wearing such T-shirts, they are making an important gesture of solidarity—one that gives us hope for the future.

After the school day, there will be a rally and roundtable discussion that will include community leaders, teachers, students, Seattle-born Grammy Award-winning artist Kimya Dawson and the Seattle Seahawks' Michael Bennett.

It is not merely the presence of the outspoken Bennett that also makes this a sports story. This action showcases the dynamic relationship between sports and social movements. The seeds of this action were planted last month when teachers at Seattle's John Muir Elementary were going to wear Black Lives Matter shirts to coincide with a community cultural festival only to have their school face bomb threats for their efforts. Their event was canceled, but the idea for a citywide solidarity event started to take shape.

Colin Kaepernick's anthem protest for police accountability is creating space for others to take their own actions. At Seattle's Garfield High School, the football team and the women's volleyball team made national news by taking a knee during the anthem. These young people also faced threats of violence for their actions but students, faculty, and administration stood together.

This put Seattle on the map nationally in discussions both on the sports pages and in Black Lives Matter circles. Now the teachers are taking it to the next level in a manner organically connected with the actions of students. Alongside community leaders and members of the Seattle Seahawks, members of the Garfield sports teams who took a knee will be part of leading Wednesday's after-school rally as well.

One of the organizers for Wednesday's action, Garfield history teacher Jesse Hagopian, said to me, "You can only understand the Seattle educator's union unanimous vote for this action in the context of the Garfield High School football and girls' volleyball teams who are taking a knee for Black lives during the national anthem and helping to inspire people across the city and the country to take action against racial injustice."

What we are seeing in Seattle is a textbook example of the dynamic relationship that can develop between sports and social movements. It starts with the movement off the field. It always does. Then it reflects on the field of play, bringing this protest to a space that challenges both right-wing sports fans and a liberal status quo that has always pushed for sports to be a "safe space" from resistance politics. This relationship is highlighted by the presence of Seahawks Michael Bennett—the Bernie Sanders-voting, NCAA=dragging, Black Lives Matter-supporting defensive end—who could probably be elected mayor of the city on the day he retires. Bennett is emboldened by the Garfield athletes and activists, and now, in turn, their collective courage has emboldened hundreds of teachers in arguably the most important union in the city, to take up the call for solidarity and black lives. Their union statement reads:

Whereas the SEA promotes equity and supports anti-racist work in our schools; and,

Whereas we want to act in solidarity with our members and the community at John Muir who received threats based on their decision to wear Black Lives Matter t-shirts as part of an event with "Black Men United to Change the Narrative"; and,

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## Calendar of Events

December 1 — December 7, 2016

### Holiday Songs: Music Around the World

Date and Time: Thursday, December 1, 2016, 10:15 am & 12 noon  
Description: Travel the globe and explore some of the many celebrations that happen this time of year in this musical revue.

Learn about traditional holiday songs from around the world, including "I Have A Little Dreidel," "Auld Lang Syne," "Away in a Manger," and "Santa Lucia." Songs and stories come together for a truly magical wintertime show.

Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more  
Ages: Recommended for Grades Pre-K-5  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Artistic Visions Showcase

Date and Time: Thursday, December 1, 2016, 7-9 pm  
Description: View a wide variety of exhibits by local artists in the center's art gallery. The gallery is open Monday-Thursday, 7am-9pm; Fridays, 7am-7pm & Saturdays, 9am-3pm. During the months November and December, Trish Walters will be our featured artist at this event. Join us to celebrate her art, meet the artist in person, and enjoy light refreshments. Free wi-fi and internet access.

Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Huntington Community Center  
13022 8th Street, Bowie, MD  
Contact: 301-464-3725; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens: Ice Cream Social

Date and Time: Friday, December 2, 2016, 7-10 pm  
Description: Bring your sweet tooth and enjoy making ice cream sundaes!

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

### TR: 36th Annual Holiday Hop

Date and Time: Friday, December 2, 2016, 7:30-10 pm  
Description: Enjoy toe-tapping music, phenomenal energy, and social engagement at this annual holiday dance event.

This program is for individuals with disabilities who reside in Prince George's County. Registration is required in advance; no tickets will be sold at the door.

Cost: \$25/person  
Ages: 13 & Up  
Location: Prince George's Ballroom  
2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3400; TTY 301-699-2544

### Humble Fire Live at the Listening Room

Date and Time: Friday, December 2, 2016, 8-10 pm  
Description: D.C. rock outfit Humble Fire delivers irresistible jangly, dreamy rock songwriting. Comprised of David Epley (guitar, backup vocals), Nefra Faltas (lead vocals, violin, glockenspiel), Xaq Rothman (bass, backup vocals) and Adam Stern (drums), Humble Fire just released their debut album, *The Great Resolve* in 2014, and have become one of the most sought after bands the D.C. area.

Learn more about the band at this site <https://humblefire.bandcamp.com>

Cost: \$15/person (Register in the Parks and Recreation E-Store)  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Brentwood Arts Center  
3901 Rhode Island Avenue, Brentwood, MD  
Contact: 301-277-2863; TTY 301-699-2544

### Breakfast with Sintu Nikolas

Date and Time: Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9 am and 11 am  
Description: Join the kindly bishop as he makes his annual visit! He'll bring festive traditions like a Belgian-inspired breakfast and gifts for children.

Registration required by November 16. Sorry, we cannot accommodate walk-ins.

Cost: Residents: \$10/child, \$7/adult  
Non-Resident \$13/child, \$9/adult  
Ages: Ages 3-10  
Location: Rivervale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544  
[riversider@pgparks.com](mailto:riversider@pgparks.com)

### Holiday Concert featuring Chelsey Green and the Green Project

Date and Time: Saturday, December 3, 2016, 8 pm  
Description: Billboard charting recording artist Chelsey Green performs holiday music and trounces stereotypes of violin divas as she and the Green Project meld classical technique and themes with modern idioms.

R&B, pop, soul, funk, jazz, alternative, hip hop and gospel are all part of this evening of unique and appealing arrangements of seasonal pieces.

Cost: \$25/person  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Winter Wonderland Performing Arts Recital

Date and Time: Saturday, December 3, 2016, 1-3 pm  
Description: Come see the talented youth of Good Luck Community Center present their first Winter Performing Arts Recital! Stick around and take pictures with our special guest who wears red and white, rosy cheeks and has a belly that shakes like jelly.

Cost: \$5/person  
Ages: All Ages Welcome  
Location: Good Luck Community Center  
8601 Good Luck Rd, Lanham, MD  
Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... What Will Donald Trump Do About Climate and Environment?

Dear EarthTalk:

*What kinds of changes to federal environmental policies can we expect to see from Donald Trump when he assumes the presidency?*

—D. Shelley,  
Boulder, CO

Like many Americans, environmental advocates are alarmed at the results of the 2016 election. What worries them most is Trump's call for renegeing on the landmark Paris climate accord which secured commitments from the world's largest polluters to scale back emissions. The agreement just went into force and the U.S. is committed to it for four years, but Trump insiders report The Donald may try to submit the agreement for ratification by an unsympathetic Senate (Obama has maintained ratification isn't necessary) in efforts to derail U.S. participation.

"If Trump yanks the United States out of the Paris agreement, the deal won't die, but momentum could wane," reports Brad Plumer on Vox.com. "One can imagine China and India deciding they don't need to push nearly as hard on clean energy if the world's richest and most powerful country doesn't care. At best, progress would slow. At worst, the entire arrangement could collapse, and we set out on a path for 4°C warming or more."

Another sore spot for environmentalists is Trump's attitude toward the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Initially Trump said he would disband the agency, but more recently said he would keep it in a stripped down form refocused on its "core mission of ensuring clean air, and clean, safe drinking water for all Americans." Myron Ebell, a leading climate skeptic with the Competitive Enterprise Institute and no friend to the environmental community, is slated to run the new leaner EPA.

Meanwhile, proponents of pipelines to move petroleum products from the great gas and oil fields of the northern U.S. and Canada are overjoyed at the Republican sweep of Election 2016. Given Trump's stated goals of reducing the federal government's role in energy and environmental policy while encouraging more infrastructure projects to connect production with markets and consumers, environmentalists are bracing for a revival of the much-disputed Keystone XL pipeline project that President Obama rejected last year. There are fears as well of a green light for the Dakota Access Pipeline project currently in a holding pattern as native and environmental protestors stage a civil disobedience camp-out nearby. Not surprisingly, shares in the two companies behind the respective projects rallied following the election.



CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE, FLICKRCC.

**President-elect Donald Trump is planning to tap a leading climate change denier to lead a streamlined Environmental Protection Agency while finding a way to get the U.S. out of its emissions reduction commitments made by the Obama administration under the Paris climate accord.**

For their part, environmentalists are already starting to refocus on what they can do without the support of the White House. "Under President George W. Bush, the environmental community took the battle to the courts and Congress and watch-dogged political appointees; we blocked attacks on the environment; we galvanized the public to take action," says Kate Colwell, an activist with the non-profit Friends of the Earth. "After the more recent fights to kill the Keystone XL pipeline, ban fracking and shut down coal plants, the environmental movement is stronger than we have ever been."

"We will have to harness our new energy, join together, and

use every strategy possible to fight against hate and greed and environmental destruction," she adds. "While I wish we had a different fight before us, we must fight the one presented to us. The future of our country and planet depends on it."

CONTACTS: Vox, [www.vox.com](http://www.vox.com); Friends of the Earth, [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org).

**EarthTalk®** is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - **The Environmental Magazine**

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

Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## CASA Prince George's County Now Accepting Applications for Upcoming January Training Class

By PRESS OFFICER  
American Town Press Service

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County is now recruiting volunteers to be court advocates for children living in foster care. CASA currently has 75 children waiting for an advocate that will help ensure they receive the best care while living in the child welfare system. Applications are now being accepted for a training class that begins in January. Individuals interested in learning more should attend "Cookies, Coffee, and CASA," an informal information sessions to be held on December 6th at the CASA office at 6811 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 402 in Riverdale, MD or contact Keyanna McGriff at (301) 209-0491 or [volunteer@pgcasa.org](mailto:volunteer@pgcasa.org). Online volunteer ap-

plications can be found at [www.pgcasa.org/become-a-volunteer/](http://www.pgcasa.org/become-a-volunteer/).

"Currently, CASA has the volunteer capacity to serve about 30% of the 500 children living in foster care in Prince George's County. Additional volunteers are needed to provide an advocate to every child who needs one," said CASA's Executive Director Ann Marie Binsner. "Volunteers are trained and supported throughout the entire process so they do not need any special skills. A CASA volunteer is a trusted adult advocate who makes sure that each child has access to services and resources while they are not living with their family. By visiting with the child and others, the advocate makes objective recommendations to the Juvenile Court regarding the well-being of the child and helps facilitate a safe, permanent home as soon as possible."

CASA is central to fulfilling society's

most fundamental obligation by assigning a qualified, compassionate adult who will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family. For more information about CASA, visit [pgcasa.org](http://pgcasa.org).

**About CASA/  
Prince George's County:**

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)/Prince George's County is a volunteer-based organization that partners with the juvenile court to improve the lives of children living in foster care who have suffered from abuse and neglect. With a strong commitment to diversity, CASA trains and supervises volunteers from the community who advocate for the best interest of children, recognizing and respecting each child's individual needs. By providing a voice to children in the foster care system, CASA's goal is to help children and promote the timely placement of those we serve in safe, permanent homes.

To volunteer with CASA, call 301-209-0491 or go to [www.pgcasa.org](http://www.pgcasa.org).

## Laying Siege to Racism from A6


Whereas the SEA and SPS promote Race and Equity teams to address institutionalized racism in our schools and offer a space for dialogue among school staff;

Therefore be it resolved that the SEA Representative Assembly endorse and participate in an action wearing Black Lives Matter t-shirts on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 with the intent of showing solidarity, promoting anti-racist practices in our schools, and creating dialogue in our schools and communities.

This response is not only an example of community, sports,

teachers, and unions "laying siege" to racism. It is also a moment in this dreary fall political season of how hope can blossom when we organize beyond the ballot box.

Update: Any discussion about sports, politics and #BlackLivesMatter in Seattle this fall has to include Seattle Reign soccer star Megan Rapinoe, who takes a knee during the anthem as an act of solidarity. I have written about Rapinoe extensively and think that what she has done holds national importance. I neglected to remember when writing that she plays for a Seattle franchise and is absolutely a part of what has germinated throughout the city, most notably the idea that white people have a role to play in the struggle against racism and police violence. I regret that she was not mentioned in the first draft of this piece.



### LEFTOVER COOKING OIL

Large holiday meals may generate cooking grease from turkey fryers, along with other cooking byproducts like fats and oils. These products should never be disposed of down your kitchen or other drains. Here are some tips for disposing or recycling leftover cooking oil or grease.

- ▶ Scrape food and grease from dishes and pans prior to washing, rather than using a garbage disposal for greasy scraps;
- ▶ Let the oil cool down and filter using a cheese cloth over a funnel or food strainers to remove food particles;
- ▶ Pour cool, filtered cooking oil and grease into a sealable container and store in a dry and dark place or freeze and then dispose with your household garbage;
- ▶ Before reusing cooking oil or grease, check to make sure it hasn't separated or smells bad. If so, then you'll need to start with a new batch; or
- ▶ Dispose large quantities of cooking oil and grease at the Prince George's County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro. The Facility is open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is FREE for County residents.

Courtesy of [asthgreen.org/fats-oil-grease-disposal/](http://asthgreen.org/fats-oil-grease-disposal/)



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**Jobs from A1**

(D)—District 6 says Tuesday's Council action saved important jobs in Prince George's County, but cautions the work is not over.

"While we certainly celebrate the Safeway distribution center development project and what it means for jobs and revenue in

the County, the Council remains keenly aware of the waning presence of Safeway retail stores and the company's disappearing footprint leading to food deserts in our established communities."

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