

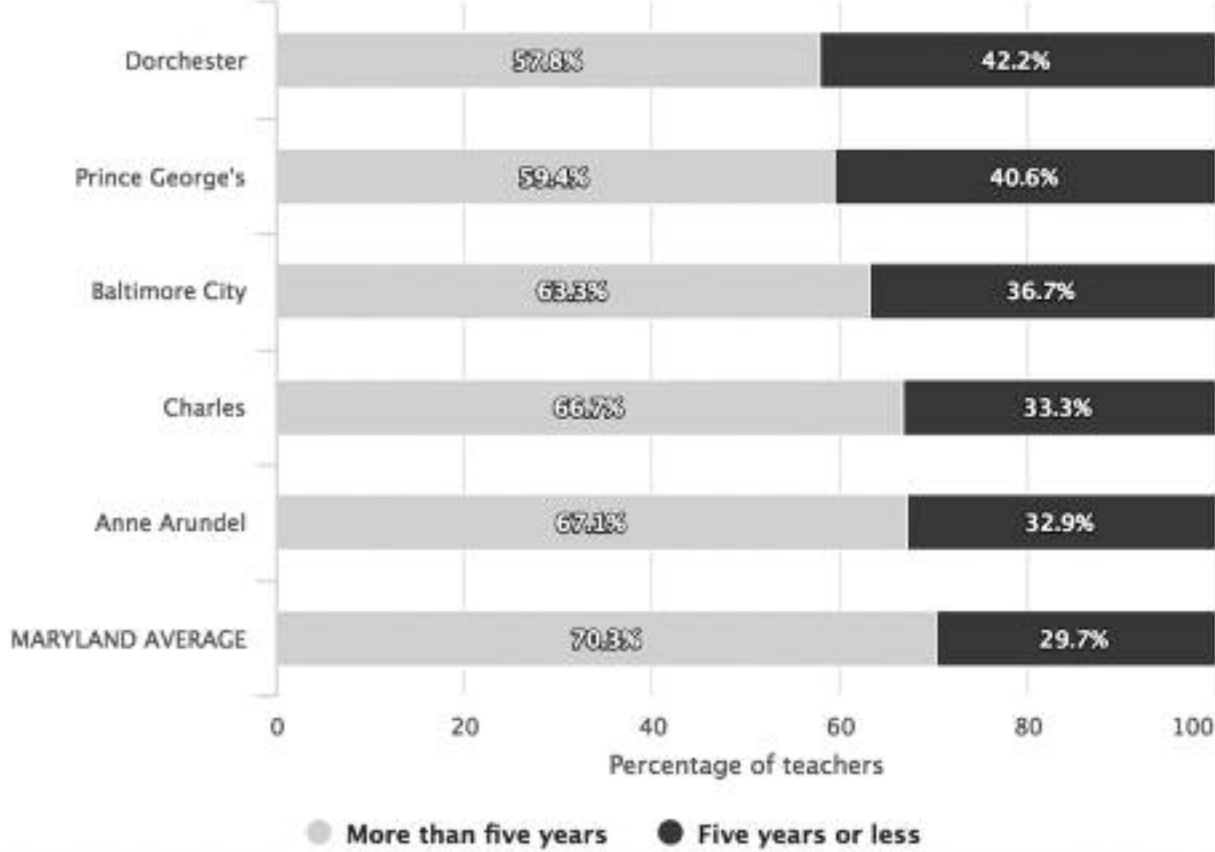
The Prince George's Post



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In PG County and Baltimore City, Fewer Experienced Teachers



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE GRAPHIC BY KATISHI MAAKE

Schools with higher percentage of less experienced teachers have poor retention rates according to Richard Ingersoll, professor of education and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. These five jurisdictions have the highest percentage of inexperienced teachers in the state.

Maryland Struggles to Retain Young, Qualified Teachers

By KATISHI MAAKE
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In nine years of teaching elementary school, Robin Beers has always felt the profession never came easy.

Beers did not decide she wanted to teach until after un-

dergrad when she received her master's degree in special education. Ever since entering teaching, she said she has felt as if she has not had enough time or support to consistently succeed.

Now that she is settled at an Anne Arundel elementary school teaching third grade, Beers has overcome many of the struggles

young teachers face when first entering the profession.

"It's overwhelming," Beers said. "I often struggle to keep things in perspective. I sometimes have to tell myself, 'You're not running the Pentagon; it's going to be okay.'"

Maryland schools are often touted as some of the best in the

country, but beneath the surface, it is becoming increasingly difficult to retain experienced teachers during the first few years into the profession despite receiving relatively high pay among teachers nationwide.

See **TEACHERS** Page A3

Department of the Environment Now Accepting Applications From High School Juniors and Seniors

By PRESS OFFICER
MDDE

BALTIMORE, MD—The Maryland Department of the Environment is now accepting applications for the 2017 Environmental Science Student Award and Internship Program.

The award recognizes high school juniors and seniors who have excelled in environmental science both inside and outside the classroom. Students who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and participation in environmental projects in school or their community such as recycling drives, school beau-

tification projects, stream or litter cleanups and other types of environmental projects are encouraged to apply. The grand prize winner will receive a paid internship, valued at \$3,000, at the Department of the Environment during the summer of 2017. The second-place winner will receive \$500 and the third-place winner will receive \$250. All three will receive a certificate for their efforts.

"Our future relies on the student environmental leaders of today," said Secretary Ben Grum-

See **INTERNSHIP** Page A6

PG County Planning Department Announces the Release of the Bike Share Feasibility Study

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has released the results of its Feasibility Study on implementing a Bike Sharing program within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) and National Harbor in Prince George's County. The bike sharing program will allow residents to make short trips by bicycle within the ATHA area and Washington Metropolitan region.

The study, commissioned by M-NCPPC and the City of Greenbelt in close coordination with the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) and the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), concludes that bike sharing would be feasible in Prince George's County. Several factors were examined to determine the feasibility of a bike sharing program including: the topography, population and employment density, population age, income, education, and automobile ac-

See **BIKE SHARE** Page A7

American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park Volunteer Group Honored by State



PHOTO COURTESY M-NCPPC

Patuxent River Park Volunteers Presented with Governor's Service Award.

By PRESS OFFICER
M-NCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—More than 200 local volunteers are honored for their commitment to sharing an important part of Prince George's County history. Today, the American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park Volunteer Group was awarded The Governor's Service Award for Exemplary Service—Learning. The award, presented by the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, recognizes the significant efforts of com-

munity members who have donated their time and effort for the betterment of the state and its people.

Tonya Johnson, the park naturalist who worked closely with the volunteers, says, "I am grateful and honored to receive the Governor's Service Award. Working with volunteers to complete the American Indian Village was extremely hard work and yet, it is one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences of my life."

See **VOLUNTEERS** Page A7

Maryland's Heroin and Opioid Crisis Reaches an All-Time High

By HANNAH LANG
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Barbara Allen signs her emails with the names of her family members she has lost to addiction.

Jim's mom, Bill's sister, Amanda's aunt.

Her son, Jim, died from a heroin and alcohol overdose in 2003 after battling substance abuse disorder for 22 years.

"What I found really annoyed me and made me angry was there was so little support, and in fact people didn't have to continue to die," said Bar-

bara, who lives in Howard County, Maryland.

In Maryland, heroin-related deaths tripled from 2011 to 2015, rising from 247 to 748, according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The death rate from drug overdoses in the state is the

fifth-worst in the country, and it's only likely to get worse, experts say.

The rise of heroin and opioids

In the early 2000s, the popularity of heroin and opioids as illegal narcotics soared in Maryland around the same time as overdose deaths due to drugs or alcohol began to increase, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"If you go back to 2006 and 2007, it was most notable here where the conversation internally to the (sheriff's department) really began because of overdose deaths from opiate painkillers," said Tim Cameron, the sheriff in St. Mary's County and a member of the Governor's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force in 2015.

When the epidemic first began, most of the people dying from overdoses were young, white and in the middle and upper classes, but that trend soon



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY HANNAH LANG

In 2014, opioid painkillers killed almost 19,000 Americans. Maryland's drug overdose death rate is one of the worst in the country.

See **OPIOIDS** Page A5

INSIDE

U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services Award \$247.4 Million in Preschool Grants to 18 States

Studies show that children who participate in quality preschool programs are more likely to graduate from high school, grow up healthy, avoid involvement in our criminal justice system, and find good jobs.

Community, Page A3

Foreign Influence and the Integrity of Our Democracy

If domestic voter suppression sits on one side of the coin, the unwanted influence of a foreign power in American elections sits on the other. Rather than enrich us, and our system of representative government, both serve to undermine true democracy.

Commentary, Page A4

Sneak Peek of Development and Construction Opportunities In PG County at Trade Association Breakfast

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.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*

Written by Rowling herself (her first screenplay) and directed by David Yates (who made the last four Potter films), *Fantastic Beasts* wastes a lot of time on inessential escapades wherein a fantastic beast escapes from Scamander's suitcase and he and Kowalski go looking for it.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Are self-driving cars good for the environment?

—Billy Shea,
Boston, MA

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Longest-serving Maryland Secretary of State Fred Wineland dies at 90

Fred L. Wineland, of Fort Washington, who had a long history in Maryland government and was one of the proprietors of the Wineland Theater chain, died Dec. 11 at 90 years of age.

He was born in Washington, grew up in Congress Heights, graduated from Anacostia High School, American University and Southeastern University. He served in the Navy aboard the USS Chimariko and returned home to meet and marry Mary Flack, a nurse at St. Elizabeths.

What I most remember him for were the Wineland Theaters, a family business he shared with his father, Lloyd J. Wineland and his brother Lloyd G. Wineland. Fred's parents, Lloyd and Elsie, founded the chain in 1924 and eventually had 13 theaters, mostly drive-ins. Among the ones I remember, and attended, were the Marlow, Hillside, Laurel, and the Super Chief Drive-in.

He served in the House of Delegates, the Maryland Senate, and as Maryland's longest-serving Secretary of State, under three governors. He was a member of the Maryland Port Commission and was instrumental in the establishment of the Maryland Vietnam and World War II Memorials as well as the Maryland Veterans Cemetery program.

He was an avid hunter and sportsman, all the way to big game in Alaska and Africa. He also liked flying small planes.

His wife Mary Katherine preceded him in death. Survivors include his children, David, Gail, Martin, William and Kirk, and eight grandchildren. Services were at Fort Washington U.M. Church with burial at Cheltenham.

All who knew him will remember his generosity and his fascinating storytelling.

Pray in the New Year at Loyola

Loyola on the Potomac, a Jesuit retreat house in Faulkner, Md., invites you to join them as they pray in the New Year.

The retreat begins with dinner New Year's Eve at 6 p.m. (though you can arrive a couple of hours earlier) and is followed

by a time of prayer and quiet reflection. At 11 p.m. there'll be Mass, followed by a wonderful social at midnight. Moderated by Father Bill Noe, S.J.

New Year's Day 2017 begins with prayer and breakfast prior to departure.

The fee is \$110. To reserve or for more information, call 301-392-0800. (I have attended these New Year's retreats at Loyola three times—I love them!)

People and a camel

Carol Kline DeGraba, former Morningside Councilwoman, sent news about her three children, now all involved in academia. Maria is a senior at the University of North Carolina, Thomas a junior at James Madison and Nicholas a freshman at the University of Maryland.

Carol's mother, Martha Kline, who lived for years on Marianne Drive, died a year ago this week, on Dec. 30. After lovingly caring for her mother for several years, Carol decided a return to her longtime career in nursing would perhaps bring more stress than satisfaction. So she decided to work in a field she's always found interesting; she took a course in real estate and is now with Long & Foster.

Congratulations to the Wise Pumas who defeated Quince Orchard to capture their second consecutive Maryland 4A state championship. Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School is local high school for Morningside and Skyline.

A man preparing for the annual Christmas show at Evangel Temple in Upper Marlboro, was bitten by one of the show's stars, a camel.

If Jerry and Jean Glaubitz were still here they'd have celebrated their 74th anniversary on Dec. 23. That was 1942, one year after Jerry barely survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. I think it took a year to convince Jean's parents that she was old enough to marry a sailor.

Changing landscape

MGM opened the doors of its casino at 10:30 p.m., Thurs. Dec. 8, and by noon on Friday more than 50,000 had visited the resort. One report mentioned a long line formed and

people were only admitted as others left.

The newly-refurbished base theater at Joint Base Andrews opened its doors on Dec. 16 for the first time in more than five years. It boasts new carpets, new heating and air conditioning, re-tiled bathrooms, an up-graded projector and digital sound system. New seats will be installed in January. They are kicking off the season with *Star Wars: Rogue One*.

Gold's Gym has come to 1723A Ritchie Station Court in Capitol Heights. It costs only \$1 to join before Dec. 30, and \$9.99 per month. For more information, call 301-850-4371.

Hip Hop Fish & Chicken has opened on Old Branch Avenue in the parking lot of Planet Fitness.

Also on Old Branch, Nice and Tight BBQ has opened in the space that opened as a charming German restaurant about 30 years ago. (Why do my favorite restaurants keep closing?)

The groundbreaking for a new state-of-the-art fire station in Seat Pleasant was held Dec. 1. County Exec Baker and County Fire Department officials were there for the ribbon-cutting.

Milestones

Happy birthday to former Skyliner Timothy Flaherty and former Morningside Mayor Irving Robinson, Dec. 22; Paul Ford and Russ Kyser, Dec. 23; Kendall Lanehart and former Morningside Councilman Ken Miller, Dec. 24; Holly Jean Nichols, Jason Tomlinson, Samantha Bowie, Christine Mucker and Loretta Hooe, all on Christmas Day.

Also to Jeffrey Norton and Michael Nichols, Dec. 26; Virginia Simms, Carolyn Christopher Garris, Dec. 28; Anne Lucas, Patsy Anderson and my granddaughter Samantha McHale, Dec. 28; and Brayden Proctor, Dec. 29.

Happy anniversaries to Jeffcoat and Kirra Starr Mears on Dec. 27; Gerald and Arvilla Atkinson, their 62nd on Dec. 27; and Nola and Bruce Thomas, their 39th on Dec. 27.

*And to all my readers,
a Blessed Christmas!*

Neighborhoods

Funds Raised at Gala for Prince George's County Alzheimer's Daycare Center

MITCHELLVILLE, MD—The Baltimores and the Trebor Alzheimer's and Senior Support Center held its 10th annual Black Tie Holiday Gala on December 3, 2016 to raise money to support the development of a comprehensive Alzheimer's daycare center in Prince George's county.

Attended by over 350 guests, the gala was held at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center and saluted the extraordinary work of State's Attorney Alsbrooks.

Senator (Ret.) Verna L. Jones-Rodwell, board member of the National Alzheimer's Association, delivered the keynote address and stressed the importance of research, and establishing facilities, programs, and services in Maryland to help the growing number of individuals that suffer with the disease.

In attendance was Senator Joanne C. Benson, Senator Ulysses Currie, Senator (Ret.) and Secretary of Department of Aging (Ret.) for Maryland, Gloria Lawlah, and Delegate Melony G. Griffith, Maryland 25th district.

The Trebor Center will be located in the 25th district and Trebor and the constituents of the 25th legislative district gave an Open Thank You letter plaque and a standing ovation to Senator Ulysses Currie for his 30 years of service to the state of Maryland.

Business leaders were also honored for their contributions to the community:

- Stan Neal, Jr, President and CEO, Fresh Air, LLC
- Cheryl Thomas and Evelyn Gardiner, Founders of A.C.E. Assisted Living
- Kim Thrower, Founder and CEO, Essential Relief Support Services, LLC.
- Lee Bellamy and Corey Bellamy, B & B Floor Services, LLC.
- Eric Allen, Founder and President, Clean Team Janitorial Service
- Timothy Smith, Front Street Management, LLC

The gala included a VIP reception and a rousing performance from international recording artist saxophonist, Brian Lenair.

To learn more about the Trebor Alzheimer's and Senior Support center visit www.treborcenter.org.

About Trebor Alzheimer's and Senior Support Center

Pollinator Habitat to be Restored on BGE Rights-of-Way Located in Maryland State Parks

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources today announced a new initiative that will help improve and strengthen pollinator health and habitat. Approximately 200 acres of BGE's electric rights-of-way (ROW) located in Maryland state parks that are currently maintained by routine mowing will be allowed to transition to meadow or prairie ecosystems which are natural pollinator habitats.

"This partnership benefits the state, our customers and, most importantly, the pollinators that are vital for a healthy environment," said Derrick Dickens, vice president of Technical Services for BGE. "Changing the way we manage these elec-

tric rights of way will encourage the return of pollinators and native ecosystems, while still ensuring that power lines are safely maintained. The best part is our customers get the environmental benefits as well as the advantages of a more efficient, cost-effective way to manage energy corridors."

This effort, which includes electric ROWs in Carroll, Howard, and Baltimore counties, will provide habitat for native pollinators including bees and monarch butterflies. Increasing pollinator habitat is important from both a natural resource and economic perspective, since pollinator species are required for the reproduction of numerous crops that are grown for food.

"The new protocol for managing these lands is a significant opportunity for the department to expand upon our ongoing campaign to reduce mowed areas on state-managed land and property," said Nita Settina, superintendent of the Maryland Park Service. "By working with BGE, rights-of-way within five state parks will replace mowed areas with natural meadows that benefit both plant and wildlife species, including birds, bees and butterflies."

BGE will maintain its electric ROWs located in state parks through integrated vegetation management (IVM). IVM selectively removes invasive species that could interfere with power lines through the use of environmentally-safe herbicides rather than clear-cut mowing. This allows low-growing, native vegetation to thrive year-round, enhancing food sources and habitat for wildlife. In addition, IVM eliminates the need for repeated mowing saving money on ROW maintenance.

Pollinator populations have significantly declined during the last decade due to loss of habitat, increases in invasive species and the expanded use of certain pesticides. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service reports that the common monarch butterfly is one species that has recently declined to dangerously low levels. Even small patches of wildflowers, hedgerows and meadows cultivated in gardens, parks and farms can provide vital sources of food for migrating monarchs.

Currently, BGE is maintaining six rights-of-way segments with IVM and each are National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitats® and Audubon Bird Friendly Habitats. Research conducted at one BGE IVM site showed that it supported a greater diversity of bee species compared to ROWs managed by mowing. In addition, butterfly species such as monarchs, tiger swallowtail, and common buckeye have been observed in the IVM areas and are actively using the new habitat.

The new sites proposed for IVM are located in Morgan Run Natural Environment Area, Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area, Patapsco Valley State Park, Gunpowder Falls State Park and along the Torrey C. Brown Trail.

Kamenetz Rejects Trump Plan to Deport Undocumented Students,

TOWSON, MD—Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz pledged to support the efforts of the five colleges located in Baltimore County to protect the status of students who first arrived in this country as undocumented children. In a letter sent to the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland as well as the presidents of the Community College of Baltimore County, Goucher College, Stevenson University, Towson University, and UMBC, Kamenetz indicated that county police would not participate in any efforts to identify otherwise law-abiding students and subject them to deportation by federal authorities.

Several Maryland university officials recently announced efforts to protect undocumented students from deportation. "These students were children when they arrived in this country," said Kamenetz. "They were raised here and have no identification with their native country. They should be allowed to continue with their education and pursue a path to citizenship, without police harassment."

Kamenetz also called on Governor Hogan to extend similar protection to students in all of Maryland's college campuses. "It is unconscionable that students on our college campuses would have to live in fear that they may be deported at any moment," said Kamenetz. "Governor Hogan needs to do more than tell Marylanders to take a deep breath."

The text of the County Executive's letter is below:

Dear Dr. Bowen,
Dr. Caret,
Dr. Hrabowski,
Dr. Kurtinitis, Dr. Manning, and
Dr. Schatzel,

As the County Executive of a county that is home to five colleges and universities, I strongly support your efforts to protect undocumented students from deportation in the wake of the recent presidential election.

It is imperative that our nation's leaders protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program instituted by President Obama in 2012, allowing students to pursue their education without fear.

I am urging members of Maryland's congressional delegation and our State leaders to oppose any effort by incoming President Trump to rescind the DACA program. I have also advised Chief Johnson that the Baltimore County Police Department should not participate in any effort to identify otherwise law-abiding students from our college campuses that would subject them to deportation by federal authorities. This letter is also copied to Governor Hogan seeking his support in this effort as well.

Thank you for taking all necessary steps to make your students feel safe and secure. Very truly yours,
Kevin Kamenetz
Baltimore County Executive

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to Charles Dorsett, Irena Stammer, Taylor Terry, Shawnee Hendricks, Nurbert Hughes, Anthony Bell, Elvin Falby, Valentine Grant II, Ronald Crawford, Sr., Doris MacKall, Lilly Jalloh, Somto Mbakwe, John Stahl, Alaya Bell, Jahmajyah Dorsett, Elijah Kerick, Carolyn Woodard, Donald Hill, B. Kent Mauldin, Theodore (Ted) Mosley, Sandra Jefferson, Carol Hughes, Kienel Peralta, Ikechi (Ike) Mbakwe, Latsha Bell, Betty Rivers, Cameron Barron, Wendell Wallace, Ky Panda-Massey, Paula Carter, Luz Knight who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays during the month of December 2016.

CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There will be a Christmas Eve Worship Service sponsored by the Youth and Sunday School Department at Clinton United Methodist Church, 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 24; a Candlelight Service at 9:30 PM.

Christmas Day Worship Service at 10:30 AM. Clinton New Year's Eve Watch Night Service will be held at 10:00 PM at Zion-Wesley UMC, Berry Road, Waldorf, Maryland.

HOLIDAY HAYRIDES

Holiday Hayrides are offered through the Festival of Lights and a visit to Watkins Nature Center. You will be able to enjoy refreshments and warm up by the fire. You will also see the live animals and visit the gift shop. Dates are Friday, December 23, Friday, December 30 and Saturday, December 31, 2016.

All hayrides will begin and end at parking lot. The address is Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Reservations are due to limited space on the hay wagon. Groups of 10 or more people require a non-refundable deposit. For reservations call 301-218-6770.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Join us on Saturday, January 14 for an evening of fellowship and a great homemade meal at

Emanuel Church Hall located in Baden, Maryland. The meal will consist of meat or marinara sauce, garlic bread and salad. Adults (13 & up) pay \$10.00, children 6-12 pay \$5.00. Free for children under 5. Eat in or take out.

HONORING THE DREAM

The Greater Landover Kiwanis and Sigma Rho Sorority, Inc. PHI Sigma Philo Affiliate will host a Birthday Breakfast Brunch on Monday, January 16, 2017, remembering the life and legacy and honoring the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968).

The brunch will be held at the veterans of Foreign Wars Post #9619. The address is 6527 Suitland Road, Morningside, Maryland 20746. Guest speaker will be Minister James Durham. Donation is \$25.00. Contact Doris Montgomery 301-221-4534 or Lillie Brown 301-868-8056.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all my readers.*

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Simple Ways to Make Your Appliances Last Longer

'Tis the season for overflowing refrigerators, never-ending loads of laundry and hopefully visiting family who will lend a hand. Many people ask their appliances to work a little harder than normal during the holidays, and proper maintenance throughout the year might be the key to avoiding an untimely breakdown.



Here are a few maintenance tips for refrigerators, dishwashers, laundry machines and dryers. Each of these major appliances has an average lifespan of 10 to 13 years and you might want to start budgeting for your next purchase around the nine-year mark.

There are many factors that contribute to a particular machine's lifespan. However, regular maintenance could help ensure your appliance's longevity, let you avoid expensive service calls and lead to lower utility bills.

Clean the coils to keep the fridge efficient and cool. We mostly expect refrigerators to keep working. But imagine having a house full of holiday guests and waking up to find that it stopped. Not only are you stuck paying for repairs (\$220 to \$270 on average), or a new fridge (anywhere from \$350 to over \$2,500), but you might be making an expensive trip to the store to replace all the spoiled food.

The most important part of refrigerator maintenance is keeping the condenser coils clean. A dirty coil won't release heat as well, causing the compressor to work harder, which in turn shortens its life and can cost you money in higher utility bills. Luckily, the process takes about 15 minutes and only needs to be done once or twice a year.

Start by unplugging your refrigerator. Units that have coils underneath them will likely have a cover needs to be removed and a condenser fan that should be cleaned. Other units have uncovered coils on the back. Using a brush or vacuum carefully clean off the dirt and dust. If you use a vacuum, check for and empty or dry out the drip pan, which is common on units with a built-in defroster.

The inside of a dishwasher needs cleaning as well. Your dishwasher might not be a necessity, but it sure is nice to spend time with visiting family and friends rather than washing dishes by hand. In fact, during one recent family visit, we ran our dishwasher was multiple times per day.

It's important to clean the inside of the dishwasher as mineral deposits and leftover food scraps can build up, leading to clogged or leaky components and nose-turning smells. Running an unloaded dishwasher on a cleaning cycle with white vinegar could do the trick. You may also need to scrub the walls by hand and clean out the filter, which is often found at the bottom of the machine.

Next, gently wipe down and inspect the plastic gasket around the door, a break or leak could lead to an expensive mess. While gaskets cost about \$10, labor costs can be between \$75 and \$150 an hour and damage from the water could be significantly more.

Respect the load limits of your washer and dryer. I'm always shocked by the piles of laundry that build up when you have a full house. While the extra towels, sheets and clothes from visiting guests might make it tempting, don't overload your machines.

Too much weight can cause parts to wear out and break prematurely. Plus, you could wind up with detergent residue on clothes and need to rerun the cycle (a waste of time, water and energy), or damp clothes that still need to be dried.

Also, gently close washer and dryer doors. Too much force could break the switch—the small part that signals to the machine the door is closed. The average cost to fix common washing machine problems is \$50 to \$150, while dryers' more expensive parts push repairs costs to about \$100 to \$400.

Consider DIY repairs if something breaks. Even with proper maintenance, appliances can break. Unless you have a repairman in the family, you will likely spend \$75-plus an hour to hire one. You might consider trying to save a little money by doing the repairs yourself.

The job in question, your comfort level, experience and access to tools will influence which repairs you should attempt, but you won't necessarily be completely on your own. Appliance manufacturers, appliance parts dealers and independent handymen post helpful video guides with step-by-step instructions that you can follow.

Bottom line: While every appliance will eventually need to be replaced, keeping the components clean and handling machines with care can help extend their lifespan. Make it a regular habit and you'll set yourself up for fewer repair calls and less frequent appliance purchases as well as a better chance to spend time with loved ones, uninterrupted by inconvenient and expensive appliance issues.

U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services Award \$247.4 Million in Preschool Grants to 18 States

By PRESS OFFICER
U.S. Department of Education

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. announced today that 18 states will receive more than \$247.4 million in awards under the Preschool Development Grant program to continue their work in expanding access to high-quality preschool for children from low- to moderate-income families.

The grants are the third year of awards to states that are working with local communities to prepare the nation's most vulnerable children for success in school and beyond. Jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services, the grant program has invested \$750 million and expanded access to new high-quality preschool classrooms, or improved classrooms, in 230 high-need communities.

"High-quality early education gives children the strong start they need to succeed in kindergarten," said U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "The Obama Administration has made great progress in providing access to high-quality early learning, but we must do more. All of our children—regardless of socioeconomic status, race, language spoken at home, disability or zip code—deserve the kind of high-quality early learning opportunities that will prepare them to thrive in school and beyond."

Today, the Department also released a national report and 18 state progress reports on the PDG program. The reports detail how states are meeting the high-

quality standards and improving access to early learning for at-risk children. Classrooms improved by supporting well-qualified and compensated teachers, expanding to full-day, reducing class size or child-teacher ratios, providing evidence-based professional development, and providing comprehensive services.

Last school year, more than 28,000 children from low-income families had access to high-quality early learning because of the Preschool Development Grants program. This academic year, another 35,000 had the chance to enroll in these programs.

With the support of Preschool Development Grants, states have demonstrated a strong commitment to closing equity gaps and expanding opportunities so that all children have a chance to succeed. States met nearly 90 percent of their targets for the number of children served. Six states—Alabama, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia—met or substantially exceeded their targets, reaching 1,387 more children than planned. In their applications, states committed to provide inclusive opportunities for children with disabilities. Across all of the grantees, of the 28,202 children served, 2,391 (8.5 percent) were children with disabilities, which is above the national average of 4-year-old children with disabilities in the United States (6.4 percent).

High-quality preschool helps create the foundation for children to thrive in school and in life. Studies show that children who participate in quality preschool programs are more likely

to graduate from high school, grow up healthy, avoid involvement in our criminal justice system, and find good jobs. The Obama Administration has made expanding high-quality early education a priority.

In addition to Preschool Development Grants, the Administration's more than \$1 billion investment in the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grants across 20 states has resulted in hundreds of thousands more children—particularly those with high-needs and from low-income families—being enrolled in high-quality, state-funded preschool and other early learning programs than there were in 2011. And nearly 70,000 more early learning programs in the Early Learning Challenge states now participate in quality rating systems to enhance their programs, with more than 21,000 now rated highest in quality—more than double the number five years ago.

A new preschool program is included in the nation's new education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which also for the first time includes provisions to promote coordination in early learning among local communities; align preschool with early elementary school; and build the capacity of teachers, leaders, and others serving young children to provide the highest-quality early learning opportunities.

Expanding access to high-quality early education is among the smartest investments that we can make as a country. President Obama's 2017 budget proposal includes expanding high-quality

preschool through programs through the following proposals:

- \$75 billion over 10 years for the Preschool for All proposal to provide voluntary, universal high-quality preschool programs for all 4-year-olds from low- and moderate-income families.

- \$350 million for Preschool Development Grants, an increase of \$100 million over the FY 2016 funding level, to help states lay the foundation for universal public preschool.

- An additional \$82 billion over 10 years for the Child Care and Development Fund to provide high-quality child care for all low- and middle-income families with young children.

- \$434 million in additional funding for the Head Start program to increase the duration of Head Start services and maintain program quality and enrollment.

Year 3 Preschool Development Grants Awards

State	FY 16 Funding
Alabama	\$17,500,000
Arizona	\$20,000,000
Arkansas	\$14,993,000
Connecticut	\$11,689,109
Hawaii	\$5,742,044
Illinois	\$20,000,000
Louisiana	\$10,071,160
Maine	\$3,735,439
Maryland	\$15,000,000
Massachusetts	\$15,000,000
Montana	\$10,000,000
Nevada	\$12,849,229
New Jersey	\$17,499,134
New York	\$25,000,000
Rhode Island	\$6,043,131
Tennessee	\$17,486,490
Vermont	\$7,313,193
Virginia	\$17,500,000
Total	\$247,421,929

Teachers from A1

The 2016 edition of Education Week's *Quality Counts* report gave Maryland schools an overall B rating, which ranks the state among the top five in the country. Additionally, Maryland's eligible schools received the highest percentage of gold and silver awards from a 2016 U.S. News report. Gold and silver awards reflect which schools best prepare students for college and achieve passing scores on Advanced Placement tests.

Despite this, Maryland, like much of the country, struggles to curb teacher turnover, especially in the most disadvantaged areas.

"It is a widespread issue," said Richard Ingersoll, professor of education and sociology in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. "Teaching is a high turnover occupation."

Nearly half of new teachers who have completed between one to two years of teaching will have left the field by the beginning of the third full year, according to data from the Maryland State Department of Education's 2014-2015 teacher and principal effectiveness ratings.

In the 2015-2016 school year, Maryland lost 4,536 of its approximate 60,000 teachers, a 7 percent attrition rate, according to state department of education. Forty percent, or 1,815, of those lost teachers had five or fewer years of experience.

Moreover, 29.7 percent of teachers in the state have fewer than five years of experience, whereas teachers with more than 20 years of experience account for about 16 percent.

"There is research that shows there is a link between teacher

experience and the quality of teaching that goes on in the classroom," said Adam Mendelson, spokesman for the Maryland State Education Association, the state's largest teacher union. "When there is a lot of turnover, it's harder to establish relationships between teachers and students."

While Ingersoll says teacher retention rates are low across the country, a September report from the Learning Policy Institute gave Maryland a teacher attractiveness rating of 2.1 on a 5-point average quintile scale, which is tied for 46th in the country along with Mississippi and New Mexico.

For comparison, the highest rated state in terms of attracting educators, Oregon, received a rating of 4.09. The Learning Policy Institute created this scale by drawing data from National Center for Education Statistics, said Desiree Carver Thomas, research and policy associate with the institute. As part of a state teacher mentoring program, Oregon was able to retain 90 percent of teachers during the 2013-2014 school year.

Maryland teachers, however, are better compensated compared to the rest of the country with an average starting salary of \$43,235, which ranks fifth in the country, and an average overall salary of \$66,482, which ranks seventh, according to National Education Association.

But Mendelson and Carver-Thomas said simply compensating teachers with higher salaries isn't enough to keep retention rates afloat.

"We found that salary compensation corresponds with recruiting a teacher, but it does not correlate with retention," Carver-Thomas

told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "It's really important that compensation comes hand-in-hand with great working conditions."

Seven of the state's 24 jurisdictions have higher than the state average of 29.7 percent of teachers with five or fewer years of experience. Dorchester and Prince George's counties lead the way with 42.2 percent and 40.6 percent, respectively.

Although Ingersoll says low teacher retention most commonly affects lower income areas, Theresa Dudley Mitchell, president of the Prince George's County Educators Association, said she is hesitant to label income as the sole condition for poor retention.

"The reality is that there are some kids that are going to get it because of you and some are going to get it in spite of you," Dudley Mitchell said. "Prince George's County is not alone. The concept of teacher retention is something we really have to get a hold on, as to why people who want to come into the profession ultimately end up leaving."

Dudley Mitchell said teaching today is more demanding with higher stakes in testing and increased workloads for teachers. She said a healthy balance of veteran and new teachers creates an environment conducive for teachers and their students to succeed.

For Kyle De Jan, teaching at Frederick Douglass High School in Prince George's County has been a bittersweet opportunity since he is the final step in his students' public education experience.

"As a new teacher, you're really afraid of your learning curve, just like any other job," said De Jan, a second-year teacher. "You

feel really anxious because your learning curve means they're going to miss out on things. That feels like you're damaging their post-secondary success."

Beers said teaching is a significant time commitment with increasing responsibilities and expectations mounting every day. She added that these are amplified when administrators micromanage and attempt to control how teachers operate their classroom.

"I'm best when I close my door and trust what I'm doing," Beers said. "I know the thing I've needed the most is more time to hone my craft."

State Sen. Paul Pinsky, D-Prince George's, sponsored legislation that went into effect in July that creates a pilot program intended to give first-year teachers more time with mentoring, peer observation and assistance with planning.

The Teacher Induction, Retention and Advancement Act of 2016 will be piloted in Anne Arundel County and permanently increase the state-matching stipend for teachers who hold a National Board Certification from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

"Teachers get overwhelmed," Pinsky said. "We want to have a plan of having more time and support in the first year to increase the retention rate."

A TELL Maryland survey administered to teachers last year found that while three-fourths of new teachers said they officially received a mentor, only half said they had time to meet with their mentor and only 14 percent said they received a reduced workload to do so.

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COMMENTARY

Rushern L. Baker, III Executive of Prince George's County



Rushern L. Baker, III Comments on Senator Mikulski's Efforts to Secure \$255 Million in Federal Funding for New FBI Headquarters

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, released this statement after Senator Barbara Mikulski successfully secured \$255 million in federal funding in the recently-passed Continuing Resolution spending bill for a new fully consolidated headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). This funding is pivotal for providing a new, fully consolidated, secure, headquarters for the 11,000 employees of the FBI. Prince George's County has two of the final three potential sites at the Greenbelt Metro Station and at the former Landover Mall property in Landover.

"I want to express my sincerest appreciation to and utmost respect for Senator Barbara Mikulski for her relentless determination to secure full funding for a consolidated FBI headquarters. Together with the House of Representatives' action earlier this week in approving additional parameters for the GSA to use in determining where the project will be housed, I am even more hopeful that the additional funding Senator Mikulski secured brings the project one more step closer to a new home in Prince George's County.

The federal funding builds upon the \$390 million Senator Mikulski previously secured in FY 2016 and, together with the proceeds from the sale of the current J. Edward Hoover Building, about half of total project funding has been secured. We are confident our two sites, in either Landover and Greenbelt, are superior by every possible measure—including size, location, project costs, and ability to be built in a timely manner given the importance of the project to our national security. These superior attributes make it inevitable in my opinion that one of our two sites in Greenbelt and Landover will be chosen as the FBI's new home.

Because of today's announcement and her other Herculean efforts on this project over the last four years, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland are closer than ever in achieving this \$2 billion dollar project and 11,000 jobs that our nation's national security infrastructure so desperately needs. As Senator Mikulski steps down from her Senate seat, I have equal confidence that our incredibly talented and powerful Maryland Congressional delegation will take us over the goal line and the FBI's new home will be in Prince George's County, Maryland."

Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



Foreign Influence and the Integrity of Our Democracy

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government ... The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is ... to have with them as little political connection as possible."

—President George Washington, Farewell Address, September 17, 1796

In 1840, President Martin Van Buren was fighting for re-election. He ultimately lost his presidential bid to a war hero, William Henry Harrison, who easily won over the widely unpopular Van Buren, nicknamed, "Van Ruin," for presiding over the nation during an economic depression. The presidential campaign of 1840 was heavy on image, and light on substance, painting Van Buren as an elitist and Harrison as an everyday man. Harrison—accused of being helped by British bankers during his campaign—won the Electoral College vote and an extremely close popular vote. In 1888, Grover Cleveland was favored to win his presidential re-election campaign, but ultimately lost the presidency because he appeared partial and subservient to British interests. The voters turned against him and his perceived British sympathies. While he managed to win the popular vote, he lost the Electoral College vote, and, hence, the presidency.

If the past is prologue, history suggests that Americans resent the interference of foreign governments and interests in our presidential elections. As evidence of Russian tampering via cyber-attacks and hacking continues to mount, and President-elect Trump has tapped Rex Tillerson as his Secretary of State—who Trump described as doing "massive deals in Russia" and was awarded the "Order of Friendship" by Vladimir Putin—it is the duty and obligation of our Congress to thoroughly investigate whether or not Russia has interfered with our election process to tip the scale for a Trump win and, in the

process, undermine and sow distrust in our democracy and its institutions.

President Obama has ordered a full intelligence review of the alleged Russian hack into the Democratic and Republican National Committees to be completed before inauguration day. In a break with Trump, the top two Republicans in Congress have lent their support to a bipartisan congressional effort to investigate the alleged Russian cyber-attacks. Calling any breach of American cyber-security measures "disturbing," Senator Mitch McConnell added that, "the Russians do not wish us well ... It defies belief that somehow Republicans in the Senate are reluctant to either review Russian hacking, or ignore them." As of my writing, it has been reported that more than 50 Democratic voters in the Electoral College are asking for an intelligence briefing from the director of National Intelligence into possible foreign intervention in the presidential election before the college meets to cast its vote for our next president and vice president.

Trump and his associates have dismissed the allegations of Russian interference, painting them as "ridiculous," and "another excuse." Trump has—quite characteristically—explained away the legitimate concerns of our institutions, political leaders, the press and the people by blaming the Democrats for disseminating conspiracy theories because "they suffered one of the greatest defeats in the history of politics in this country," to conceding that if there was any interference or hacking, "they have no idea if it's Russia, or China, or somebody. It could be somebody sitting in a bed someplace," he said in a televised interview.

Trump, and I'm sure many of his supporters, see the investigation into possible Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election as an attempt to—yet again—delegitimize his recent win. But the president-elect would do better to understand that to not thoroughly investigate these allegations would leave a permanent stain on his administration, his tenure and his motives. To not look into these allegations seriously would further erode public trust in the already embattled mechanics of our democracy. If domestic voter suppression sits on one side of the coin, the unwanted influence of a foreign power in American elections sits on the other. Rather than enrich us, and our system of representative government, both serve to undermine true democracy.



Winter Festival of Lights

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: WATKINS PARK

WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT WATKINS PARK

301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Runs November 25, 2016–January 1, 2017 from 5–9:30 p.m. daily. \$5 per car; \$15 for mini-buses and limos; \$25 for buses; \$10 for multi-visit passes for cars and vans (good for three visits). The festival is FREE on December 25. You may bring canned food items to donate to local food banks for the holidays. Winter Festival of Lights is Prince George's County, Maryland's spectacular drive-through Christmas light display featuring more than a million twinkling lights.

The park is also home to the following facilities: Watkins Nature Center, the Chesapeake Carousel, Old Maryland Farm, the Watkins Regional Park miniature train and the Watkins Miniature Golf Course. Those who enjoy nature, sports, picnics, hiking, camping, or outdoor family activities will find plenty to do at Watkins Regional Park. Throughout the year the park hosts a variety of exciting special events including summer concerts in the park, the Winter Festival of Lights, National Senior Health Fitness Day, and charity runs/walks.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Love Trumps Hate

This is usually a season of familiar scenes in schools across the country, with holiday programs featuring messages of peace and goodwill to all. But this year many teachers and students have been seeing another story.

"In the week since the election I have personally had to deal with the following issues:

- 1) Boys inappropriately grabbing and touching girls, even after they said no (this never happened until after the election);
- 2) White students telling their friends who are Hispanic or of color that their parents are going to be deported and that they would be thrown out of school;
- 3) White students going up to students of color who are total strangers and hurling racial remarks at them, such as, "Trump is going [to] throw you back over the wall, you know?" or "We can't wait until you and the other brownies are gone ..."

—Middle school teacher, Indiana

"We have had many students fighting, especially between the Latino and African-American population, as well as many more boys feeling superior to girls. I have had one male student grab a female student's crotch and tell her that it's legal for him to do that to her now ... One of my students from last year who is Muslim has not worn her hijab since the election."

—Elementary school teacher, Minnesota

"In over 15 years of teaching high school this is the first year that swastikas are appearing all over school furniture."

—High school teacher, Washington state

"We have worked really hard over the last 10 years to change our climate. The last year has nearly undone all of that work. It is disheartening."

—High school teacher, Maryland

These were just a few of the responses to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)'s Teaching Tolerance Project's online survey of more than 10,000 educators in the new report, *After Election Day, The Trump Effect: The Impact of the 2016 Presidential Election on Our Nation's Schools*. SPLC says: "Ninety

percent reported that their school's climate has been negatively affected, and 80 percent described heightened anxiety and concern among minority students worried about the impact of the election on their families ... More than 2,500 said they knew of fights, threats, assaults and other incidents that could be traced directly to election rhetoric." The report echoed the findings of another SPLC survey taken earlier in the campaign season, and reinforced the sense many educators and parents have had for months of a rise in bullying and hate speech from children influenced by behavior they've been seeing in adults.

What can schools and teachers do right now to fight back against hate? Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond is president of the Learning Policy Institute and Professor of Education Emeritus and Faculty Director of the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education at Stanford University. In a recent keynote speech at the National Association for Multicultural Education conference she shared her expert recommendations, starting with a key first step:

"First, and most obviously, this is a moment both for explicit anti-racist teaching and anti-racist action in all public spaces.

The 'good news' is that the explicitness and widespread public eruption of racist, sexist, and hate speech of all kinds gives us a direct opportunity to bring anti-racist teaching out of the closet—to motivate schools and systems to adopt anti-racist curriculum, to pay attention to the tacit bigotry that is often under the surface in schools:

- to proactively ensure that the images and messages on the walls and in textbooks are multicultural and anti-racist
- to get every teacher and administrator reading and using Teaching for Tolerance, Facing History, and other resources for equitable, anti-racist teaching
- to ensure that the allocation of time, attention, and resources in schools attends equitably to all children—and that the divisions and segregation created by tracking and similar practices are challenged
- to mobilize the resources of foundations and people of good will to tackle the festering issues that America has been dealing with since its inception—when slavery was legalized, African Americans were defined as 3/5s of a person, Native Americans

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Making Holiday Parties a Positive, Enjoyable Experience

'Tis the season for parties—office parties ... social events ... get together with friends or relatives. It should be, and can be, a fun time of the year, but it also presents opportunities for difficulties and outright disasters.

While sitting home and not socializing may seem a safe answer, that's really just punishing yourself and can leave you feeling left out and depressed. Instead, follow a few common sense rules to help you enjoy the season and avoid disasters.

- **Don't Skip That Party.** Whether it's an office party, family gathering or neighborhood get-together, you only damage your reputation by being a no-show. If you're hesitant to attend an event, minimize your exposure by showing up early in the party, staying for a short time, then thanking your host and leaving. And, in some cases, you may find you're actually enjoying yourself and want to stay longer.

- **Be Informed.** If you're anxious about how to dress for an event, or unsure whether there will be gift giving, ask a few questions ahead of time. A little information will lessen that anxiety. And remember gag gifts should never be something risqué or embarrassing.

- **Avoid the Alcohol.** Even one or two alcoholic drinks can affect your judgment and lead to a party disaster. Sticking to juice or soft drinks lessens your chances of saying the wrong thing or doing something foolish.

- **Don't Be Critical.** A holiday party isn't the place to vent frustrations or to negatively critique others. It's almost a guarantee that negative comments will get repeated later to all the wrong people.

- **Use Your Best Manners.** Yes, that buffet looks tempting, but don't overeat or walk away with an overloaded plate of food. Do the things your mother taught you. Politely introduce yourself to others and be sure to thank your host or hostess when leaving.

- **Stay Away From Problem People.** If there's a co-worker with whom you always clash, avoid him or her and spend time with people you like. If there's a relative who always has to argue with you, simply refuse to respond and excuse yourself politely.

- **Holiday parties need not be feared.** They can, and should be enjoyable events, even when you feel "required" to attend. Plan on staying sober and on being polite and sociable, and you may just find yourself having a very good time.

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

Tax Preparedness Series: Tax Records—What to Keep

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, MD—As tax filing season approaches, the Internal Revenue Service has information for taxpayers who wonder how long to keep tax returns and other documents.

Generally, the IRS recommends keeping copies of tax returns and supporting documents at least three years. Some documents should be kept up to seven years in case a taxpayer needs to file an amended return or if questions arise. Keep records relating to real estate up to seven years after disposing of the property.

Health care information statements should be kept with other tax records. Taxpayers do not need to send these forms to IRS as proof of health coverage. The records taxpayers should keep include records of any employer-provided coverage, premiums paid, advance payments of the premium tax credit received and type of coverage. Taxpayers should keep these—as they do other tax records—generally for three years after they file their tax returns.

Whether stored on paper or kept electronically, the IRS urges taxpayers to keep tax records safe and secure, especially any documents bearing Social Security numbers. The IRS also suggests scanning paper tax and financial records into a format that can be encrypted and stored securely on a flash drive, CD or

DVD with photos or videos of valuables.

Now is a good time to set up a system to keep tax records safe and easy to find when filing next year, applying for a home loan or financial aid. Tax records must support the income, deductions and credits claimed on returns. Taxpayers need to keep these records if the IRS asks questions about a tax return or to file an amended return.

It is even more important for taxpayers to have a copy of last year's tax return as the IRS makes changes to authenticate and protect taxpayer identity. Beginning in 2017, some taxpayers who e-file will need to enter either the prior-year Adjusted Gross Income or the prior-year self-select PIN and date of birth. If filing jointly, both taxpayers' identities must be authenticated with this information. The AGI is clearly labeled on the tax return. Learn more at Validating Your Electronically Filed Tax Return.

Taxpayers who need tax information can request a free transcript for the past three tax years. The 'Get Transcript' tool on IRS.gov is the fastest way to get a transcript.

If taxpayers are still keeping old tax returns and receipts stuffed in a shoebox in the back of the closet, they might want to rethink that approach. Keep tax, financial and health records safe and

See TAXPAYERS Page A7

Sneak Peek of Development and Construction Opportunities In PG 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—Yesterday, 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 Champe 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 (jamason@co.pg.md.us) at 301-583-4650.

Opioids from A1

gave way to include almost all demographic and socioeconomic groups, Cameron said.

"It pretty much affects everyone," said Sgt. Johnny Murray with the Hagerstown Police Department. "It's just (a result of) the pill epidemic, when that was uncontrolled and people were being able to 'doctor shop' and go to 4 or 5 different doctors and get these powerful narcotics."

Often after people get addicted to prescription opioid painkillers, they turn to heroin, which is cheaper and provides a similar high, said Murray.

In Washington County, Maryland, Delegate Brett Wilson, R-Hagerstown, who also served on the Governor's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force, said people in almost all demographic groups are dying from heroin and opioid overdoses.

"With our patients, they were often completely unaware that the heroin or sometimes even just the pills that they were using had fentanyl in it," said Dr. Yngvild Olsen, who is also medical director of an outpatient program in Baltimore.

Because of its potency, users require less of the drug to get the same effect as heroin, which makes people who inject fentanyl more susceptible to overdoses. Fentanyl-related deaths have doubled during the first six months of 2016 compared to the same period in 2015, according to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Race, gender changes

Arrest trends in Maryland have shown that for at least the last five years, at least 4,000 to 5,000 more people between the

ages of 20 and 24 were arrested for drug abuse violations than those in the next oldest age group—people aged 25-29.

However, the vast majority of people who have been hospitalized for opioid-related disorders are between 45 and 64. According to a Capital News Service analysis, 14,843 people aged 50 to 54 were hospitalized from 2013 to the beginning of 2016 for opioid-related disorders in Maryland—more than any other age group during the same time period.

There is also data to suggest that drug use in middle and high school is declining, perhaps due to renewed drug education efforts, according to Harford County's Office of Drug Control Policy.

There may also be a disparity between whites and blacks using heroin or opioids.

Between 2012 and 2014, 88,043 blacks were arrested for drug abuse violations while 53,125 whites were arrested for the same crimes during the same time period in Maryland, according to the Maryland State Police.

However, between 2013 and the beginning of 2016, 60,462 whites were hospitalized for opioid-related disorders in Maryland while just 41,918 blacks were hospitalized, according to a Capital News Service analysis of Maryland hospital data.

Even as opioid and heroin use and overdoses have increased across many demographics in Maryland, arrest rates have declined steadily since 2010. While 12,551 people were arrested in 2010 for possession of opium, cocaine or derivatives, just 9,618 people were arrested in 2014.

The Maryland State Police collect arrest data according to the National Uniform Crime Reporting Program guidelines, which

consolidates opium, cocaine and like drugs into one category.

Though men are hospitalized more for opioid-related disorders in Maryland, there is evidence to suggest that women may be using heroin and opioids at a higher rate than other drugs.

Between 2012 and 2014, men were arrested at almost five times the rate for drug abuse violations than women.

However, hospitalizations for opioid-related disorders for men have increased 16 percent from 2013 to 2016, while those for women have increased by 15 percent.

"In looking at our numbers, we see that in some categories women are outpacing men related to this problem, and when it comes to (number of deaths), it's even," said Dan Alioto, the commander of vice narcotics for St. Mary's County.

So far this year, the county has had 118 cases where someone was sent to the emergency room for a drug-related condition. Of those 118, 65 were women and 53 were men, said Alioto.

"It's something that's different and something that's evolving," he told the University of Maryland's Capital News Service. "We're not used to seeing those kinds of numbers and our jail is not used to seeing those numbers and not equipped to handle those numbers."

Loss of Affordable Care Act

President-elect Donald Trump began discussing the issue about a month before Election Day.

"A wall will not only keep out dangerous cartels and criminals, but it will also keep out the drugs and heroin poisoning our youth," he said during an Oct. 15 New Hampshire campaign stop.

In this speech, he detailed a three-pronged plan for combating the addiction epidemic, which included aggressively prosecuting illegal drug traffickers, closing shipping loopholes for drugs and encouraging the approval of drugs to fight addiction such as Suboxone and Narcan.

President Barack Obama signed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act—also known as CARA—into law July 2016. It is considered the most extensive effort taken thus far to address the opioid epidemic and covers prevention, treatment, recovery, law enforcement, criminal justice reform and overdose reversal.

"It would be really a major step backwards to something that would cost even more lives if the Trump administration did not continue and really build on and implement the pieces of both CARA and with the appropriate funding and other steps that will likely be needed to really address this epidemic," said Olsen.

If Trump repeals the Affordable Care Act—which he promised to do while on the campaign trail—the coverage for many Americans in recovery and treatment who were previously uninsured could disappear, unless he institutes an alternative program.

Even so, Trump actually overperformed the most in counties with the highest drug mortality rates, according to a Pennsylvania State University study. He was even more successful than 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney in 81.7 percent of these counties.

In rural Somerset County, Maryland, the number of people

See OPIOIDS Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
Grade: C+
Rated PG-13, fantasy violence, graphic wand usage
2 hrs., 3 min

It wasn't until I watched the Harry Potter prequel *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* that I realized what made J.K. Rowling's books and the movies based on them work so well, something that's missing from *FBAWTFT*: children, and a sense of discovery.

The Hogwarts kids, though they grew up (most of them) in magical households, were just beginning to find their own abilities, just learning how to make the magic happen. Their world was brand-new to us, and it was also new to them. Their wonder and enthusiasm mixed with ours. We were on the ride together.

Fantastic Beasts is about adults, not kids, and they aren't novices. They already know the magical world. Moreover, so do we. We read 4,175 pages and watched 19 hours and 40 minutes' worth of movies. Believe us, we are experts on this stuff. We aren't dazzled by this particular brand of magic anymore. Sure, sure—spells, wizards, witches, mythical creatures. What about 'em? Absent the thrill of learning something new and wonderful, Rowling's world is commonplace.

It doesn't help that *Fantastic Beasts* is burdened with a plodding, aimless story. It's set in 1926 New York City, where Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), a conservationist of magic animals, has come to pursue his research and specimen-gathering. While many in the magic community believe these beasts are too dangerous to be permitted to live, Scamander preserves and protects them, keeping them safe in his magic



ROTTENTOMATOES
The magic of Harry Potter lives on in this Warner Bros. spin-off penned by {J.K. Rowling}, and intended as the first chapter in a whole new fantasy film franchise. —Jason Buchanan, Rovi

suitcase that is bigger on the inside than it looks on the outside.

Upon arriving in New York, Scamander, a fey, smiling, soft-spoken absent-minded professor type who won't make eye contact, immediately accidentally switches his suitcase with that of Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), a Muggle who wants to open a bakery. (Think how many movie plots would never get off the ground if there were no such thing as two identical suitcases.) Kowalski is thus brought into the magical world. Like most characters in movies with supernatural elements, after a brief scene of shock and disbelief, he rolls with it pretty easily.

Scamander's possession of forbidden beasts attracts the attention of Porpentina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston), a low-level employee at MACUSA (the American equivalent of the Ministry of Magic), and her sister, Queenie (Alison Sudol), a 1920s dizzy dame who can read minds and takes

a shining to Kowalski. (Their sub-romance is cute.) While this is going on, MACUSA higher-up Percival Graves (Colin Farrell) is investigating a series of destructive incidents that he believes were caused by these fantastic beasts. And while THIS is going on, a pious crusader named Mary Lou (Samantha Morton) is shouting at New Yorkers about the threat of real-life witches among us, using her adopted children (including a grown-up Ezra Miller in a Moe Howard haircut) to pass out anti-magic leaflets.

All of this takes forever, and I didn't even mention the political Shaw family with Jon Voight as its patriarch, or the fact that the story doesn't really have a villain. Written by Rowling herself (her first screenplay) and directed by David Yates (who made the last four Potter films), *Fantastic Beasts* wastes a lot of time on inessential escapades wherein a fantastic beast escapes from Scamander's

suitcase and he and Kowalski go looking for it. Only one of the creatures' specific attributes ever proves useful to the story; the rest are interchangeable nonsense animals that look very neat and sometimes do amusing things but don't serve any individual purposes. Instead of driving the story, they hinder it. Every time one gets loose, the plot shuts down.

Eddie Redmayne's congenital weirdness, at times an asset (*Jupiter Ascending*), is a distraction here. Newt Scamander isn't unlikable, exactly, but he's off-putting, needlessly scatterbrained, and thinly written. The oft-annoying Dan Fogler, on the other hand, is put to good use as an eager, good-hearted schlub. Making him the protagonist instead of Scamander would lighten the sense of doom I feel when I remember they're making four more of these, at least one of which will star Johnny Depp as the evil Gellert Grindelwald. Accio Tylenol.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Seattle Seahawk Doug Baldwin With the Words We Need to Hear



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin, Jr. has been one of the most consistently outspoken athletes this political season. On Monday, via Twitter, he helped momentarily soothe what has been a devastating week during which I had to both talk to my older Jewish relatives about how a KKK-sympathizer had won the Presidential election and help my daughter understand why a sexual predator was in the White House.

So thank you Doug Baldwin for at least making me feel for one moment an emotion that wasn't careening between tears and rage. Here are his words, culled together tweet by tweet. If there is one part I take issue with, is when he writes, "Inequality is greater than it has ever been. And solidarity is nowhere to be found." Based upon the school walkouts, the demonstrations, and the organizing I have seen in the last week, solidarity is all around us. Without it, "hope" would be nothing more than an artifact.

All of these tweets, assembled without edits, can be found here.***

When I was younger, I was fascinated by what it meant to be the President of the United States. A leader of the people and for the people. Somewhere in my younger adulthood I lost faith in the system. I hated politics. As an observant child I saw more inequality than equality. Civil rights movement. Women's rights movement. And so on. How is it that we had to struggle so mightily for basic rights and respect. It goes far beyond racism in my eyes. Because if the slave owners were black and the slaves were white, we'd probably have the same issues. When you pull back the layers of inequality, it exposes classism. One class wants to oppress another class in order to maintain/gain power. Classism is the number one enemy to democracy. And in America it is destroying the American dream. But we the people allow it. We allow it by being uninformed. By being uneducated. And that is what the 1% of the 1% want us to be. Ignorant to the facts. The fact is that we are not currently living in a democracy. The fact is that the 1% of the 1% buy politicians and write policies. They control the gathering/distribution of wealth and power by distracting us with the importance of keeping up with the Kardashians. We've become a society more concerned with being individuals and looking out for oneself that we have forgotten the meaning of democracy. I know my thoughts may be concerning to some, but being on both sides of the coin has given me a great perspective. It's scary to think that we are on a path to granting the wealthiest people in the world, the power to control the masses. And maybe that is why so many people were willing to vote for a president that didn't meet previous expectations for a president. The way of life of many Americans is being destroyed. Inequality is greater than it has ever been. And solidarity is nowhere to be found. The dream that America once promised has become a nightmare for a lot of people. The lack of hope and empathy has created despair and pain. Empathy and sympathy for not only your fellow American but your fellow human has been lost. We are more concerned with status at any means.

I don't mean to be discouraging. But it's hard not to face the problems of our society with discontent. We should expect more. Expect more from each other. But more importantly, expect more from yourself. Do better.

Ecclesiastes 5:10—"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless."

Luke 12:15—"Then he said to them, 'Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'"

I pledge to change the way I think. To be more empathetic to those with experiences I haven't endured.

I pledge to be more observant.

To listen with two ears and to watch with two eyes. And ask questions.

I hope by my expression in these few tweets that others will join in pledging to do better.

I want my children to live in a world/country that is better than what we currently live in. And I don't think that's too much to ask.

Internship from A1

bles. "The Environmental Science Student Award and Internship Program encourages those who are interested in science, technology, and engineering to pursue careers in the environmental field. This internship program provides students with many opportunities to learn new skills and hone their strengths in a real world situation. We are excited to nurture the next generation of environmental scientists here at the Department of the Environment."

The deadline for nominations is April 3, 2017. Application forms and instructions are available on the Department's website and may be submitted by email to Nadine.Hailey@maryland.gov or by mail to: Maryland Department of the Environment, Office of Human Resources, 1800 Washington Boulevard, 5th Floor, Baltimore MD 21230, Attention: Nadine Hailey. Winners will be notified via email and U.S. Postal Service on or before April 30, 2017.

Prince George's County | Department of the Environment | Animal Management Division

All I want for Christmas is... YOU!

<p>Adoption prices</p> <p>Dogs: \$125 (regularly \$225)</p> <p>Cats: \$70 (adopt a second cat for \$25)</p> <p><small>Adoption fee for a second cat is \$25 if both cats/kittens are adopted at the same time.</small></p>	<p>Kennel hours</p> <p>Mon ♦ Tues ♦ Fri: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p> <p>Wed: 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Sat: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sun ♦ Thur: CLOSED</p>
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please help us place hundreds of animals into caring homes for the holidays.

There is no charge for animals already spayed or neutered. Adoption application must be received during the month of December. All household members MUST interact with your adorable new pet.

Animal Management Division

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Calendar of Events

December 22 — December 28, 2016

Annual Holiday Group Show

Date and Time: Through Saturday, December 31, 2016, 10 am–5 pm

Description: Montpelier Arts Center's resident artists showcase their work in this group holiday exhibition. Join us December 4th for the reception and our Annual Holiday Open House, then visit the artists in their studios to see where and how they create!

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

Holiday Trains and Planes

Date and Time: Through Friday, December 23, 2016, 10am–5pm
Description: Miniature trains, villages, tunnels, and depots spark the imagination as they bring history to life. The National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating, constantly moving, holiday-themed display of model railroads to the museum.

Cost: FREE with museum admission
\$5/adults, \$4/65 & up, \$2/ages 2–18 FREE/1 & under
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

30th Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Date and Time: Through Sunday, January 1, 2017, 5–9:30 pm
Description: Bring a little twinkle to your holidays at the 30th Annual Winter Festival of Lights! Don't miss this spectacular holiday drive-through event of more than one million twinkling lights! Please bring a canned good to donate to local food banks.

Cost: (Cash only): \$5/cars and vans; \$15/mini-buses and limos; \$25/buses; \$10/multi-visit passes for cars and vans.
Ages: All ages
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-699-2456; TTY 301-699-2544

Platinum Live: A Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long featuring The BRENCORE ALLSTARS Band

Date and Time: Friday, December 23, 2016, 11 am
Description: Come and celebrate Christmas holiday season by singing favorite songs and greatest hits like "Silent Night," "Holy Night," "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and more. 'Tis the season to be jolly! Bring the family out for this Sing-A-Long and joyous occasion.

Cost: \$10/person
Ages: 60 & better
Location: Publixx Playhouse
5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, MD
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY:301-699-2544

Xtreme Teens: Holiday Party

Date and Time: Friday, December 23, 2016, 7–10 pm
Description: Celebrate the holidays in style with the Holiday Party! Enjoy light refreshments, music and good company.

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

Xtreme Teens: Skate Night

Date and Time: Friday, December 23, 2016, 7–9 pm
Description: Roller skate to the latest tunes at the gymnasium all night long with fellow teens.

Cost: Free
Ages: Ages 13 & up
Location: Glenarden / Theresa Banks Complex
8615 McLain Avenue, Glenarden, MD
Contact: 301-772-3151; TTY 301-699-2544

Festival of Lights Hayrides

Date and Time: Saturday, December 31, 2016, 7–8:30 pm
Description: Take a hayride through the Festival of Lights! Stop by Watkins Nature Center to warm up by the fire, enjoy refreshments, visit the animals, and see their holiday decorations.

Cost: \$8/person
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Old Maryland Farm
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
Contact: 301-218-6770; TTY 301-699-2544

Taxpayers from A5

secure whether stored on paper or kept electronically. When records are no longer needed for tax purposes, ensure the data is properly destroyed to prevent the information from being used by identity thieves.

If disposing of an old computer, tablet, mobile phone or back-up hard drive, keep in mind it includes files and personal data. Removing this information may require special disk utility software. More information is available on IRS.gov at "How long should I keep records?."

Volunteers from A1

The American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park Volunteer Group spent more than 3,600 hours over 19 months to allow visitors opportunities to experience the history of the Indigenous peoples of Prince George's County, Maryland and the surrounding areas. Volunteers scraped bark from dead trees, harvested grasses and saplings, and built structures with their bare hands to authentically tell the story of the

First Peoples of the area and create a park destination (16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772) for people of all ages.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit www.pgparcs.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.

EARTH TALK ... Self-Driving Cars Could Be Great for the Environment

Dear EarthTalk:

Are self-driving cars good for the environment?

—Billy Shea,
Boston, MA

You know the future is here when you see that the car beside you at a red light has nobody at the helm. That's already happening in California where a few companies (Uber, Google, Apple, Tesla) have begun testing autonomous vehicles on the open road—albeit with human drivers at the ready in case anything goes wrong. Meanwhile, the major automakers have begun integrating autonomous driving technologies (blind spot detection, GPS mapping, assisted parking, etc.) into existing models, and will surely offer their own fully self-driving cars once lawmakers qualify them as street legal, maybe as early as 2018.

Proponents say that not only will driverless cars make our roads safer (as they can sense walkers, bikers, other cars and road infrastructure to avoid collisions), but will also be a boon to the environment. Zia Wadud, who co-authored a study released earlier this year assessing the travel, energy and carbon impacts of autonomous vehicles, says the widespread adoption of the technology could reduce energy consumption significantly. "Automated vehicles can interact with each other and drive very closely as a 'platoon,'" reports Wadud. "This can reduce the total energy consumption of road

transport by 4% to 25%, because vehicles which follow closely behind each other face less air resistance." Beyond the platoon benefit, driverless cars can also shave another 25 percent off overall automotive energy consumption through more efficient computer-assisted ride optimization.

Yet another environmental benefit could be fewer cars on the road altogether. "Your car could give you a lift to work in the morning and then give a lift to someone else in your family—or, for that matter, to anyone else: After delivering you to your destination, it doesn't sit idle in a parking lot for 20-plus hours every day," report MIT researchers Matthew Claudel and Carlo Ratti in a recent McKinsey.com article. "By combining ride sharing with car sharing ... it would be possible to take every passenger to his or her destination at the time they need to be there, with 80 percent will driverless cars." They conclude that clearing four of five cars from the road would have "momentous consequences" for our cities regarding pollution, traffic, efficiency, and parking.

But Jason Bordoff of Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy argues in the *Wall Street Journal* that driverless cars hurt overall energy efficiency by undermining public transit: "If you can work, watch a movie or sleep while in the car, perhaps you will take a car rather than public transportation or be more likely to drive for long trips." He adds that autonomous vehicles also "signif-



CREDIT: BECKY STERN, FLICKRCC
Google's self-driving car prototype can be spotted on surface streets and highways around the company's Mountain View, California headquarters.

icantly expand the universe of potential drivers" bringing more people (and cars) onto the road and possibly increasing total vehicle miles travelled overall. "Even car-sharing services could increase energy demand if the ease and convenience pulls people away from mass transit, walking or biking and into cars."

Bordoff remains optimistic that autonomous vehicles can provide a net gain for society

and the environment, but only if we are careful about how we implement the technology. "To ensure that autonomous vehicles deliver economic, energy security and environmental benefits, we will need supporting policies targeted at those objectives, such as increased fuel-economy standards, investments in public transportation infrastructure, and R&D in alternative vehicle technologies."

CONTACTS: "Help or hindrance? The travel, energy and carbon impacts of highly automated vehicles," www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0965856415002694; Claudel and Ratti's "Full Speed Ahead: How the Driverless Car Can Transform Cities," www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/sustainability-and-resource-productivity/our-insights/full-speed-ahead-how-the-driverless-car-could-transform-cities; Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy, energypolicy.columbia.edu.

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Opioids from A5

hospitalized for opioid-related disorders has increased by 91 percent from 2013 to 2016, according to Maryland hospital-patient data.

Trump won Somerset County with 57 percent of the vote, while Obama won the county with 50 percent of the vote in 2012.

The two Maryland counties with the highest increases in hospitalizations—Garrett County with 161 percent and Worcester with 128 percent over the past three years—also voted in the majority for Trump.

The 'national emergency'

On Dec. 7, the United States Senate passed the 21st Century Cures Act, sending the bill to President Barack Obama, who signed it into law Tuesday.

The \$1 billion bill includes \$500 million a year to assist states in treating people addicted to opioids and preventing misuse of drugs.

Allen called the act a "huge step forward."

"Every senator is being pressured because their constituents' kids are dying, so I feel like we've begun to tip the balance of attention that we have this true epidemic," said Allen, who founded the organization James' Place to raise money for recovery services after her son's death.

In Maryland, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was started in 2011, but it wasn't widely adopted until this year. Starting Oct. 1, doctors authorized to prescribe controlled substances had to register with the program, which

analyzes the number of prescriptions coming from medical professionals.

"There's a lot of value and accountability, to be quite honest, in counting the medication and doing that and sharing that information with others," said Alioto.

Counties have also begun using state money to hire heroin coordinators within police departments to analyze data, which could help government officials develop a better response to the threat of heroin and opioid abuse, said Glenn Fueston, the executive director of the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention.

"What we hope to do is continue that process of looking at the data that's available in the community, looking at ways we can share that data (and) analyze that data, while protecting the

privacy and civil liberties of people that the data is involved with," he said at the legislature's Nov. 2 meeting of the Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders.

However, the government needs to do more to address the addiction epidemic, said Carin Miller, the founder of Maryland Heroin Awareness Advocates.

"It needs to be declared a national emergency," said Miller, whose son is recovering from a heroin addiction and husband is battling an addiction to opioids.

If addiction was properly seen as a disease, Allen said, advocates would get their "fair share of those donor dollars."

"I'm going to do this anyway," she said. "I'm going to do this work no matter what, and we'll do what we can because I don't have any other choice."

Bike Share from A1

cess; transit availability; local destinations; and existing bicycling facilities. The study specifically analyzed the National Harbor neighborhood and the ATHA region, including Colmar Manor to Greenbelt and Langley Park.

The study recommends that DWP&T manage the bike share program and use the Capital Bikeshare system as an operator.

The Capital Bikeshare program is one of the largest regional bike sharing system in the United States with over 3,500 bicycles throughout the Washington,

D.C., Alexandria, VA, and Montgomery County, MD.

Additionally, recommendations also include implementing the program in four phases, starting with four bikeshare stations in National Harbor and 25 stations in the areas closest to the D.C. border. The proposed

system within Prince George's County is planned to grow to 67 stations with 670 bicycles upon completion of all four phases. Visit <http://bit.ly/BikeShareStudy> to review the study and learn more about the bike share program in Prince George's County.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Decorating your home for the holidays with a tree? Follow these safety precautions to avoid a fire in your home and keep your family safe during the holidays:

- ▶ When purchasing a live tree, look for vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from branches;
- ▶ Place the tree (live or artificial) away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights;
- ▶ Keep the base for live trees filled with water to keep it from drying out;
- ▶ Don't forget to turn tree lights off each night before going to bed; and
- ▶ When needles begin to drop from a live tree, it's time to say goodbye to the evergreen fallage and recycle it.