

# The Prince George's Post



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## Illicit Drug Use OK in 'Safe' Site Under Maryland Bill

By HANNAH KLARNER  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Illegal-drug users in Maryland could partake in recreational use under a bill that would create legal, sanitary illicit-drug use facilities in the state.

The bill, proposed by Delegate Dan Morhaim, D-Baltimore County, would create an overdose-prevention and safer drug-consumption program allowing drug users to legally ingest their narcotics under supervision of trained professionals and staff, in clean facilities.

"Let me be real clear, I'm not for substance abuse. It's a bad thing," said Morhaim, a board-certified physician with years working in emergency care. "I've seen the ravages, but we've been doing this for 50 years, and tried all these things. And after 50 years, there's not one data point that is better."

In fact, opioid-related fatalities are on the rise, with more than 1,000 deaths in 2015 alone in Maryland, according to a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene report on drug- and alcohol-related deaths.

In contrast, in the roughly two decades that safe consumption rooms have been in use in other countries, there have been no fatal overdoses in any of them, according to Jamie Bridge from the International Drug Policy Consortium, headquartered in London.

In 2012, there were 87 legal drug-consumption facilities around the world in countries

like Australia, Switzerland and Germany, according to the consortium, a group of organizations and professional networks specializing in illegal-drug production and use policy.

The facilities in Australia and Canada are the most heavily studied, potentially due to "constantly having to justify their existence," according to Bridge.

But the value of safe-drug consumption facilities is "backed by a wealth of evidence," Bridge said.

Seattle is on track to become the first city in the United States with a drug-consumption facility, after it began the legislative process in the fall of 2015. Last week, officials there approved a measure allowing for creation of the first safe drug-consumption rooms in the nation. Opponents are already working to block any sites.

A drug-consumption room in Vancouver, Canada, has been extensively studied over its 14 years.

The facility, with 12 injection rooms, among other services, has had over 1.8 million visits, by over 12,000 individual clients, according to the International Drug Policy Consortium. The consortium also reported that the Vancouver facility successfully intervened during 221 overdoses, with no fatalities.

In contrast, Maryland saw a 47 percent increase in heroin-related deaths from 2013 through 2015, and a 142 percent increase

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Marion Gray-Hopkins, president of the Coalition of Concerned Mothers, whose son, Gary Hopkins Jr., was killed by police, speaks at a press conference in Annapolis, MD, on February 8, 2017. She is supporting a bill that would change the classification of internal police investigation files so that they would be available by Public Information Act request.

## Civil Rights Groups Push Legislation on Police Transparency

By BRIANNA RHODES  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Maryland is one of the least transparent states regarding police misconduct complaints, civil rights advocates said in Annapolis this week.

The American Civil Liberties Union and CASA, a

Latino and immigrant organization, as well as other civil rights groups on Wednesday announced support for legislation that would mandate transparency in police misconduct investigations in Maryland.

Delegate Erek Barron, D-Prince George's, and Sen. Joan Carter Conway, D-Baltimore, are sponsoring companion bills.

Currently in Maryland, if an individual files a complaint of police misconduct, they are not generally able to access information on how the department investigates or resolves it.

A member of the public is not able to access information because it is considered a "personnel record" under Maryland's Public Information Act,

according to an ACLU Maryland report.

"If you file a complaint of police misconduct you have no right to know what level of thoroughness or diligence the department used when it investigated that case," said Toni

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## EDC Mid-Year Budget Overview Highlights Workforce Services

"The Return on the County's Investment Has Been Enormous," Says Coleman

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Yesterday, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and his executive team presented a mid-year budget review to the Prince George's County Council Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee (PZED). The PZED Committee was specifically interested in how current funding was being utilized for the numerous programs and resources the EDC has at its disposal, and how those resources have made an impact to the residents and businesses in Prince George's County. Mr. Coleman thanked the Council for its investment in the County's economic development which has contributed to a powerful value proposition in the world market.

"The return on the Council's investment has been enormous," said Coleman. "The County's private sector has produced almost 10,000 new full-time jobs, the median household income has in-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC (left center) presenting to PZED Committee Vice Chair Obie Patterson and Committee Members.

creased by \$5,000, the County has attracted more than 30 new businesses and more than 70,000 County residents have received job training services through the One-Stop Career Centers. But with all of this going on, now is not the time to cool off. With the tireless efforts of our Workforce Services Division, we are also committed to ensuring that the County's Veteran and returning-citizen populations are empowered with the tools they need to secure high wage jobs in this economy. The best is yet to come!"

PZED Committee members were particularly interested in the programs and projects taking place in the EDC's Workforce Services Division. Through its focus on access to employment opportunities, Workforce Services Director Walter Simmons told the Committee about the EDC's skills training programs and a grant to support transitioning veterans to remain in Prince George's County through entrepreneurship and job

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## Bowie State Bulldogs Battle and Capture 78-75 Overtime Victory Over Johnson C. Smith

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University

CHARLOTTE, NC—Bowie State junior Ahmaad Wilson (Baltimore, MD) scored a career-high 30 points to go along with four rebounds while teammates Omari George added 15 points and seven rebounds and Michael Briscoe also added 13 points and eight rebounds in thrilling 78-75 overtime win over Johnson C. Smith.

With the win, Bowie State improves to 13-15 overall, while Johnson C. Smith finishes its season at 11-17.

A quick start from both teams, as the game started 8-7, as JCSU's Malik Ford opens the scoring. He was answered by Bowie State's, Briscoe, who made one of two free throws. Johnson C. Smith would surge ahead 14-11 on a made basket by Gabon Williams to take the early lead. Williams would add a 3-pointer with 11:55 remaining

in the first half to put the Golden Bulls up 17-11.

The game would settle and the teams began a time where the game was very sloppy on both ends. Lot of fouls, missed shot and blown opportunities would be the center of attention for several minutes.

The game would go a few minutes scoreless, as neither team could find the basket, and

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## Baseball Writers: Digital Media, More Press Restrictions Have Changed Coverage

By MIA O'NEILL  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The first time Tim Kurkjian met legendary Orioles manager Earl Weaver, he got cussed at.

It was 1980, and Kurkjian—whose decades-long career in sports journalism has included time at *The Baltimore Sun*, *Sports Illustrated* and now ESPN—was just starting as the

No. 2 baseball writer for the *Washington Star*.

His colleague, Dan Shaughnessy, the now-renowned *Boston Globe* columnist, made the introduction.

"Dan said, 'Earl, this is Tim Kurkjian, he's going to be backing me up. He's going to be around the park a lot,'" said Kurkjian, speaking recently at a talk hosted by the University of Maryland's Shirley Povich Cen-

ter for Sports Journalism. "Earl looked at me, said, 'F' you, Tim,' and walked away."

"I almost started to cry," Kurkjian recalled. "But Dan looks at me, and he goes, 'Don't worry. That means he likes you.'" Shaughnessy was right.

In the years to come (particularly during his time with The

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### INSIDE

#### Growing Collaboration Between Catholic Charities and DCH Will Serve More Residents of Prince George's County

Mirroring each organization's commitment to providing quality care to underserved area residents, the new Catholic Charities location at Doctors Community Hospital offers four programs.

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#### Confronting Oscar-Nominated *Moonlight's* Moving and Powerful Truths

It's a story that frees all Americans to lift our veils of convenient ignorance and scorn for gay Black boys and children, youths and adults who face terrible choices struggling to survive and grow up all across America.

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#### EDC Announces Parkdale High School as Latest Addition to Federal Youth Program Grant

As an incentive to maximize the number of students participating in the YCC program, Mr. Coleman also challenged the YCC students and faculty to increase the number of enrollments in their academic academies and in the YCC program.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *Patriots Day*

When Collier appears at the beginning of the film and is identified as an MIT cop, we realize who he must be. Berg then tortures us with scenes establishing that Collier is wholesome and upstanding, with a bright future ahead of him, just so we can be extra-sad when the terrorists randomly select him for murder later on. It's cruel.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Isn't the increasing urbanization of our world good for reducing our carbon footprint given the efficiency benefits of greater density?

—Simon Vorhees,  
Oak Park, IL

Features, Page A7



# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Mid-18th Century tavern dinner, Ship's Company at Darnall's Chance

Darnall's Chance House Museum, in Upper Marlboro, is hosting dinner and a songfest on Saturday, March 18, 7 to 9 p.m. The 18-century tavern dinner will be followed by sea chanteys and tavern songs performed by Ship's Company. You can even sing along.

The fee is \$35 for resident; \$46 for non-resident. Capacity is limited. Reservations and payment are required in advance. Call 301-952-8010 or go to history.pgparks.com. Darnall's Chance is at 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, on a hill overlooking Schoolhouse Pond.

### Concert Series features pianist Van Hoose

Davies Concert Series presents pianist Matthew Van Hoose on Sunday, March 5, 4 p.m., at Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church. Dr. Van Hoose will perform classical, romantic, impressionistic and contemporary music, including works by Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy and David Arbury. He has performed at the Kennedy Center and with orchestras and symphonies throughout the country and has been hailed by the Baltimore Sun for his "spirited and polished playing."

The concert will be preceded by a short performance by student artists. The Gerstman sisters Abby, Ella, and Sophie will play works by Bartok, Telemann and J.S. Bach.

Admission: Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for 0-18 year olds. Davies Church is at 7400 Temple Hill Road in Camp Springs. For information: 301-627-0284 or Facebook: Davies Concert Series.

### Morningside news

Mayor Benn Cann gave his first State-of-the-Town Address at the monthly town meeting. Among the items: the town's new website which should be operational by the end of March, his Morningside Is Beautiful Project, a possible plan to divide the town into four quadrants each headed by a Town Council Member, a possible composting program, and more. He mentioned that Morningside has

hired six new employees since he came aboard. It was an interesting report.

Morningside Police Chief Damron gave his report, and announced that there were 164 traffic citations and eight arrests in January. Slow down!

Darryl Barnes, Maryland District 25, visited the meeting and spoke briefly of some of the current issues at the State House.

Schaefer Fireworks has been hired for Morningside's 4th of July celebration. Mark your calendar!

### People

County Exec Baker delivered remarks at the Andrews Business Alliance Luncheon on Feb. 21 at Mama Stella's Restaurant in Clinton.

Floyd Shields, formerly of Skyline, called from his new home in Charlotte, NC, to say he misses us. Lloyd was former president of the Skyline Citizens Association and then served as vice president until he retired and moved south. We miss him, too.

Father Bernard Ihrie, former pastor of St. Philip's Parish, turned 90 on Feb. 23, and a number of his former parishioners sent cards of congratulations to him at his retirement home in Edgewater.

Please pray for Trinite Tomlinson who's in Calvert Hospital with chronic health problems. She is the young daughter of Jason Tomlinson, of Morningside.

### Changing landscape

Where will the FBI move? Springfield, VA, Greenbelt or Landover? Among the issues under consideration are access to the Beltway and parking. The estimate for Landover is 7,300 parking spaces. And, if Landover is chosen, the timeframe for opening is 2022 to 2023. It would be located near FedEx Field and the new regional medical center.

The Tropical Smoothie Café will have its Grand Opening March 3 & 4, beginning each day at 7 a.m. The first 50 customers in line for the opening will receive free smoothies for a year. It is located at 1703 Ritchie Station Court, Suite 100, in Capitol Heights.

I've been told that the Fireman's Cafe has opened across the street from the Clinton Fire Department and that its Shrab-

cake Sandwich is a big favorite. (It's shrimp and lump crabmeat.) It's open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

My daffodils are in bloom and the mercury has hit 78°. It's February 23, almost a month to go before spring. What's going on?

### Morningside Memories: 1977

A big welcome was extended to Rev. Robert Fry as he began serving at Morningside Baptist on March 13, 1977. He came here from Calvary Memorial Baptist in Edgewater. He moved into the new rectory on Skyline Drive (across the street from me) with his wife Barbara and 2-year-old son Brian.

Another newcomer was High's, which moved from A-Lentown Road to the former G.I. Market site on Suitland Road.

And we congratulated Morningside Mayor Gerald Glaubitz who was installed as president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in a ceremony at the VFW in Lanham.

### May they rest in peace

Ruby Holloway, 95, the much-loved matriarch of Skyline, died Feb. 18. I will tell you about her life and times in a future column. Viewing will be March 6, 6-8 p.m. at Marshall-march Funeral Home in Suitland. Services will be at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2409 Ainger Place SE on March 7; viewing, 9:30-10:45 a.m.; funeral, 11 a.m. Burial to be announced at Cheltenham.

Katherine (Klauber) Byrholdt, 102, of Suitland, died Jan. 5 at a retirement community in Marietta, Ga. She was born in St. George, SC, and settled in the Washington area in the early 1930s. She retired in 1974 with more than 40 years of stenography and court reporting for the federal government.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Jennifer Vilky, March 3; Amy Schlor and Matthew Flaherty, March 4; Roy Derrick, March 6; Anna Buck (her 103rd), Jon McKlveen, Shirley Dodgson and my grandson Richard Shearer, March 9.

Happy anniversary to Tom and Sarah Shipman, their 58th on March 4; and Larry and Susan Frostbutter, March 5.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### UMES 2017 HALL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

R. Owen Johnson, Jr. attended the historic Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland and received his BS degree in Physical Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where he became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Owen received a Master's degree in Education from National Louis University (Evanston, Illinois) and graduated from the United States Sergeants Majors Academy (Fort Bliss, Texas).

After leaving "The Shore" he married Audrey Turner Johnson and they began a journey that has now endured for 43 years. Together they sought to help others and served in the Peace Corps in Venezuela South America from 1974-1976.

Owen began a career with the Prince George's County Public School System that would see him rise through the ranks from teaching health, science and physical education to become an Athletic Director, Vice Principal, Dean of Academic and Student Affairs and

eventually County Supervisor for Physical Education, Dance and Interscholastic Athletic Programs. He retired after 33 distinguished years serving the children of Prince George's County. He served as an elected member of the Prince George's County Public Schools Board of Education. He served District 5 in this role for 4 years including 1 year as Chairperson. Since 2010 he has served as the Chair of the Excellence in Education Foundation for Prince George's County Public Schools.

Owen served his country as a member of the United States Army National Guard retiring after 24 years with the rank of Sergeant Major. He served in a variety of roles in Washington, D.C., Kingston, Jamaica; Reisterstown, MD, Ft. Gordon, GA and Ft. Jackson, SC. He felt a responsibility to both his country and the children and took on the role of Director of the District of Columbia National Guard Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy in 2010 where his uncompromising desire for excellence re-

sulted in the official opening 2 years earlier than projected.

He has been recognized as the Prince George's County Basketball Coach of the Year and was inducted into the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2003. Additionally, he has received the Army Achievement Medal 4 Oak Leaf Cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Commanding General's Award for Achievement, and many other Military recognitions.

Owen is a member of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, Athletic Directors Association, Brandywine North Keys Civic Association and Prince George's County Teacher's Association.

He has participated in 3 United Methodist Church Volunteer in Mission trips, volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and Christmas in April. It is Owen's sincere desire that his life, his successes, his accomplishments have helped somebody and that indeed, his living has not been in vain.

## Neighborhoods

### D.C. Becomes 7th Jurisdiction to Authorize Medical Aid in Dying

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The District of Columbia's medical aid-in-dying bill, the D.C. Death with Dignity Act, Took effect on Saturday, February 18, because opponents failed to get the support necessary in Congress to stop the bill from becoming law.

The Death with Dignity Act was transmitted by the D.C. Council to the House and Senate on Jan. 6 for a 30-legislative-day review period under the Home Rule Act. H.J. Res 27, which would have overturned the D.C. Death with Dignity Act, stalled without a floor vote today in either house.

Though Congress could still vote to overturn the law or try to defund it, overriding D.C.'s laws becomes more difficult after they go into effect. Following is a statement from Jessica Grennan, national director of political affairs and advocacy for Compassion & Choices, the end-of-life choice advocacy organization that helped pass the law:

"Today we are celebrating that the District of Columbia has become the 7th jurisdiction to authorize medical aid in dying for terminally ill people. The advocacy of D.C. residents and local officials is what won this victory. Democracy conquered the personal mindsets of paternalistic politicians whose opinions should not get in the way of people getting the medical relief they want and need.

"We will continue to monitor Congress for attacks on D.C. or any of the six other states where medical aid-in-dying is authorized: California, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont. And while it is true that opponents want to defund and overturn the law, no funding is required for the law to go into effect. Terminally ill patients can now legally get medical aid in dying in the District of Columbia. Doctors may now prescribe appropriate medications under the law without fear of prosecution. We urge anyone who is eligible and considering this option to make the request of their doctor right away, since we cannot predict whether or when this right may be stripped away by Congress."

### BGE Awards \$302,000 to 64 Nonprofit Emergency Response and Public Safety Agencies

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric today awarded \$302,000 in emergency response and safety grants to 64 nonprofit emergency response and public safety organizations at a press conference held at the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department. The organizations formally recognized represent 9 Maryland counties and Baltimore City and the grants are part of BGE's Emergency Response and Safety Grant program. There were 22 first-time award recipients.

"These nonprofit public safety and emergency response organizations are the backbone of our community, selflessly volunteering to keep us safe, and today is BGE's way of simply thanking them," said Valencia McClure, BGE's vice president of governmental

and external affairs and corporate relations for BGE. "At BGE, we are committed to the safety of our customers and this grant program allows us to continue that commitment by supporting the men and women who bravely respond to critical incidents in our communities every day."

One notable first-time recipient is the Ellicott City Volunteer Firemans Association who will be outfitting EMS personnel in highly visible, water-resistant weather protective gear when responding to medical, rescue and fire calls for service. The Ellicott City Historic District Partnership will be using grant funding to aid in the reconstruction efforts taking place after the unprecedented flooding that impacted residents and businesses back in July.

"From the very first moments after the devastating flood struck Ellicott City, I have been impressed by the steadfast determination of the residents, businesses and property owners from Main Street and the West End," said Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman. "These grants will be used to better equip our volunteer first responders and contribute to rebuilding Main Street as a model resilient community."

BGE's Emergency Response and Safety Grant program, now in its fifth year, is an integral part of BGE's continued commitment to supporting safety and reliability while also enhancing the communities it serves. It supports nonprofit emergency response and public safety organizations by providing funding that is vital to their success. Some of this year's grants will assist agencies in purchasing items such as thermal imaging cameras, smoke alarms, CPR devices and funding for emergency preparedness drills and equipment. To date, BGE has provided over \$1.6 million to 258 emergency response organizations, who share BGE's commitment to the safety of central Maryland residents.

The following is a list of the organizations awarded with a 2016 BGE Emergency Response and Safety Grant:

#### Anne Arundel County:

- Anne Arundel Alarmers—AED's
- Arnold Volunteer Fire Department—Fleet Vehicle Purchase
- Arundel Volunteer Fire Department—Outfit Medical Response Vehicle
- Ferndale Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Tool Upgrade
- Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Company—Thermal Imagers
- Maryland Natural Resources Police Reserve Officer Association—Protective Gear
- Odenton Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Tools Enhancement
- Orchard Beach Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Tool Replacement
- Southern Police Reserves Foundation—Safety Initiative

#### Baltimore City:

- National Fallen Firefighters Foundation—Smoke Detectors

#### Baltimore County:

- American Red Cross Central Maryland Chapter—Home Fire Campaign
- Arbutus Volunteer Fire Department—Foam Educator and Blitz Fire Monitor
- Arcadia Volunteer Fire Company—New Engine Equipment
- Chesapeake Search Dogs—General Operating
- Chestnut Ridge Volunteer Fire Company—Enhanced Safety Response Training
- Civil Air Patrol—CPR and Emergency Services Training Infrastructure
- Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Company—Utility Truck Replacement
- Community Volunteer Fire Department of Bowley's Quarters—Equipment Upgrades/Training
- Glyndon Volunteer Fire Engine and Hose Company No. 1—Replacement AED's
- Hereford Volunteer Ambulance Association—Replacement Hoses
- Hereford Volunteer Fire Company—LUCAS CPR Device
- Institute of Notre Dame—Safety Upgrades
- Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association—Rapid Intervention Team Bags
- Loyola University Maryland—AED's
- Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company—Rescue Tools
- Maryland Food Bank—MRE's/Water for Emergencies
- Middle River Volunteer Fire Company—Water and Dive Team Communications/Training
- Northpoint Edgemere Volunteer Fire Department—Rescue Jacks
- Pikesville Volunteer Fire Company—Upgraded Gas Meters and Replacement Rescue Tools
- Providence Volunteer Fire Company—Firefighting Foam Operations
- Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company—LUCAS CPR Device
- Rockaway Beach Volunteer Fire Company—Hose Nozzle Replacement
- Rosedale Volunteer Fire Company—New Supply Hose
- Stevenson University—Emergency Phones
- Towson University Foundation—Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Improvements
- White Marsh Volunteer Fire Company—Highly Visible First Responder Jackets
- Wise Avenue Volunteer Fire Company—Safety and Operational Readiness

#### Carroll County:

- Change, Inc.—Emergency Equipment
- Community Fire Company of Perryville MD Inc.—Safety Equipment

#### Cecil County:

- Community Fire Company of Rising Sun Inc.—Pagers
- Water Witch Fire Company—Radio Alert Pager Replacement

See **BGE Page A3**



# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Prepare Your Budget for Closing Costs When Buying a Home

Imagine the frustration that would follow if you spent hours planning and narrowing in on a dream home only to find out that you can't afford it when push comes to shove. Starting with a price range can help you make the most of your search, but you'll need to account for closing costs to create a realistic budget.

A catch-all for the fees and services that result from the sale of a home, closing costs are generally about 2 to 5 percent of the home's value when you're making a purchase. In other words, you could pay about \$4,000 to \$10,000 on a \$200,000 home.

**Estimating your closing costs.** Your closing costs and fees vary depending on where you're buying, how much you put down, who helps you with the home-buying process, the type of home you're buying and the type of loan you're taking out.

You can estimate the closing costs of homes you're interested in by using one of the many closing cost calculators online. Also, ask your real estate agent to help you estimate the closing costs of homes in different neighborhoods.

**A few of the fees you could encounter when closing on a home.** While costs can vary and state laws dictate differences in the closing process, here are a few typical services or fees:

- **Inspections.** You likely want to hire an inspector to make sure the home doesn't need any major repairs and there aren't any wood-eating pest (such as termite) infestations. Many lenders require you to get these inspections, but even when they don't it's usually a good idea.

- **Attorney fees.** You could have to pay attorneys to help prepare and review documents for the closing.

- **Survey.** Some states require you to hire a surveyor to verify the size of the lot.

- **Homeowners insurance.** You may need to pay several months' worth of homeowners insurance premiums up front.

- **Origination fee.** Mortgage lenders, banks or brokers often charge about 1 percent of your loan's value.

- **Property taxes.** Several months' worth of property tax payments could be due at the closing.

You might see advertisements for "no-closing-cost" mortgages. While these offers can be enticing, you'll generally pay a higher interest rate on the loan or the closing costs will be wrapped into the mortgage. It might be a good option if you're planning on moving within the next few years. Otherwise, you'll likely wind up paying more in interest over the lifetime of the loan than you would have on the closing costs.

Try to do your own calculations to determine if a no-closing makes sense based on your estimated closing costs, increase in monthly payments and how long you plan on staying in the home.

**You'll know approximately how much you have to pay before the closing.** Mortgage lenders have three business days from when you submit a loan application to give you a loan estimate. The standardized document shows your estimated interest rate, monthly payments, taxes, insurance and closing costs.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has an interactive example of a standard loan estimate form with explanations and definitions of terms. On the second page, there'll be a list of closing costs, including a breakdown of which services you may be able to negotiate.

You shop mortgage lenders, compare the loan estimate you receive and then continue the process with the lender that gives you the best estimated terms.

Three business days before your scheduled closing, the lender you choose must give you a five-page closing disclosure form with the finalized terms.

Carefully look over the closing disclosure and ask your real estate agent, loan officer or attorney questions. If you don't agree with the new terms of the deal, it's not too late to back out. If you're happy with the terms and the closing goes smoothly you'll be a homeowner soon.

**Bottom line:** Estimating your closing costs, and budgeting accordingly, can help ensure you're looking for homes within your price range. That's important because you want to be able to move quickly when you find a home you love. However, don't move so fast that you miss out on savings opportunities. Shopping mortgage lenders and service providers could help you minimize your closing costs.

### EDC Budget from A1

placement. Furthermore, Coleman announced that March will be 'ReEntry Month' at the EDC with a host of workshops and activities to provide returning citizens with the connections and resources needed to secure gainful employment.

PZED Vice Chair Obie Patterson chaired the briefing and expressed his pleasure with the presentation by the EDC.

"The presentation by the Economic Development Corpora-



PHOTO COURTESY DOCTORS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

## Growing Collaboration Between Catholic Charities and Doctors Community Hospital Will Serve More Residents of Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER  
Doctors Community Hospital

LANHAM, MD—On January 17, 2017, a blessing ceremony was held to mark the opening of a new Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington location at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, Maryland—representing a growing partnership between the two organizations. This new site will provide a collaborative space for Catholic Charities to provide critical social services to the residents of Prince George's County and increase their capacity to help more individuals in underserved communities.

Reflecting on this collaboration and the hospital's more than 40-year history, Philip Down, hospital chief executive officer, noted, "Health care has changed. We used to concentrate on acute illnesses, but if the patient had to go out and did not have housing, food, jobs or support, they ended up back here and it was a constant cycle. So, we began expanding our scope of services." He went on to note that, "Partnerships are the key and Catholic Charities is a great partner to have."

One of the most comprehensive social service providers in the region, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington serves more than 120,000 people each year in the Washington-metropolitan region. "We're committed to doing more in

Prince George's County and this partnership is a great way for two organizations to offer more than either of us could on our own," said Msgr. John Enzler, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. "By housing these programs in one place, it will make it easier for families to get the services they need without traveling from their community."

Mirroring each organization's commitment to providing quality care to underserved area residents, the new Catholic Charities location at Doctors Community Hospital offers four programs:

- **Supported Employment**—connects individuals who have developmental disabilities to training that helps them locate and maintain employment; and includes employment assessments, job searches, placement assistance and ongoing employment support.

- **Family Preservation**—provides an intensive, eight-week program where social workers help families who are at risk of having children removed from their homes due to suspected abuse or neglect; and establishes child-related safety processes to help keep families together.

- **Back on Track**—provides a highly regulated environment that keeps young, often first-time offenders, out of jail in partnership with Prince George's County and Prince George's County Community College.



PHOTO COURTESY DOCTORS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL  
Msgr. John Enzler gives blessing at opening ceremony.

- **Parish Partners**—consists of Catholic Charities' staff members who support community and parish initiatives throughout Prince George's County while providing individual support to parishioners.

Additionally, Doctors Community Hospital and Catholic Charities are partnering at the Susan D. Mona Center, which will open in Temple Hills, Maryland, later this year after construction is completed. The new location will offer a number of community programs in an underserved area of Prince George's County. More information about the Mona Center will be available in coming months.

### About Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington

Catholic Charities meets the most pressing human needs, serving more than 127,000 peo-

ple last year throughout the District of Columbia and Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland. We serve everyone who comes to us in need. For more information, visit [www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org](http://www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org).

### About Doctors Community Hospital

Doctors Community Hospital is a non-profit institution located in Lanham, Maryland. Founded in 1975, this medical and surgical hospital has 212 available beds. With a mission of being dedicated to caring about the health of the community, the hospital provides comprehensive services ranging from primary care services to advanced robotic surgery technology. For more information, visit the website at [www.DCHweb.org](http://www.DCHweb.org).

### Police from A1

Holness, public policy director for ACLU Maryland.

A police department would be able to release the complaint file in some situations, and the complaint file would be removed from the personnel record category, if the legislation is passed.

Barron said the legislation should be passed in order for information to be released to complainants and for the community to help build trust with law enforcement.

"As a former prosecutor, you can't have public safety without a partnership between law enforcement and the communities they serve and you can't have partnership without trust," Barron said. "Trust necessarily involves transparency and that's what this bill is," Barron said.

Members of the Coalition of Concerned Mothers and the

Prince George's People's Coalition at a press conference Wednesday gave personal accounts of how they've been affected by the rule under Maryland's Public Information Act, such as not having the ability to access information regarding their children's deaths.

Marion Gray-Hopkins, president of The Coalition of Concerned Parents, an organization comprised of grieving mothers who lost children to community violence or police terrorism, lost her son Gary Hopkins Jr.

Hopkins Jr., a 19-year-old college student, was shot by a Prince George's County police officer 17 years ago. The officer was tried and found not guilty in the teen's death.

Hopkins said mothers of slain children should have the right to know information, and some have been relentless to make a change.

"What we are finding as citizens is that laws are protecting law enforcement and not protecting us," Hopkins said. "This bill will be a way to regain that trust. We're dealing with an administration that is saying that we're going to bring back law and order ... If there's nothing to hide, why not release the information?"

Bumett McFadden, a member of The Coalition of Concerned Parents, is the mother of three sons, Reginald, Randolph, and Linton McFadden, who all died in 2007.

McFadden said that the bill is very important in order for the community to feel safe and build relationships with officers.

"It's complicated now, because children are afraid ..." McFadden said. "Today they are scared of officers that are in uniforms. You can't call the police because you're scared

something is going to happen. We don't want that. We want to feel comfortable."

Councilman Brandon Scott, D-Baltimore, was also in attendance in support of the legislation. Scott said he believes that the legislation, along with other initiatives, such as training officers, will help the city of Baltimore.

"This year, 500 police officers are going (through training with) Community Mediation, a grassroots organization with young people—with teenagers because that's where we know where the problems are," Scott said.

Twenty-seven other states make the release of complaint files more accessible to the public—even more conservative ones such as Alabama, Georgia and Arizona. In those states, police disciplinary records are normally available to the public, except in active investigations, according to an ACLU report.

### BGE from A2

#### Frederick County:

- Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company—Rapid Response AED Program
- New Market District Volunteer Fire Department—Technical Rescue Equipment
- Western Maryland K-9 Search & Rescue—Communications

#### Harford County:

- Abingdon Fire Company—EMP Protective Vests
- Darlington Volunteer Fire Company—Illuminated Outdoor Fire Station Display
- Fallston Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Company—Upgraded EKG Monitors
- Jarrettsville Volunteer Fire Company—Gas Meter Replacement
- Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company—Turnout Gear Washer

#### Howard County:

- Ellicott City Historic District Partnership—Helping Ellicott City Recover
- Ellicott City Volunteer Firemen's Association—EMS Water Resistant Weather Gear
- International Critical Incident Stress Foundation—Crisis Intervention Training
- Maryland Search and Rescue—Initial Operating Capability
- Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department—Hurst Rescue Tool

#### Montgomery County:

- Maryland Emergency Management Association—MEMA Annual Symposium

#### Prince George's County:

- Disaster Aid USA—Emergency Response Training
- Kentland Volunteer Fire Department—Personal Protective Equipment Washer

- Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad—Accident Response Equipment

- National Volunteer Fire Council—Fire Safety Resources

- Prince George's County Fire Chiefs Community Advisory Council—Public Safety Project

- Silver Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad—Training

- West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad—Public Messaging Board

BGE encourages eligible 501(c)(3) emergency response organizations to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 each. Grant applications are available online at [bge.com/emergencyresponders-grant](http://bge.com/emergencyresponders-grant) each September through the end of October.

BGE presented \$325,000 to

last year's 65 grant recipients. In addition to supporting the emergency responder community in Maryland, BGE provides training for fire, police, 911 centers and emergency management organizations who routinely work around utility equipment. BGE is recognized for its own emergency response record, ranking among the top utilities in the nation for rapid response to gas emergency calls and in working to prevent damages to energy equipment.

BGE plays an integral role in working with Maryland communities to address economic development, public safety, civic issues and other initiatives that help enhance our neighborhoods. Through the use of shareholder dollars, BGE supports programs that deliver measurable and sustainable impact in areas of education, environment, community development and arts and culture.



# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Senators View Security, Immigration Processing Operations at U.S.-Mexico Border

EL PASO, TX—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) toured the U.S.-Mexico border, assessing security and counter-narcotics operations as well as the processing of undocumented migrants crossing into the United States.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security led the Senators in a number of briefings and site visits, which included the international border between Mexico, Texas, and New Mexico — known as Monument One — a migrant processing facility, and one of the vehicle and pedestrian ports of entry between the two countries.

“President Trump’s proposal for ‘building a wall’ is completely divorced from the geographic, human, and economic reality on the border. To better combat narcotics trafficking, the United States should prioritize new investments in technology along the border and at our ports of entry, as well as greater intelligence and law enforcement collaboration with our Mexican partners. The President’s rhetoric weakens our ability to effectively work with Mexico, and does not make America safer,” Senator Cardin said. “Our trip to the border provided first-hand evidence that the United States

needs comprehensive immigration reform now more than ever, and Senate Democrats remain committed to working with our Republican colleagues to advance strong, smart, humane border security measures as part of such an overhaul. I’m grateful to the men and women who work day in and day out to keep this country safe.”

“We can and must produce border policies that are rational and feasible,” Senator Merkley said. “Our strategy on the border should be designed to address our security and stop the flow of illegal drugs. President Trump’s unilateral focus on the wall is poorly conceived. The thousands of border officials working day and night to protect our nation know what works and what doesn’t. We should listen to them and develop effective.”

“Building a wall is not a comprehensive plan to address our nation’s opioid crisis, nor does it represent the comprehensive immigration reform that will help put millions on a pathway to citizenship. President Trump’s divisive rhetoric only makes it harder to work with Mexico and our international partners to address these critical cross-

See U.S.—MEXICO BORDER Page A5



Montpelier Arts Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: FRANK MONALDO

#### MONTEPELIER ARTS CENTER

The Arts Center which opened in 1979 houses three galleries, artist’s studios, and classrooms. Exhibitions include cutting edge work as well as more traditional approaches and feature both emerging and established regional, national and international artists. The Main Gallery is also the site for the performances of the Jazz, Folk/Blues and Classical music series. The gallery is also available on a limited basis for rental by community groups. Artist studios are open to the public, and offer insight into the process of creating artwork.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Confronting Oscar-Nominated *Moonlight’s* Moving and Powerful Truths

Everyone should watch the film *Moonlight* nominated for eight Academy Awards. Why? Because it’s a very powerful story of a poor Black boy’s struggles to reach adulthood with countless odds stacked against him. Because it’s a relatable story for children and youths struggling to make it to adulthood without being derailed by sexual orientation, violence and drugs. Because it’s my or your story if we faced perilous hurdles to survive, learn in school and have a safe place to sleep at night. Because it’s a too common American story—one not everyone wants to tell and too few want or are ready to hear and do anything about.

*Moonlight* is not only a moving coming of age story but much more. It’s a window into the terrors bred by pervasive structural poverty and racism in our boastfully rich and still unequal nation. It is also a story about homophobia and the struggle of gay children to grow up in the midst of that fear. It is the story of strength despite daily threats petrifying a skinny, dreamy, scruffy-looking eight-year old who can hardly understand all the harsh realities he faces and how he will overcome them alone. It’s a painful story marked by parental neglect, abuse, fear, and despair. Yet *Moonlight* is not a sad story but one of hope, of resilience, love, redemption, and second chances. It’s a story that frees all Americans to lift our veils of convenient ignorance and scorn for gay Black boys and children, youths and adults who face terrible choices struggling to survive and grow up all across America. That so many do with their bodies and humanity not in complete tatters is an example of fierce will and human resilience.

When my husband and I saw and discussed this brutally honest portrayal of a young, poor, gay Black boy struggling to grow up in Miami’s Liberty City, we decided to go back to see and experience it again. For me it brought back a flood of memories growing up as a Black girl in a small South Carolina town and time when Jim Crow and homophobia reigned but before drugs saturated and poisoned our

hidden layers of pain a child born poor and Black and gay often endures. I hope *Moonlight* makes all of us see ourselves and our children in Chiron and so many like him. The film captures the despair of our vulnerable child pariahs grappling not only with their sexual preferences on top of their compounded daily burdens of racism, poverty, parental drug addiction, and violence. *Moonlight* does not sensationalize Chiron’s life, play with audience emotions, or make a political statement. Instead it allows his story to unfold from boyhood to manhood with a powerful simplicity in many scenes requiring no dialogue. How wonderful to see Chiron finding moments of revelation and joy amidst neglect, abuse and torment at home and school. How sad that he became a drug dealer as an adult after seeing drugs ravish his own mother and that his mother’s drug dealer and girlfriend were his lifelines of survival. Chiron grows up to sell drugs too because it is one of the only pathways he sees as available to him

See WATCH, Page A8

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Yale University Consigns a Present-Day Monument to the Past

“*Homo sapiens is the species that invents symbols in which to invest passion and authority, then forgets that symbols are inventions.*”

—Joyce Carol Oates, Author, *New York Times*, December 30, 1999.

Don’t allow anyone to tell you differently. Symbols matter. Whether these symbols are flags, icons or names on buildings, symbols are shorthand and they stand in for those core values we reject—and those we accept.

After years of outcry, protests, and an act of glass-shattering vandalism, Yale University has recently announced that the name of the residential college commemorating John C. Calhoun will be changed. Calhoun, a Yale alumnus, served our nation as its seventh vice president, its 16th secretary of state, its 10th secretary of war, and as a senator representing South Carolina, but his service to our country—his legacy—is overshadowed by his fierce defense of the indefensible institution of slavery. Calhoun, a self-described white supremacist, was a slaveholder and an ardent supporter of slavery. During his 1837 senate address, he publicly hailed the institution as a “positive good.”

Erected in 1933, the college that has borne the name and the heavy symbolic weight of Calhoun’s name for 86 years will be renamed for Grace Murray Hopper, a computer science pioneer and Navy rear admiral, who received her master’s degree and doctorate from Yale.

But, changing the name of the Calhoun College was never a foregone conclusion. As recently as last spring, Yale President Peter Salovey maintained that, despite the din of protest, the university would keep Calhoun’s name. In a campus-wide email to students, he wrote:

“Ours is a nation that continues to refuse to face its own history of slavery and racism. Yale is part of this history, as exemplified by the decision to recognize an ardent defender of slavery by naming a college for him. Erasing Calhoun’s name from a much-beloved residential college risks masking this past, downplaying the lasting effects of slavery, and substituting a false and misleading narrative, albeit one that might allow us to feel complacent or, even, self-congratulatory. Retaining the name forces us to learn anew and confront one of the most disturbing aspects of Yale’s and our nation’s past. I believe this is our obligation as an educational institution.”

But rather than create an atmosphere of reconciliation and soul searching, the public sanction of symbols of division and hatred often energizes and justifies its adherents, while arousing alienation and resentment in its opponents. How can we appeal to our better angels, when everyday we are greeted by the demons of our past?

Corey Menafee, a cafeteria worker at Yale, also made his feelings known about the building and the racially-charged stained glass panels that adorned the college featuring idealized images of slavery, which, at one point, included a stained-glass window depicting a shackled Black man kneeling before Calhoun (the kneeling Black man was later taken out of the picture). With the poke of a broomstick, Menafee knocked down and shattered a racially-charged glass panel in the dining hall that depicted two slaves, a man and a woman, carrying bales of cotton on their heads. His reasoning was simple, saying, “It’s 2016. I shouldn’t have to come to work and see things like that.”

Menafee’s action, campus protests, and the racial reckoning taking place across many American college campuses at that time, and on the streets of communities that were fed up with wages of police brutality and the insults of judicial indifference, played a significant role in revisiting the controversy over Calhoun’s name. In the end, Yale did the right thing, with the president noting in a statement to students, “The decision to change a college’s name is not one we take lightly, but John C. Calhoun’s legacy as a white supremacist and a national leader who passionately promoted slavery as a “positive good” fundamentally conflicts with Yale’s mission and values.”

While I applaud Yale’s change of heart, I want to encourage the university to “confront one of the most disturbing aspects of Yale’s and our nation’s past,” not only by unshackling itself from its reprehensible symbols, but by addressing slavery’s legacy of racial inequality and committing to increasing the diversity of its student body and faculty. According to the *New York Times*, the university has promised to invest \$50 million in a faculty-diversity initiative to address the fact that less than three percent of Yale’s arts and sciences faculty is Black. And of Yale’s close to 5,400 undergraduate students, only 11 percent identify themselves as African American.

While a battle has been scored, the war to commit to inclusion still remains to be won.

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Tips For Building And Maintaining a Long-Term Relationship

Each year, Valentine's Day brings thoughts of cute greeting cards and heart-shaped boxes of candy, but it's also a good time to think about long-term relationships. Our romantic Valentine's relationships actually share many of the same basics as any of our close relationships. Long-term relationships, whether a marriage, a friendship or even a business arrangement, are based on some common foundations and make a number of common demands of us.

Building a long-term relationship takes work. We are all different, even the people we are closest to. We are each a product of many different influences and personal choices. This means that there are always times, whatever the type of relationship, when there will be differing opinions. The reason that marriages and friendships survive is because the people involved are willing to work through differences and disagreements. In other words, they value the relationship more than the things over which they may disagree.

For a relationship to grow and evolve, it's important for both members in it to be honest with one another even when disagreements come up. Doing so helps build the essential trust that makes a relationship work.

One way to look at this could be called the ABC method of sustaining a relationship. The "A" is to "Affirm" the value of the relationship. In other words, agreeing that the relationship itself is more important than either of your views on a particular subject.

"B" stands for "Behaving" in ways that, when discussing points of disagreement, reaffirm the value of the relationship. This means letting the other person know that while you may disagree on this subject, it won't affect the basics of the relationship. It means not setting ultimatums or trying to force the other person to your point of view.

The "C" means "Clarifying" issues when there are disagreements. Each person must monitor and control his own tendency to want to "interpret" the words and actions of the other, as opposed to being open and talking with the other person to allow for clarification of his or her intent and meaning.

Long-term relationships are important in our lives. But there's no denying that it takes work to make them grow and last. The key is often finding room in the relationship for the differences that are bound to exist between any two people.

*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*

### U.S.-Mexico Border from A4

border issues. Instead of building walls, we need to build bridges with Mexico to ensure we stop the deadly flow of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids that is devastating Massachusetts," Senator Markey said. "I was honored to meet and talk with the men and women on the ground at the border who work every day to keep this country safe. I thank them for their service and pledge to work with them to get the resources they need."

Cardin, the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was leading his colleagues on a delegation that had previously travelled to Mexico City for meetings and dialogue with members of the Mexican Cabinet, Senate, and civil society.



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## Economic Development Corporation Announces Parkdale High School as Latest Addition to Federal Youth Program Grant

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

RIVERDALE, MD—On February 14, the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) President and CEO Jim Coleman and Prince George's County Public Schools CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell joined school system officials and Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect program staff (YCC) to celebrate the addition of Parkdale High School to the YCC program. Also in attendance were YCC employer partners Pepco, SGT, Inc., Prince George's Community College and Latin American Youth Center officials. The Youth CareerConnect Program is a four year STEM Demonstration Grant that was initiated under former President Obama and is geared toward providing employers with a skilled workforce in healthcare and information technology immediately following high school.

"I am proud of what Prince George's County is doing with our schools today, and I want to thank the stakeholders and partners of the YCC program for providing so many of our youth with this extraordinary opportunity to become the workforce of tomorrow," said Coleman. "As the EDC works every day to convince companies to move to Prince George's County, having a school system that is producing great leaders for tomorrow makes our jobs just a little easier. Each one of

these YCC students has the potential to be a Katherine Johnson (from *Hidden Figures*) and it is because of the fabulous commitment of our principals, teachers, guidance counselors and the business community at large that each of our students has the power to go out and change the world."

As managers of the \$7 million YCC grant through the U.S. Department of Labor, the EDC has worked tirelessly with business and community stakeholders to provide program participants with mentoring, skills training and significant summer internship opportunities with companies such as Lockheed Martin, CVS, Dimensions Healthcare, National Institutes of Health and many more high-profile companies.

Mr. Coleman and Dr. Maxwell congratulated the school system on its highest graduation rate in many years. Thanks to the success of programs like YCC, Prince George's County boasts an 81% high school graduation rate.

"Today is a great day for Parkdale High School and a great day for Prince George's County Public Schools," said Maxwell. "This is a system on the rise thanks to hard work by students, faculty, community partners, and business leaders coming together for a great cause—your education. Through this YCC program, students have the option to participate in job readiness training, paid summer Capstone and in-



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE  
EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman (2nd from left), with PGCPD CEO Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Parkdale Principal Dr. Tasha Graves-Henderson, EDC YCC Program Director Yolanda Tully, along with students and faculty from Parkdale High School.

ternship experiences, college entrance exam preparation and college tours. What a benefit for the Parkdale students and for the County public school system."

Today's event was hosted by Parkdale Principal Dr. Tasha Graves-Henderson who was very excited about her school being selected to participate in the YCC program. Along with the Parkdale announcement, Mr. Coleman also announced the dedication of a new competitive scholarship that will become available for all YCC seniors heading to college. The scholarship will be named in honor of former Parkdale High School principal Tanya L. Washington who passed away last fall.

Currently, the YCC program has 644 participants. Forty students graduated from the pro-

gram in 2016, and with the addition of Parkdale High School, another 200 students will become eligible to participate in the program. As an incentive to maximize the number of students participating in the YCC program, Mr. Coleman also challenged the YCC students and faculty to increase the number of enrollments in their academic academies and in the YCC program. The top performing school for YCC enrollment and Academy enrollment will win \$5,000 in school supplies.

Companies interested in partnering with the Prince George's County Youth CareerConnect Program for summer job opportunities, internships or mentoring contact Yolanda Tully, YCC Program Director at 301-618-8400 or ytully@co.pg.md.us.

### Bulldogs from A1

back to back 3-pointers from Wilson would give Bowie State the lead at 22-21. Wilson would then come up with a steal and drain another 3-pointer to give BSU a 24-21 advantage.

The BSU Bulldogs would continue to pressure the JCSU Golden Bulls, and would take a 32-31 halftime lead into the locker room.

Bowie State was led at halftime by Wilson who single handedly kept the Bulldogs in the game by scoring 24 first half points, on eight of 11 shots, including 6-of-7 shooting from behind the three point arc.

The first half featured three ties and three lead changes, while the Golden Bulls dominated the points in the paint with a 14-4 edge.

Johnson C. Smith shot 42.9 percent from the floor in the first half, while holding Bowie State to just 34.4 percent.

The Bulldogs began the second half with a 6-1 run to open 38-32 lead before a Gabon Williams triple stopped the run.

The Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith would assume the lead with 14:22 to play following a Williams layup, setting the score at 40-39.

A three point play the old fashioned way by Bowie State redshirt freshman David Belle (Hyattsville, Md.) put the Bulldogs back on top, before the Golden Bulls quickly answered with back to back baskets to regain the lead.

A three pointer by Bowie State senior Brian Kelley (Lanham, MD) would tie the game at 45-45.

BSU senior Enuoma Ebinum (Greenbelt, MD) scored on an inside move to give the Bulldogs a 54-48 lead, and on a key possession midway through the half, the BSU Bulldogs would come up with a key offensive rebound to keep the possession and stop

the Golden Bulls from getting any closer.

Briscoe dropped a dagger from behind the arc on an off-balance shot as the shot clock buzzer sounded to give BSU a 57-52 lead.

Robert Davis would pull JCSU close, with the tough running banker 58-54. Johnson C. Smith got a huge rebound and basket from Gabon Williams with 3:45 left to play, but missed the free throw to get any closer.

Robert Davis went to the line with 3:15 remaining, and made two to tie the game at 59-59.

BSU's junior Dayshawn Wells (Baltimore, MD) hit a big three at the 2:26 mark to give the Bulldogs the 62-59 lead, and then would drill another triple for a 65-61 advantage.

Johnson C. Smith's Christian Kirchman dropped in two free throws to close the deficit to 65-63.

BSU's George would come up with a big steal and then

would make one of two free throws to give the Bulldogs a little breathing room at 66-63 with 41 seconds left in regulation.

JCSU's Aaron Adair would delay Bowie State celebration, stoking a three pointer to knot the game at 66-all. The Golden Bulls had a chance to win in regulation but Christian Williams' three at the buzzer went off the rim, sending the game to overtime.

Bowie State never trailed in the extra period and with score tied at 68-68, the Bulldogs duo of Wilson and Briscoe put the team on their backs to earn the victory.

Johnson C. Smith was led by Gabon Williams who finished with 21 points while Robert Davis added 20 points and seven rebounds. Christian Williams chipped in 16 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

Bowie State will now advance to face Virginia Union at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening at Spectrum Center.

### Drug Use from A1

in fentanyl-related deaths in the same three years.

Morhaim's bill would allow health departments in the state to approve or deny applications for facilities where people can use illegal drugs already in their possession without facing ramifications.

The Maryland program would provide sterile injection supplies, counseling services, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and would educate drug users about safe-injection practices and overdose prevention, according to the bill.

The bill would also allow the safe drug-use facilities to bill insurers for services, with the user's permission.

Morhaim is aware of the potential concerns and backlash people may have.

"I understand that some of the ideas that I've put out are difficult for people to accept," he said. "And I would say that 10 years ago, five years ago, I wouldn't have been putting them in."

But he also said, "Sometimes we have to change our perspectives based on actual facts. My perspective has changed and evolved over the years."

This stigma surrounding drug-use facilities is a challenge not only for neighbors, but for drug users as well.

Bridge said there needs to be a movement to "demystify what these facilities are." He said people "are picturing a seedy environment, like a crack den. They

don't always understand that this is actually a medical intervention. It is not condoning drug use," he continued. "It's just providing them a safe environment to use the drugs they were going to use anyway."

Detractors may argue that it contributes to crime, but studies of programs in other countries show either no adverse impact, or a decrease in crime surrounding the drug use centers, according to the International Drug Policy Consortium.

Bridge said that drug-consumption facilities work best when working in coordination with local police departments, because if people are apprehended as soon as they arrive or exit, no one will use the facility.

Safe drug-consumption facilities are only one potential solution to a multifaceted problem.

Both Bridge and Morhaim said that there should be multiple options because each person is different and has different needs.

Morhaim said, "I don't think we'll ever actually have a substance abuse-free society. The challenge is harm reduction, and getting it under control to the greatest extent possible."

The Maryland State Police Department referred all questions to Gov. Larry Hogan's office, which did not respond to requests for comment.

Morhaim has 13 co-sponsors for his legislation, HB519. A hearing on the measure is scheduled for Tuesday in the Health and Government Operations committee.



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Patriots Day

Patriots Day  
Grade: C-  
Rated R, abundant harsh  
profanity, a lot of violence  
and grisly images  
2 hrs., 12 min

It's hard to narrow it down, but the most damaging mistake in *Patriots Day* might be the choice to focus on a single fictional character but surrounding him with real people.

Peter Berg's nakedly manipulative docudrama about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt strives for authenticity in almost every other regard. It's the kind of movie that tells you people's names and job titles when they first appear, what time of day it is, and how many hours it's been since the blast. But when it comes to the protagonist—Boston cop Tommy Saunders, played by Mark Wahlberg—it's a one-dimensional Hollywood rah-rah movie, with Tommy magically appearing at every critical moment and doing the things that in real life must have been done by at least a dozen different police officers.

It's almost comical the way the movie treats him, like he's the detective who caught the case and has to work every aspect of it. He's at the finish line when the bombs go off; he's giving the FBI advice on how to use the public's help; he's the cop who responds to the Chinese carjacking victim's 911 call; he's in Watertown for the shootout with the Tsarnaev brothers. Many hours after the bombing, when Tommy finally goes off-duty to get some rest, he's immediately called back to the mobile command center. Why? Because the FBI (led by Kevin Bacon) has diagrammed the street where the bombs went off on a warehouse floor and they need Tommy to tell them which buildings are which. He knows that neighborhood really well, you see. And I guess Google Maps and the hundreds of other law-enforcement personnel who know that neighborhood really well were unavailable. Like Tommy Saunders is a crucial part of the investigation because he knows the Starbucks is next to the Chipotle.

On second thought, there's another flaw that might be more critical. Berg begins in customary



ROTTENTOMATOES

An account of the Boston Marathon bombing, *Patriots Day* is the powerful story of a community's courage in the face of terror. In the aftermath of an unspeakable attack, Police Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Mark Wahlberg) joins courageous survivors, first responders and investigators in a race against the clock to hunt down the bombers before they strike again. Weaving together the stories of Special Agent Richard DesLauriers (Kevin Bacon), Police Commissioner Ed Davis (John Goodman), Sergeant Jeffrey Pugliese (J.K. Simmons) and nurse Carol Saunders (Michelle Monaghan) this visceral and unflinching chronicle captures the suspense of one of the most sophisticated manhunts in law enforcement history and celebrates the strength of the people of Boston.

disaster-movie fashion, introducing us to all the major players before the marathon. Some of these people, like J.K. Simmons' police sergeant in Watertown (the Boston suburb where the killers are eventually caught), don't enter the story until much later. So throughout the film, Berg periodically cuts back to J.K. Simmons, going about his business, just waiting to be called up.

Anyway, that's not the flaw I meant. That's just funny. The flaw is that the screenplay—written by Berg and two other men, with two more men credited with "story by" because parts of their scripts got Frankensteined into Berg's—sets out to tell the ENTIRE story: the bombing, the victims, the police, and the killers. But it's really only about the investigation and manhunt. The result is that a few victims are introduced early on; injured in the explosions; rushed to hospitals ... and then abandoned. We don't see them again till the very end, when the film circles back around to say, "Oh, yeah, these people. They survived. They're fine now. Isn't that inspiring?" It feels phony to include them

at all if you're not actually going to tell their stories.

But hang on, there are more flaws, more phoniness. You remember this whole tragedy, right? It happened less than four years ago. (If you don't remember it, spoilers are ahead.) In addition to the three people killed in the blasts, the Tsarnaevs had another casualty, an MIT policeman named Sean A. Collier whom they shot point-blank as he sat in his patrol car. When Collier (played by Jake Picking) appears at the beginning of the film and is identified as an MIT cop, we realize who he must be. Berg then tortures us with scenes establishing that Collier is wholesome and upstanding, with a bright future ahead of him, just so we can be extra-sad when the terrorists randomly select him for murder later on. It's cruel.

These contrived, calculated efforts to yank our heartstrings come at the expense of storytelling. It's frustrating, because much of the film works. Berg effectively conveys the horror of the bombing and its immediate aftermath, and everything from the carjacking to the firefight is likewise tense and nightmarish.

The cast is terrific, also including John Goodman as Tommy's superior officer and Michelle Monaghan as Tommy's wife. She's just a Concerned Wife on Phone character, but Monaghan sells it. You really believe she's concerned and on a phone.

The final miscalculation comes at the end. The movie is over; the credits should be starting. Instead, we get five minutes of what I can only describe as a DVD bonus feature, a glossy mini-documentary interviewing the real cops and survivors and talking about Boston's resilient spirit. (Mind you, the credits don't start till after this. Berg considers this lurge to be part of the story.) If Berg wanted to make a documentary about the Boston Marathon bombing, he should have. He probably would have done a good job. Mixing fact with fiction for the purposes of emotional blackmail—I didn't mention how Berg often uses photos and footage of the real killers instead of the actors who play them—is off-putting, bordering on sleazy. The heroes, victims, and survivors deserve better than this patronizing, half-baked insult.

## Baseball from A1

*Sun*), Kurkjian would become a close confidant to the celebrated, though often unpredictable, manager. He'd sit with Weaver for an hour at a time in the dugout before games, talking tactics and picking his brain about nuances of the sport.

But covering baseball has changed: Kurkjian said he'd never be able to get that kind of access today.

"Now, when you go see the Nationals or the Orioles, they parade Dusty Baker and Buck Showalter into this antiseptic interview room where everyone's allowed in," Kurkjian explained. "And they speak to 50 guys at a time as opposed to one person."

Kurkjian believes the rise of digital media, as well as teams' stricter regulations for press, have cost journalists opportunities to get to know their subjects on a more personal level. That can affect the quality of the content fans read.

"You're just not going to learn the game sitting in that

room compared to sitting with Earl Weaver on the bench," he said. "I can't tell you how much I miss going to a ballpark and getting 20 minutes alone with the manager."

Kurkjian, who has moved from beat reporting to more in-depth print and television journalism as his career has progressed, added that lack of access particularly hurts the kind of work he does now. For features and columns to be compelling, he explained, getting the details is key.

Access to players and managers was just one of many topics touched on at the talk, which also featured Chelsea Janes, Nationals beat writer for the *Washington Post*. The event—which was moderated by former *Post* Sports editor George Solomon—offered a look at the changing landscape of baseball journalism, from adapting to the 24-hour news cycle to the use of new computer-based statistics measurements.

One major topic was the changing types of stories editors are pushing.

Besides growing emphasis on more television and-multimedia-based reporting, there's been a shift away from daily game recaps, Kurkjian and Janes said.

Both have concerns about that. Janes said she thinks regular game reports are still of value to her readers.

"I was told this by (fellow *Post* baseball correspondent) Barry Svrluga, who has written a lot about the Nats: that it's sort of like adding a chapter to a book," she said. "Beyond score, beyond stats, there's fitting each night into kind of a whole sequence of the season."

As a young reporter—she's been with the *Post*, her first full-time gig, only since 2013—Janes was not a part of the pre-digital age of sports journalism.

But she, too, feels the challenges of access in the modern game. Because of team regulations, she said, often players are "fairly canned" with what they tell the media.

But she said one way around this was to seek out "go-to" personalities on a team. Unlike

Kurkjian, whose years as a beat reporter were less hampered by the restrictions of today, allowing him to gain the trust of enigmatic stars like Cal Ripken, Janes operates in an environment where having outgoing athletes to rely on is key.

She said Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer and manager Baker, in particular, are reliable sources of colorful news, but said many of the younger players are more guarded around journalists.

"A lot of the young guys have been brought up in a way where they're very filtered with the media," she said, explaining that teams now regularly brief their players on how to speak to reporters.

Kurkjian added that he thought the influence of social media was further discouraging players from wanting to share too much with the press.

"They're fearful that what I say is going to get twisted somehow by social media," he said.

See BASEBALL Page A8

## Tips and Tricks for Successful Entertaining

### Easy Ways to Make Your Media Space More Enjoyable



(NewsUSA)—The summer season is right around the corner, which makes this the perfect time to spruce up your home before entertaining friends and family. Whether your guests are coming for an evening affair, or to stay for an extended period of time, your media space will no doubt be a popular gathering spot. The American Lighting Association (ALA) suggests a few ways to enhance everyone's viewing experience.

No matter what kind of space you have, whether it's a dedicated media room, a simple TV nook or something in between, the fundamental components are comfort and appropriate lighting. For the majority of homeowners, most media-related activity takes place in a multi-use space, which means the lighting must have the flexibility to go from everyday activities to TV viewing.

"One of the primary design objectives in a media space is to create the ability to achieve multiple and varied types of experiences, and lighting provides the key element to achieve that goal," says Joe Rey-Barreau, AIA, IES, education consultant for ALA and associate professor at the University of Kentucky's School of Interior Design.

Three necessary elements for the ultimate media viewing experience are the source of light, types and placement of light fixtures, and the use of smart dimmers.

#### Light source

Keep in mind that natural light from outside is as influential as light from indoor fixtures. Multi-purpose spaces generally have windows, which create the need to control that light during the daytime as well as at night when even minor reflections can be distracting.

Erik Anderson, national sales manager for Lutron Electronics Co., says that when it comes to lighting, "the sun is light bulb number one." He suggests using motorized shades, which can be retrofitted to an existing window, as a convenient and effective way to manipulate ambient light. It is important to consider where your light is coming from as well as the time of day and season, which affect not only the amount of incoming light, but also the angle and intensity of the light.

#### Fixture type and placement

The types of fixtures used in a dedicated media room are different from those typically used in a family room. Selecting fixtures for any type of media space can be confusing. To get it right, your best bet is to consult with a professionally trained lighting consultant at an ALA-member showroom.

#### Smart dimmers

Using dimmers may seem like a no-brainer, especially considering they are easy to install and highly impactful. New wireless smart dimmers simply attach to a wall or sit on a tabletop. Anderson explains that Lutron's Caséta Wireless dimmers are designed for simple, do-it-yourself installation. The inexpensive devices can be synced with a phone to control the lights, window shades and room temperature from a remote location.

"It can be inconvenient to turn each thing on and off every time you enter or leave a room," says Anderson. "With Lutron's Caséta Wireless, you can pre-set it to adjust everything at once, so that it all comes to life with one press of a button."

For more ideas and advice for improving your media viewing experience while maintaining functionality in your multi-use space, stop by your local ALA-member lighting showroom or visit [AmericanLightingAssoc.com](http://AmericanLightingAssoc.com).

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## Calendar of Events

March 2 — March 8, 2017

**2017 Maryland State High School Wrestling Tournament**  
 Date and Time: Friday, March 3, 2017 2:30 pm–10 pm  
 Description: Come watch the best high school wrestlers in the state of Maryland compete in day one (1) of a two-day tournament!  
 Cost: Admission costs are for individuals 7 years of age and older: \$25—two(2)-day “All Sessions” pass; \$15 per day pass; \$10 Final Championship round.  
 Location: The Show Place Arena  
 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2255

**Prince George's Best Dance Crew Competition**  
 Date and Time: Friday, March 3, 2017, 7 p.m.–10 p.m.  
 Description: Join us at the 7th Annual Prince George's Best Dance Crew competition. Come cheer for your favorite rising stars from Prince George's as they compete for cash prizes in this exciting and entertaining contest. Limited tickets are available, so order your tickets today!! Tickets are available through the box office.  
 Cost: Resident: \$3 Non-resident: \$3  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: Publick Playhouse Cultural Arts Center  
 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

**Xtreme Teens: Dizzy Double Dare Challenge**  
 Date and Time: Friday March 3, 2017, 7–10 pm  
 Description: Do You Dare? Answer questions with your teammates, and prepare to run through a dizzying obstacle course. Oh yeah, your whole team must complete the obstacle course to win!! Will your team walk away with the grand prize?  
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Good Luck Community Center  
 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD  
 Contact: 301-552-1093; TTY 301-699-2544

**Xtreme Teens: Billiards Tournament Night**  
 Date and Time: Friday, March 3, 2017, 7–10 pm  
 Description: Relax in the teen center as we see who is the best billiards player! Winners will reign as Langley Park billiards champion!  
 Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
 Ages: 10–17  
 Location: Langley Park Community Center  
 1500 Merimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

**Family Discovery Hike**  
 Date and Time: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10–11 am  
 Description: Take a hike! Enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Parents/chaperones of children attending family programs must also be registered for the program as well.  
 Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4  
 Ages: Ages 4 & up  
 Location: Watkins Nature Center  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-255-2544

**Liberty Girls: An American Girl Book Club**  
 Date and Time: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:30 am–12 noon  
 Description: Girls ages 7–13 are invited to join our new revolutionary book club!  
 Each week we will discuss a different Felicity book from the American Girl series with a Prince George's County librarian, make a colonial craft, and enjoy period refreshments.  
 The last session includes a book discussion, tea party, and dancing! Membership fee includes book discussions, colonial crafts, refreshments, and a Liberty Girls book bag full of fun and useful accessories for young readers.  
 Cost: \$30/person  
 Ages: 7–13  
 Location: Darnall's Chance House Museum  
 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-952-8010; TTY 301-699-2544

**District Comedy**  
 Date and Time: Saturday, March 4, 2017, 8 pm  
 Description: District Comedy will have you in stitches when they bring DC's hottest comedians to the Playhouse stage. Since 2009 District Comedy has kept people laughing through nearly 7,000 performances across the DMV, so don't miss this chance to see the latest, brightest, and funniest talent.  
 Cost: \$15/person  
 Ages: 18 & up  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Rd., Cheverly, MD 20784  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

**Alexander Who is Not Not Not Not Not Going to Move**  
 Date and Time: Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 10:15 am & 12 noon  
 Description: When Alexander learns his family is moving to a new city, he is sure that he will hate it, so he decides that he won't move.  
 First, he tries to live with three different neighbors. Then he tries to build a tent so he can live by himself. Then he decides he'll hide so that his parents will never find him, but that doesn't work out either.  
 With a little help from his mom and dad and even his bossy older brothers, Alexander learns that home is “where your family is, where you're with the people who love you best of all.”  
 Cost: \$8/person; \$6/groups of 20 or more  
 Ages: Recommended for Grades Pre-K - Grade 3  
 Location: Publick Playhouse  
 5445 Landover Rd, Cheverly, 20784  
 Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Urban Density: The Environmental Pros and Cons

Dear EarthTalk:

*Isn't the increasing urbanization of our world good for reducing our carbon footprint given the efficiency benefits of greater density?*

—Simon Vorhees, Oak Park, IL

No doubt, the increased density of big cities leads to less energy use and fewer greenhouse gas emissions per capita. “The biggest factor is transportation, first, simply because trips get shorter, and second, because trips are more likely taken by transit, biking and walking, which are more energy efficient than cars,” says Dan Bertolet of Sightline Institute, a Seattle-based sustainability think-tank. “Density also leads to less energy use in buildings for two reasons: The housing tends to be smaller, and the shared walls/floors/ceilings in multifamily buildings help conserve heating and cooling.”

To Bertolet's point, a recent study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences examining projected emissions from buildings in a variety of urban areas confirms that denser development is more effective at reducing greenhouse gas emissions than weatherproofing or other efficiency-oriented infrastructure upgrades. But researchers warn that increased density alone isn't enough to drive emissions lower overall

given a host of other factors.

“Urbanization is often accompanied by higher incomes, higher economic activity and more consumption,” says Burak Güneralp, geosciences researcher at Texas A&M and the study's lead author. “So any gains in per capita consumption due to greater density in urban areas may be exceeded by the increase in per capita consumption due to higher incomes.” Also, says Güneralp, efficiency benefits of increased density can backfire if not directed by thoughtful policy. “For example, too high a density coupled with poor planning can lead to traffic congestions, which can increase fuel consumption hence carbon emissions.”

Another downside of density is the so-called “heat island effect,” where development crammed, pavement-capped city centers can be ~20°F hotter than surrounding areas, leading to increased energy consumption as more people crank the air conditioning, elevated emissions of potentially hazardous air pollutants from tailpipes and outflow stacks, and impaired water quality as streams, rivers, lakes and coastal areas get flushed with overheated toxin-laden run-off.

Poorly managed development outside the urban core, AKA urban sprawl, can also counteract the carbon footprint gains of increased density downtown. Sprawling suburban development uses more land per capita



CREDIT: CREDIT: DAVE GLASS, FLICKRCC  
**San Francisco, with upwards of 18,000 people per square mile, is the second densest major U.S. city behind New York.**

and forces people to drive long distances in private cars to get to work, school and shopping.

“Metropolitan areas look like carbon footprint hurricanes, with dark green, low-carbon urban cores surrounded by red, high-carbon suburbs,” says Chris Jones, a researcher with UC Berkeley's Renewable & Appropriate Energy Lab. “Unfortunately, while the most populous metropolitan areas tend to have the lowest carbon footprint centers, they also tend to have the most extensive high-carbon footprint suburbs.”

For his part, Güneralp says careful planning is key. “The important point is that when we think about urbanization and its environmental impacts, we need to consider trade-offs and co-benefits of different approaches as

well as the local context,” he concludes. “Particularly in growing cities in the developing world, such efforts can improve the well-being of billions of urban residents and contribute to mitigating climate change by reducing energy use in urban areas.”

CONTACTS: Sightline, www.sightline.org; National Academy of Sciences study, www.goo.gl/sxqH0E; Renewable & Appropriate Energy Lab, rael.berkeley.edu.

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**Send questions to:** earthtalk@emagazine.com.

## PG County Executive Baker Announces Contract Renewal of PGCPS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell

By PRESS OFFICER  
 PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III announced Friday the contract renewal of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, highlighting the school system's academic gains over the last four years. Joined by parents and business and education leaders, Mr. Baker made the announcement at DuVal High School in Lanham, which boasts one of the county's top graduation rates. The school's acclaimed aeronautical engineering program was created during Dr. Maxwell's administration. To watch video of this event, please click here. To access/download photos of the event, please click here.

As required by state law, Dr. Maxwell requested reappoint-

ment in a January 31, 2017 letter to the County Executive, who had until March 1, 2017 to consider the request. Dr. Maxwell's new contract will end June 30, 2021. Dr. Maxwell is the first PGCPS superintendent in nearly 25 years to serve more than one term. His reappointment will allow for continuity in the progress made over the past four years.

“We've seen a profound shift in the culture, outcomes and progress within Prince George's County Public Schools,” said County Executive Baker. “This reappointment is recognition that our system is innovating and our students are succeeding. I am proud to reappoint Dr. Maxwell to a four-year term. I am confident that our schools will continue to reach new heights under his leadership.”

Dr. Maxwell was raised in Prince George's County and began his career in PGCPS, rising from the teaching ranks to prin-

icipal and later, a central office-level administrator. When Mr. Baker appointed him as PGCPS Chief Executive Officer in August 2013, Dr. Maxwell was the school system's eighth superintendent, including interims, in 11 years. Dr. Maxwell had previously served as superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools. In 2014, he was named Maryland Superintendent of the Year by the Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), representing the state in the National Superintendent of the Year program.

“I am gratified and humbled by Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker's decision to reappoint me to a second term at the helm of this great school system,” said PGCPS CEO Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell. “Prince George's County is my home. Prince George's County Public Schools is the place where I was edu-

cated and where I began my career. I remain committed to the children of Prince George's County and excited to work alongside my colleagues as we continue our focus on high academic achievement, safe learning environments and effective leadership. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Prince George's County Board of Education for your partnership in service to our students and community. I look forward to our continued collaboration.”

Under Dr. Maxwell's leadership, PGCPS high school graduation rates have increased 7.3 percentage points to a record-high of 81.4 percent—the first time since 2010 that the system-wide graduation rate has exceeded 80 percent. The school system now has eight schools with graduation rates above 90 percent, up from none as recently as two years ago.

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