

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

Vol. 85, No. 20 May 18 — May 24, 2017

Prince George's County, Maryland

Newspaper of Record

Phone: 301-627-0900

25 cents

## City of Seat Pleasant and IBM—A Smart Partnership for a Smart City

By MONICA BISCOE  
Mason-Dixon Consulting

SEAT PLEASANT, MD—During Smart Cities Week Silicon Valley, Seat Pleasant, MD announced that they have selected IBM as their partner to build the foundation establishing Seat Pleasant as a Smart City of Excellence. Cities are just now tapping into data to improve city operations and to deliver services in a digital way. These cloud-based services will provide personalized experiences for the constituents and will optimize program delivery and service outcomes for city services.

IBM will deliver both a public-facing and a city operations capability during the initial phase of this project.

• **"My Seat Pleasant" Mobile App**—a public-facing mobile application providing direct benefits to Seat Pleasant residents, businesses, and city employees. Built by preferred business partner Purple Forge, an IBM Business Partner, this mobile application will provide a host of features, including (but not limited to) service requests, a library of city codes, a city document library, a city directory, on-demand broadcast (push) notifications, garbage/recycling and snow removal schedules, city job listings, online payments, events and activities listings. Additionally, the system will feature a natural language question and answer service based on IBM Watson technology.

• **Intelligent Operations Center**—IBM Intelligent Operations software empowers City managers and leaders by providing a holistic, operational view of the City across all departments. Initially, the center will connect the Department of Public Works, Code Enforcement, and Police Department with real-time information to facilitate cross department decision making, coordination of events, communication, and collaboration, which can lead to improvements in operational efficiency, public safety and the quality of service to citizens.

Seat Pleasant is joining other Smart Cities who use data to improve outcomes in security, safety, resilience, and social services. What makes Seat Pleasant unique is that they are a small municipality with the bold vision to deliver services that were previously limited to much larger cities.

"Seat Pleasant will offer Smart City services that are better, faster and more personalized making it a 'City for Me,'" said Mayor Eugene W. Grant. "Furthermore, we will be better at delivering services to our citizens and faster in keeping pace with an ever-changing world and that is tailored specifically to the needs of our constituents."

"Smartphones are increasingly the preferred channel for citizens to gain access to government related information and services," said Brian Hurley, President and CEO of Purple Forge. "The 'My Seat Pleasant' Smart City App



PHOTO COURTESY MONICA BISCOE  
Pictured: (standing left to right) Jesse Berst, Chairman of Smart Cities Council, Seat Pleasant Councilmember Gloria Sistrunk (Ward 5); Seat Pleasant Councilmember Lamar Maxwell (Ward 1); (seated) Michelle Rudnicki, IBM, VP of Industry Solutions, North America Public Sector; and Seat Pleasant Mayor Eugene W. Grant

will make it easy for residents to stay up-to-date and engaged right from their smartphone at any time, from anywhere."

Seat Pleasant's concept going forward is to create a shared hub and to extend these services to other small cities providing them access to the same analytics resources as big cities. Modern cloud-based solutions allow Seat Pleasant to obtain a wider range

of advanced, cognitive solutions at a fraction of the cost of traditional on premise deployments.

The implications of cloud-based Smarter Cities solutions are immense, with more services becoming more affordable to smaller municipalities nationwide. This critical factor will allow Seat Pleasant to realize their potential as "A Smart City of Excellence."

## PG County's Plan 2035 Receives National Award for Excellence

By PRESS OFFICER  
MNCPPC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Planning Department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was recognized for excellence in comprehensive planning by the American Planning Association's (APA) Sustainable Communities Division with a national award for *Plan Prince George's 2035*, the General Plan for the County. One of only 13 community projects around the country to be recognized, the County's adopted

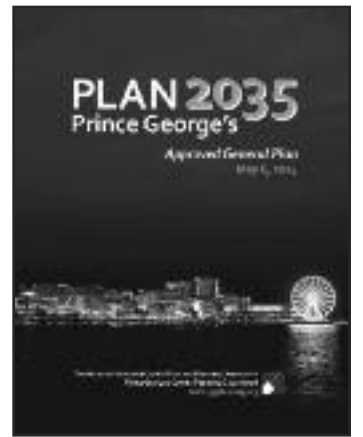


PHOTO COURTESY PGCPB

general plan is considered an excellent example of comprehensive planning.

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## Dual Enrollment Student Named Student Commencement Speaker

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCC

LARGO, MD—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) is pleased to announce that Kyshira Simmons, a dually-enrolled student at the college has been chosen as the 2017 Student Commencement Speaker. Simmons, attends the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, and will receive both her high school diploma and associate degree on May 25, 2017.

"The committee chose Ms. Simmons not only because she exceeded the criteria for selection, but also because her transformation at Prince George's Community College is a direct result of being a student in our Middle College Program," said Clover Baker-Brown, Professor and Immediate Past President, Maryland Communication Association. "Hers is a testimony to the diversity of programs and

See STUDENT Page A7

## PGFD Assistant Fire Chief is American Legion "National Firefighter of the Year"

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Fire/EMS

LARGO, MD—For extreme personal risk and the highest degree of judgment, zeal and ingenuity, on April 26, 2017, County Executive Rushern Baker, III and Fire Chief Benjamin Barksdale bestowed on Assistant Fire Chief Darren O. Ware the Fire/EMS Department's Gold Medal of Valor. He was honored for his quick thinking and heroic efforts that saved the life of a female victim who was experiencing a medical emergency while trapped inside her burning SUV.

The award was presented at the 40th Annual Public Safety Valor Awards.

For Assistant Fire Chief Ware, Wednesday April 20, 2016, was challenging from the onset, as the Department was conducting funeral services for a member killed in the line of duty. Additionally, he was tasked with coordinating mutual aid resources and ensuring that personnel who do not work in our system or typically work together could do so safely and

efficiently. Finally, upon concluding his shift and heading home, Chief Ware noticed smoke on the road ahead of him and suspected it was likely a vehicle fire.

Nearing the incident, Chief Ware's suspicion of a vehicle fire was confirmed. He was surprised, however, to discover an adult female driver still inside. After contacting Public Safety Communications for resources, he attempted to remove the victim from the vehicle. His efforts were unsuccessful, as all four doors were locked; and the woman was unresponsive to his instruction to open the door. With the fire beneath the vehicle was growing larger and progressing into the free burning phase, Chief Ware realized the increasing urgency of the situation. He hurriedly returned to his vehicle, surveying the immediate area and hoping to find an object suitable to force entry into the SUV. Things were happening quickly, but to Chief Ware it seemed like eternity in the face

See FIREFIGHTER Page A5

## PGEDC Announces Its Five Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon Honorees

Awards Luncheon to Recognize Local Businesses for Their Contributions and Dedication to PG County

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—The Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is excited to announce the award recipients of its Women's Excellence and Leadership Awards, honoring women who have made remarkable contributions in Prince George's County. Each of the honorees reflect this year's event theme, *Yes! You Can Have It All*. The Awardees will be honored at the EDC's 1st Annual Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon (WELL) which will take place on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the MGM National Harbor Hotel.

"Prince George's County is fortunate to have so many dynamic and tenacious women as business leaders in our community," said Jim Coleman, President and CEO of the EDC. "These honorees all care deeply about people, and are a major force in helping busi-

nesses, communities, and the people they serve reach their full potential. These are fantastic role models for all women."

The primary motivation for the Women's Excellence & Leadership Luncheon is to inspire everyday business women in Prince George's County and the surrounding region, many of whom are testaments of success in their own realms. The WELL awardees were selected based on their outstanding accomplishments, contributions and dedication to Prince George's County.

**The 2017 Women's Excellence & Leadership Award Winners Are:**

**Excellence in Partnership—Angela Franco**

Angela Franco served as the President & CEO of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce from 2009 to 2017. A true advocate of business-to-business networking and synergistic relationship building, Angela grew the Chamber's programs, train-



IMAGE COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

ings and matchmaking network resulting in the establishment and growth of hundreds of small and medium-sized businesses in Prince George's County and throughout the region. She has served as the EDC liaison to Hispanic businesses for several years and connected the it to Hispanic business trade missions.

**Excellence in Leadership—Julie Lenzer**

Julie Lenzer serves as Associate Vice President of Innovation and Economic Development and Co-Director of UM

Ventures. Julie is charged with promoting and facilitating productive, university-wide collaboration to launch startup ventures based upon University intellectual property, as well as maximizing synergies the University of Maryland and other colleges and universities in the Region. Prior to this position, Julie was appointed to lead the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) within the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

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### INSIDE

#### Team Maryland Works to Expand Affordable College Education Opportunities for Maryland Families

"Maryland families know and understand the value of a higher education, yet for far too many, families are being forced to undertake significant debt in order to place their foothold in the middle class."

Community, Page A3

#### Flipping the Switch

Early nurturing interactions with caring adults form the basis of a healthy brain foundation. The strong case for increased federal investments for quality child care and other early childhood programs is bolstered by the great local work supporting families and communities in building healthy brains during children's earliest years of life.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Baker Tells Crowd: "County Will Be Working Full Throttle During Last 18 Months of the Administration"

The Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative, development in Suitland, New Carrollton and downtown Largo, the build-out of the Regional Medical Center and the pouring of resources into improving the school system remain high on his priority list.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *CHiPs*

Jon's an eager rookie who wants to do everything by the book and earn back the respect of his shrewish wife, Karen (Kristen Bell, Shepard's real-life spouse). He doesn't know that Ponch, a loose cannon, is a Fed with a secret agenda who's interested only in pursuing his investigation and not, for example, in doing everyday CHP work.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is it true that fuel cell cars are finally available for mainstream drivers in the U.S.?*

—Jack Mixson,  
Wilmington, DE

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Here's what happened to the pilot

In 1952 a plane from Andrews crashed into a Morningside home, claiming three lives. The pilot had bailed out.

I've often written about it. The pilot was charged with manslaughter. But I never knew the outcome, until ...

Former Morningsider Jody Nyers did some research. A Wikipedia response indicates the pilot was found not guilty since he was taking orders as instructed by six officers in the tower. For more about the case, you can go to *Snyder versus United States*.

Thanks, Jody.

### Skyline Flea Market at MVFD

The Skyline Citizens Association is hosting its Annual Flea Market, on Saturday, May 20, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Morningside Firehouse. There'll also be hotdogs, desserts and sodas. Tables, \$15. To reserve, call Suzanne, 240-838-6412 or Spivey, 301-967-1320.

### Choral Society season finale at Mount Calvary

The Maryland Choral Society will conclude its season with a concert at Mount Calvary Church, 6700 Marlboro Pike, Sunday, May 21, 4 p.m., featuring Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Michael Rickleton's *The Lark at Heaven's Gate Sings*, and the debut of *Hear the Voice of the Bard*. General admission, \$20; seniors & students, \$15; 10 and under, free.

### Forum on elderly violence

Denise C. McCain, Executive Director of the Prince George's Family Justice Center, will discuss domestic violence, particularly as it affects the elderly, on Saturday, May 20 at Clinton United Methodist Church, 10700 Brandywine Road, 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

All are invited. Just sign in. There'll be a continental breakfast. Come, bring a relative or friend. For information, call 301-868-1281. Mental Health Ministry, Beverly W. Baker, Chairman; Dorothea Belt Stroman, pastor.

### Bingo at the K of C

The Knights of Columbus has Bingo every Wednesday night at 3611 Stewart Road in Forestville (behind Big Z Liquors). \$1,000.00 Progressive Bonanza Game, \$500.00 Treasure Chest Game, a Speedball game, a \$500.00 Jackpot game and much more. The doors open at 5, sales begin at 6 and Early Birds start at 7. They also offer a good meal, reasonably priced.

### People (and eagles)

Morningsiders went to the polls May 1 and re-elected two incumbents, Vice Mayor Bradley Wade and Council Member Todd Mullins. There was a write-in for former Town Councilman John Anthony.

A very special happy birthday today (May 18) to Morningside's Mayor Benn Cann!

Happy 100th birthday to Virginia Gerald, mother of Skyline's Membership Chairman Yvonne Garvin.

Bishop Roy Campbell, Washington's new Auxiliary Bishop, administered Confirmation at St. Philip's Church on April 27. Bishop Campbell has been pastor of St. Joseph's in Largo since 2010.

Mr. President and First Lady are proud parents of Honor and Glory, so named by about 30,000 voters. Honor is female; Glory's sex yet unknown. The family is doing well, in their bald eagle's nest high up in a tree in the National Arboretum.

### Recruiting

Reserve your bunk for the next Live-in Recruiting Weekend at the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department June 2-5. Go to recruitment@MorningsideVFD27.com.

Prince George's Dept. of Corrections is also hiring. They offer paid annual and sick leave, health, dental, vision and life insurance, uniform allowance, paid holidays, 25 years retirement. Qualifications: You must be at least 18, U.S. citizen, 5 years permanent resident, have a high school diploma and a valid driver's license. Info: 301-952-7385 or

301-324-4438, or //agency.governmentjobs.com/pgc.

### Changing landscape

Aldi Camp Springs will soon undergo a 9-week complete renovation. First three weeks, it will be open; last six weeks, it will be closed. This renovation will expand usable floor space and increase product.

A Restaurant Row is scheduled for the Branch Avenue metro area, and it will have the new immigration office.

Horace & Dickies Seafood & Chicken! has opened at 5601 Allentown Road, across from Malcolm Grow Medical Center. They offer 25% off for military, police and fire department personnel with active duty I.D.

The Save-A-Lot store in District Heights was due to close May 2. But management decided to give it another chance. They had a Grand Re-Opening on May 5.

China Sea, in Suitland, has closed. It was a thriving restaurant when we moved here in 1958, and my favorite place to dine. But I've seen it go downhill, like Dino's and Silver Hill. Is there a good restaurant left in Suitland?

### May they rest in peace

Carolyn Hartsock Fonner, Suitland High 1963 grad, died this week at the Baltimore Washington Medical Center in Glen Burnie. When I get her obit, I'll write more about her. I do know she was active in planning Class of '63 reunions.

Betty Lee (Rutledge) Nagro, 85, longtime resident of Camp Springs, died April 19. On June 23, 1957 she married Benny Nagro. They were members of St. Philip's Parish where they were involved with music ministry and were ushers. For a time Betty, Benny and daughter Brenda all sang with me in the choir. Benny died in 2015. Betty is survived by her children, Brian Michael Nero and his wife Maria and Brenda and her husband Kevin McMonigle (who lived in Skyline), three grandchildren and nine great-grands.

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## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

New Hope Fellowship Cooperative Parish Women's Day Celebration will be held Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 11:00 AM. The guest speaker will be Rev. Shonda Nicole Gladden Pastor of Allen Temple AME Church Mar-Indiana. Our theme is honoring women around the world. The service will be held in the Family Life Center at Nottingham Myers United Methodist located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Rev. Constance Smith is our Pastor.

### WATKINS NATURE CENTER

Watkins Nature Center features live animal exhibits, including amphibians, birds of prey, invertebrates and reptiles. The Little Shop of Nature has unusual children's items. You will be able to borrow a trial discovery backpack to explore six miles of easy to follow, color-blazed trails.

There is also an attached kitchenette and auditorium available to rent for receptions, meetings and workshops. The capacity is 90. Address is 301 Watkins

Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. Telephone number is 301-218-6702.

### SUMMER FRIDAYS

Summer Fridays at National Harbor you can play corn hole, hopscotch, hula-hoops, Connect Four, and lots more activities with friends. You will also be able to enjoy performances by Bobby McKey's, giveaways and listen to the DJ spin your favorite jams. You can join the best sunset view in the DMV. Get your flip-flops on and bring your camera and have some fun.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC. (CSS)

CSS is a caring agency serving Southern Prince George's & Northern Charles Counties. CSS offers a variety of volunteer opportunities. Volunteering at CSS can be a few hours a month or a few days per week. CSS volunteers are retirees, students, families-people from all walks of life. Their office is located at the Chapel of the Incarnation, 14070 Brandywine Rd., (Corner Brandywine Rd. and Missouri Ave.) Brandywine, Maryland. Office hours are Monday,

Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM, Wednesday and Friday 11:30 AM-4:40 PM and by appointment. Email: CSS1995@aol.com. Website is www.CommunitySupportSystems.org. Telephone number is 301-372-1491.

### HAT, HEELS AND TEA

Join us for Hat, Heels and Tea, entertainment and silent auction June 3, 2017 from 12:00-3:00 PM at our Family Life Center Nottingham Myers United Methodist. The address is 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. Donation is \$20.00. For more information, contact the Church Office at (301) 888-2171, website:www.thenhf.org, e-mail: NewHope014@gmail.com.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Patricia Washington, Lawrence Dorsey, Jordan Jackson, Kim Montgomery, Elandra Dorsey, Markell Peterson, II, Andrienne Johnson, Jina Jackson and Chantel Wright who are Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Members celebrating their birthdays in May.

## Neighborhoods

### Maryland Department of the Environment Releases Annual Clean Air Progress Report

BALTIMORE, MD—Despite one the hottest summers ever recorded locally, Maryland continued to make dramatic progress on reducing air pollution and improving air quality according to finding in a new report by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The report was released ahead of Air Quality Awareness Week, which was observed May 1-5.

The department's *Maryland Clean Air 2017 Progress Report* states that, in 2016, most areas of Maryland continued to meet the 2008 health-based ozone standard and remain close to meeting the new, more stringent, 2015 ozone standard. It also finds that Maryland is meeting all federal standards for fine particulate air pollution and that levels of that pollutant continue to drop annually. Ozone and fine particulate pollution are Maryland's biggest air quality issues.

The report describes the strong evidence that Maryland's pollution control programs, including Governor Larry Hogan's more stringent requirements for coal-fired power plants, are working to clean the air. The report also points to steps being taken to further improve air quality, including passage of legislation introduced by the Hogan administration to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles and efforts to reduce out-of-state pollution that negatively impacts Maryland's air quality.

"We're making clean air progress with strong partnerships and steady investments, but more is needed regionally and nationally to sustain our pace and protect our health," Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles said. "Marylanders' hearts, lungs and waterways will benefit from smart actions at home and in upwind states to keep improving our air quality."

Reducing air pollution improves public health, and actions that reduce nitrogen pollution that can be deposited to the ground and waterways also help to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

In recognition of Air Quality Awareness Week, the Department of the Environment is encouraging all citizens to follow its air quality forecasts, learn how air quality affects your health and take steps to help keep Maryland's air clean.

### Summer 2016 and Maryland's power plant regulations

According to the department's annual Clean Air progress report, Maryland experienced the sixth-warmest summer ever recorded last year. "Despite that type of weather—which usually ushers in high levels of air pollution because of increased electricity generation and the hot sun's effect on pollutants—Maryland continued to make dramatic progress in cleaning up the air," the report states, adding:

"Maryland's more stringent requirements for coal-fired power plants were in effect during the summer of 2016 and significantly reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOX), a compound that helps form ozone. The summers of 2013-2015 were much cooler

than last year's. While the hotter weather in 2016 inevitably led to an increase in ozone, the number of bad air days, the number of hours of bad air on those days, the daily peak and the geographic expanse of bad air on those days were all less than what was seen during hot summers at the start of the decade. The more stringent power plant regulations effectively reduced up to 12 tons of NOx per day in the summer of 2016. This is strong evidence that Maryland's programs are working to clean the air."

The power plant regulations put into place in 2015 build upon the Maryland Healthy Air Act, which required reductions in large power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury and greenhouse gases in previous years. Maryland power plants have invested \$2.6 billion in technology to comply with that law.

### The fight against smog

Maryland's air quality has improved dramatically in the past decade.

Ground level ozone, or smog, has been Maryland's most challenging air pollution problem for the past 30 years. At one point, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated Maryland as having the worst ozone anywhere east of the Mississippi.

In 2016, both the Baltimore area and the Washington, D.C., area continued to meet the 2008 ozone standard and both are close to meeting the 2015 ozone standard. Ozone in the Wilmington-Philadelphia area, which includes Cecil County, is slightly higher, but the area is close to meeting the 2008 standard and is working to meet the 2015 standard.

### Cutting bad air from out-of-state

Research shows that pollution from upwind states can on many days account for 70 percent of the Maryland's ozone problem. Maryland has a long history of working in partnership with other states and taking action, when necessary, to reduce "incoming ozone." These efforts have begun to show results: nitrogen oxide emissions from power plants in upwind states have decreased in recent years.

In November 2016, Maryland submitted a petition under Section 126 of the federal Clean Air Act asking the EPA to require 36 power plant units in five upwind states to run their air pollution controls every day of the summer ozone season to reduce emissions—consistent with the requirement for Maryland plants under state regulations. The report states that the resulting emissions reductions would decrease ozone levels in Maryland and could determine whether many areas of the state attain the updated ozone standard. The requirement would also lower fine particulate pollution levels in Maryland.

### Cleaner cars

Vehicles are a significant source of air pollution. The recently adopted Clean Cars Act of 2017, a bill introduced by Governor Hogan, will provide tax incentives through 2020 to encourage consumers to buy electric vehicles.

Maryland has also begun to invest in the infrastructure needed to ensure that consumers can easily charge their electric vehicles.

As part of recent federal settlements with automaker Volkswagen for installing devices that allowed vehicles to exceed emissions standards and pollute the state's air, Maryland is eligible to receive about \$76 million dollars from an environmental mitigation trust fund. This money is expected to dramatically enhance the state's efforts on Electric Vehicles and help Maryland with efforts to reduce emissions from diesel vehicles and other pollution sources. In a partnership between the Port of Baltimore, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Transportation, more than \$1 million has already been invested in clean diesel projects at the Port of Baltimore.

The Maryland Clean Cars Act of 2007 requires stricter-than-EPA standards to reduce emissions, including greenhouse gases and pollutants that help create ozone, and requirements for zero emission vehicles.

### Measuring sulfur dioxide

In 2010, a new health-based standard for sulfur dioxide was finalized. In 2016, based on air quality modeling, the EPA identified a small area in Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties as potentially not meeting this new standard. Contrary to EPA's air quality modeling, modeling conducted that reflected actual operating conditions shows that the area in question is meeting the new SO<sub>2</sub> standard.

Results from the two existing sulfur dioxide monitors in the state show dramatic downward trends, with levels in 2016 that were well below the new standard. Maryland is working with residents and EPA to install a sulfur dioxide monitor that will more accurately demonstrate whether there is an issue with that pollutant in the area. Maryland is being proactive to protect public health and has already begun to implement new measures to further reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

### Reducing greenhouse gases

In 2016, Maryland, working in partnership with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, began to develop the plan required by the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act of 2016. This plan will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030 while also supporting a healthy economy and the creation of new jobs. New initiatives for 2016 and 2017 include Governor Hogan's Clean Cars Act of 2017, enhancements to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that are being discussed by the nine RGGI states, a ban on hydraulic fracturing, new efforts to reduce methane emissions and the Healthy Soils program.

"The Hogan Administration is committed to bipartisan solutions that protect the environment, while growing the economy and providing affordable and reliable energy to Maryland citizens and communities," Secretary Grumbles said.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Prepare Your Kids for the Real World by Turning Monthly Bills Into Lessons

When you're a kid, a few dollars can seem like all the money in the world. It can take weeks, sometimes months, to save up your allowance. When you finally decide to spend it, you might realize that \$10 or \$20 isn't as much as it seems.



As a parent, you can help your children build important money management skills by providing experiences for them at a young age. Leading by example is a good way to start, and it can help instill good values and money habits. However, you'll also want your children to get their hands dirty.

**Open up your books.** The value of money is a lesson you learn over time. For young children, games, such as Peter Pig's Money Counter, or activities that help them identify coins and bills could be a good place to start. Older children may be ready to see how much things really cost. Going over bank or credit card statements, you could explain why you made each purchase and look for savings opportunities.

You can also turn a monthly bill into a teaching moment. Children might not realize how leaving the lights, heat or AC on can affect your monthly bills. You can sit down together and compare each month's bill to the bill from the previous year. The practice of reviewing and comparing bills can help children understand that their actions have financial consequences.

They'll also start to learn how much it costs to keep your home comfortable. That's a valuable lesson, one I didn't truly learn until I had my first apartment. You could take a similar approach to the groceries or other monthly expenses.

**Help your children earn an income.** Knowing the numbers is only part of the picture. It'll be difficult for children to practice managing money if they don't have any money to manage. But how, when and why children should receive an allowance is a debate for many parents.

Whether you pay a chore-based allowance or offer payment based on extra work, you could use a personal finance app that lets children see how much they'll earn for each task. There are a variety of apps designed for different age groups, and some let kids create virtual accounts where they can track their earnings, spending and progress towards financial goals.

You can also help children find ways to earn money from outside the family. Organizing a yard sale could be a chance for them to help you clean out the home, practice bargaining and learn valuable lessons in entrepreneurship. Even a lemonade stand or bake sale requires that they buy supplies, work to earn money and put aside some of their earnings to pay for more supplies later.

**Make your kids responsible for their bills.** With a steady income comes increased responsibility. Make teenagers the boss of a bill, with real consequences for late payments.

The mobile phone or internet bill could be a good place to start. Figure out an appropriate portion for them to take on and require them to pay you each month. If they're late, they lose internet access or their phone until they can pay their balance. When they don't have enough saved to pay the bill, offer work opportunities for them to make money.

Once they take responsibility for their first monthly bill, you can also share how you manage the household's finances. Show them what it's like to keep multiple bills organized each month, make payments by writing checks or setting up auto-pay. Then explain how late payments can lead to fees, affect your credit and (just like with their phone) get services shut off.

**Bottom line:** Understanding how much it costs to manage a home and the importance of paying your bills on time can help you avoid costly mistakes. Some people learn these lessons once they're at college or living on their own, but you can help give your kids a leg up by taking a proactive approach to their financial education.

### Heroic Bus Driver Recognized at MRSPA's Business Meeting

By PRESS OFFICER  
MRSPA

ODENTON, MD—The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, (MRSPA), recognized Renita Smith, the heroic bus driver who saved the lives of 20 Prince George's County school-aged children, at its Annual Business Meeting in Turf Valley in Ellicott City, Maryland on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

Ms. Smith was the special guest of Association President Frances "Fay" Miller and was seated at the head table along with other MRSPA officers.

President Miller introduced Ms. Smith to the 250 members attending the business meeting via a video of her heroic rescue. Vice President Lorraine W. Johnson read an original poem about Ms. Smith's courageous actions. The Association presented Ms. Smith with a certificate of appreciation as well as a gift basket containing items representative of the State of Maryland.

Mr. Smith thanked the Association for having her as its special guest and recognizing her in such a fine fashion at its Annual Business Meeting.

### Team Maryland Works to Expand Affordable College Education Opportunities for Maryland Families

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Ben Cardin

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Members of Maryland's congressional delegation gathered on May 3, to hear from leaders in Maryland's higher education community on how to best serve Maryland colleges and the students they educate. Members held an in-depth discussion with University System of Maryland Chancellor Dr. Robert Caret, McDaniel College President and Chair of the Maryland Independent Colleges and University Association (MICUA) Board of Trustees Dr. Roger Casey, Morgan State University President Dr. David Wilson, and Chesapeake College President and Vice-President of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) Executive Committee Dr. Barbara Viniar.

"Maryland families know and understand the value of a higher education, yet for far too many, families are being forced to undertake significant debt in order to place their foothold in the middle class. Our state's colleges and universities understand this challenge faced by Marylanders and shared their vision on how to build on efforts to provide students with an affordable higher education said Senator Ben Cardin. "As a delegation, Team Maryland is committed to working with our state's leaders in higher education to provide quality, afford-

able educational opportunities for Maryland families."

"Working to ensure higher education is affordable for Maryland students continues to be a top priority for the Maryland Delegation," said Congressman Steny H. Hoyer. "I remain hopeful that Congress can work together in a bipartisan manner, similar to the bipartisan reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, in a way that improves both access and affordability for our students. As a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and as a former Regent of the University System of Maryland, I will continue to work with my colleagues to invest in education for all students in our state."

"I was happy to meet with higher education leaders today to talk about moving forward on issues affecting students in Maryland," said Senator Chris Van Hollen. "As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will work tirelessly to protect the support for higher education we secured in the FY17 spending bill we're voting on this week, and to fight the many harmful education cuts proposed in President Trump's FY18 budget. Every child who has the desire and willingness to go to college and work hard should have the opportunity for success—without worrying about the cost. We need to tackle the issue not only of col-

lege affordability, but of the crushing debt that many students graduate with. I look forward to working with the entire Congressional Delegation and Maryland's higher education leaders to tackle these and many other issues."

"Maryland is home to some of the world's best colleges and universities—the challenge now is to ensure they are affordable and accessible to Maryland students," said Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger. "College students now owe more than \$1.4 trillion in education loans, second only to home mortgages, in terms of consumer debt. I stand ready to support all efforts to ease student debt so that we can continue providing a pipeline of workers ready to hit the ground running and secure a job right out of college."

"Today's productive conversation with leaders from Maryland's higher education community was a step forward in our collective effort to make college more accessible and affordable for American students," said Congressman John Sarbanes. "It's important for every stakeholder in this field to work together to reduce the economic and social barriers to higher education."

"In today's high-skill, high-tech global economy, education has never been more important. I know that education changed my life and I want every Marylander to have the same opportunity. I thank Senator Cardin

and Whip Hoyer for convening this meeting with state leaders and continuing the dialogue on how we can improve access and opportunity," said Congressman John K. Delaney.

"Every person, no matter where they live or where their family is from, deserves a world-class education. By investing in our classrooms and keeping college affordable, we can close the achievement gap and equip our students with the skills needed to compete in a 21st century global economy. But as the cost of attaining a post-secondary degree continues to rise, we must do more to ensure a quality higher education does not slip out of reach for working families," said Congressman Anthony Brown. "I'm committed to expanding and increasing Pell Grant funding, lowering student loan interest rates, improving access to community colleges, and expanding loan forgiveness programs. But I also challenge college and university leaders to prioritize affordability, use tuition dollars efficiently and provide the best value to students."

"Maryland has a powerful interest in investing in higher education, which is key to American prosperity, social mobility and a thriving democratic society," said Congressman Jamie Raskin. "We are determined to do whatever we can to make sure that no one pulls the plug on our young people and limits their ability to contribute all of their gifts and talents."

### Congressman Steny Hoyer Attends a Meet and Greet With Members of the Prince George's County Council

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Steny Hoyer

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) attended a meet and greet with members of the Prince George's County Council on May 9, to discuss some of the issues most important to the County, including the relocation of the FBI headquarters and transportation

projects throughout the region. "I was pleased to have the opportunity to attend a meet and greet with members of the Prince George's County Council this afternoon to provide an update on what's happening in Congress, and address some of the issues most pressing to the County," said Congressman Hoyer. "I reiterated my strong support for the relocation of the FBI headquarters to Prince

George's County, which is the best location for the new, fully consolidated headquarters. Additionally, I shared with the Council my strong support for efforts to improve the safety and reliability of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, including the passage of a Congressional resolution to establish the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, as well as my support for the Purple Line

light rail project." "I thank the Council for the opportunity today to provide an update on important issues facing Prince George's County," Congressman Hoyer continued. "I will continue to work with members of the community, as well as my colleagues in Congress, to ensure the needs of the County are well-represented at the federal level."



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#### TOWN OF CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and Common Council of Capitol Heights, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2017, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by .04208% from \$252,765,207 to \$263,402,409.
2. If Capitol Heights maintains the current tax rate of \$0.4455 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by .04208% resulting in \$47,388.73 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$ 0.4275, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The Town of Capitol Heights is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The town proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.4455 per \$100 of assessment.

This tax rate is 0.04211% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$47,388.73 in additional property tax revenues.

A Public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 6:00 pm on June 1, 2017 at Vivian Dodson Municipal Center, 1 Capitol Heights Boulevard, Capitol Heights, Maryland.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-0626 for further information.

# COMMENTARY

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



### Hoyer Statement on Proposed Insurance Rate Increases in Maryland

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement after insurance companies in the state of Maryland submitted their rate increase requests for 2018:

"I am deeply concerned by the proposed rate increases in the state of Maryland for 2018. The uncertainty sown by House Republicans and the Trump Administration, including the House's passage of TrumpCare, is already having a negative impact on the health insurance market in our state, and in those across the country. President Trump's failure to commit to continuing payment of cost sharing reductions, coupled with the lack of clarity regarding

the enforcement of the law's individual responsibility requirements, is forcing insurers to increase premiums and out-of-pocket costs for millions of American families.

"While improvements are needed to bring health care costs down for everyone, the Affordable Care Act has brought access to affordable coverage for thousands of Marylanders, and the law must not be repealed. Should the Affordable Care Act be repealed or sabotaged, thousands of families in Maryland and across the country will be irreparably harmed. I will continue to fight efforts that would take health care away from Marylanders and raise costs for many more."



Fort Foote Park

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS AND RECREATION

#### FORT FOOTE PARK

Eight miles downriver from the capital, Fort Foote was considered "a powerful enclosed work" by its chief engineer, "and the most elaborate ... of all the defenses of Washington." The long oval earthwork was constructed on Rozier's Bluff from 1863 to 1865 to strengthen the ring of fortifications that encircled Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. Fort Foote was designed to protect the river entrance to the ports of Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington and replace the aging Fort Washington as the primary river defense. Today the National Park Service has cleared paths around the ruins of what is considered the best preserved Civil War fort in the region. Fort Foote is located on the Potomac River in Prince Georges County. From the Beltway (I-95), take exit 3A, Indian Head Highway south (MD210) and drive for approximately 3.5 miles to Old Fort Road. Turn right for 1 mile to Fort Foote Road S, turn left. Follow the winding road through the residential area to entrance sight on the left for the fort.

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### Forced Out at Fox: The King of Cable News Gets Canceled

"Bill O'Reilly has helped set the bar for the normalization and dissemination of right-wing hatred, offering incendiary commentary about sexual harassment and assault, gender, race and ethnicity, low-income people, the LGBTQ community, Muslims and refugees, immigrants, and reproductive rights."

— Media Matters for America

Bill O'Reilly's public downfall was a long time in the making—set in motion by a string of sexual harassment claims and the hemorrhaging of high-profile advertisers from *The O'Reilly Factor*, a Fox News channel mainstay and money maker.

According to reporting by the *New York Times*, for a period that spanned 15 years, O'Reilly and 21st Century Fox—the parent company for Fox News—together settled five separate allegations of sexual harassment brought by female Fox employees—which included accusations of verbal

abuse, unwanted advances and explicit comments—for \$13 million. And since that report was published, more women have come forward alleging gross and inappropriate behavior by Fox's biggest star.

O'Reilly's cable news program was—and remains—a cash cow for Fox News. It is nothing short of a testament to the show's money generating power and vaulted cable ratings perch that Fox News kept O'Reilly on payroll as the company quietly purchased the silence of his accusers for over a decade. In a nod to television's obsession with re-runs, the so-called swift end to O'Reilly's career at Fox News was preceded by a similar scandal involving Roger Ailes, the network's co-founder and then-chairman. Accused of multiple acts of sexual harassment, 21st Century Fox paid

See CABLE Page A7

### Flipping the Switch

What if boosting a toddler's brainpower was as easy as turning on a light switch? In fact, "Flip the Switch" is one of the simple activities suggested by Vroom, an initiative that provides creative tools and materials to help families turn daily interactions with children into "brain building moments." On one side of an electronic "flashcard" Vroom describes this idea for children between six months and two years old: "Before leaving the house today, let your child be the one to turn off the lights. Help them flip all the switches and talk about how their actions turn the lights off for darkness and on for light." On the reverse side Vroom explains the "brainy background" behind it: "This game teaches your child about cause and effect. When one of you hits the switch, your child will observe how the lights turn off and on. Have a conversation about what is happening so they learn some new words too."

Vroom, an initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation, is one of a number of initiatives across the country focused on empowering parents to boost early childhood brain development. The first five years of life are the time of greatest brain development. Early nurturing interactions with caring adults form the basis of a healthy brain foundation. The strong case for increased federal investments for quality child care and other early childhood programs is bolstered by the great local work supporting families and communities in building healthy brains during children's earliest years of life.

Vroom is partnering with leaders in a number of cities to build early learning communities where high quality early learning environments are available for all children. In Dallas, Vroom is working with the Commit! Partnership to improve access to quality early learning opportunities and create a continuum of care to support children and families, with an ultimate goal of ensuring 80 percent of Dallas children enter kindergarten ready to learn by 2025. They are using Vroom's "Moments Framework" to educate parents about the importance of the early years for children's development and suggest activities they can do. For

example, what do zoos, museums, laundromats and nail salons have in common? For Vroom, these are all opportunities to spread awareness about how parents can create "brain building moments" every day while they are out and about with their children. Vroom has also launched a free app so parents can receive daily developmentally appropriate activities like "Flip the Switch" on their smartphones.

A baby is born with a brain 25 percent as large as an adult brain. Researchers at the Institute for Learning and Brain Science at the University of Washington tell us that by the time she reaches her fifth birthday, her brain is already over 90 percent of the size of her mature brain. That startling period of growth in size is mirrored by the growth in neural connections needed to learn how to process information and build skills.

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University reports that in the earliest years of a child's life more than one million of these connections are formed every second, with simpler connections paving the way for more complex ones. These early connections build the foundation for children's future health, education and behavior.

Every time adults respond appropriately to a young child's calls for attention, they are helping build and strengthen neural connections and supporting the development of a strong brain foundation. The Center on the Developing Child refers to this quality parent-child communication as "serve and return" interactions and says the absence of them is a "serious threat" to a child's development.

The idea for the Boston Basics initiative was born out of a 2011 conference hosted by Dr. Ron Ferguson devoted to discovering what parents need to know to help eliminate skill gaps already evident at age two. An advisory committee of researchers came up with five "Basics" all parents should practice with their children to support healthy brain development: 1) Maximize Love, Manage Stress; 2) Talk, Sing, and Point; 3) Count, Group, and Compare; 4) Explore through Movement and Play; and 5) Read and Discuss Stories. The Boston Basics Campaign, launched in January 2016, is a public-private collaboration between leaders from the Black Philanthropy Fund, the Boston Mayor's Office, the Pe-

See WATCH, Page A8

### CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Mayor and City Council of Seat Pleasant propose to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2017 the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.8 % from 261,816,284 to 274,422,396.
2. If the City of Seat Pleasant maintains the current tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.8% resulting in \$73,115.45 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax should be reduced to \$.5534, the constant yield rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$.58 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.8% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$73,115.45 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 5:30 pm on Tuesday May 30, 2017 at City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743.

The hearing is open to the public and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (301) 336-2600 for further information.

## The Prince George's Post

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Contents © 2017, The Prince George's Post

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

# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### So Who are Professional Counselors?

Too many people know only one aspect of the counseling profession, and may be unaware of all that professional counselors have to offer. In many cases, the only contact a family may have had was with a school counselor when their children were in elementary, junior or high school. Yet while the counseling profession includes school counselors, they're only one part of the profession.

For starters, it's important to understand that professional counselors must complete quite a bit of specialized education before they can work in the counseling field. All professional counselors today hold at least a Master's degree, and growing numbers have earned doctoral degrees. In addition, as part of their education, they have typically spent at least 3,000 hours in supervised clinics to earn their license.

As part of their education and training, most professional counselors specialize in specific areas of counseling. They may focus on wellness, on career development, on relationship issues, on working with children or in any of the many other areas in which people may need help.

And help is what counselors have to offer. Often people are under the mistaken impression that when someone sits down with a professional counselor, that counselor is going to be to tell the person how to change and live his or her life. The reality is that counselors don't dictate to their clients, but rather assist the clients in discovering for themselves what issues are concerning them and what alternatives there might be to overcome problems and develop solutions.

Yes, some people who work with a professional counselor may be facing severe lifestyle or mental health issues, but the majority of the clients with whom counselors work are just regular people who are looking for help with everyday issues. Maybe the person is unhappy in his or her career, maybe there are relationship issues, maybe the person is feeling depressed without really know why. Working with a counselor is a means for finding answers that are often difficult to discover on one's own.

Finding a professional counselor to work with isn't difficult to do. Your physician or local mental health center can usually make recommendations. The American Counseling Association's website also offers a free referral service to locate a counselor in your area. It's online at [www.counseling.org/find-counselor](http://www.counseling.org/find-counselor). Clicking there can be the first step in finding professional assistance to a happier and more fulfilling life.

*Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to [ACAcorner@counseling.org](mailto:ACAcorner@counseling.org) or visit the ACA website at [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org)*

### Firefighter from A1

of the life-threatening situation confronting the victim.

Retired Fire/EMS Department Lieutenant Colonel Tyrone Wells, also returning from the funeral, spied the incident and stopped to provide assistance. A construction tool belonging to an unidentified bystander was used in a second attempt to access the SUV. Forcible entry was in progress when the victim inadvertently stepped on the gas pedal, driving the vehicle down the slope and off the shoulder of the road. The fire was now at a difficult angle with extension into the engine compartment, posing greater peril to an already demanding situation. The SUV's new position had rendered the driver's side inaccessible. It was imperative to affect this rescue immediately or prepare for a tragic outcome. Chief Ware and Colonel Wells, with the bystander's help, managed to get down the slope and access the passenger side of the vehicle.

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department isn't the only organization to commend Chief Ware's heroism, as he was also named the American Legion's 2017 National Firefighter of the Year. Notification of this honor came from George Wehrli, Chairman of the American Legion National Law

and Order Committee, who stated, "To maintain law and order is one of the major objectives included in the American Legion's Preamble to its Constitution. As a National winner, you personify the meaning of America's Bravest. I wish you continued success in your career and look forward to meeting you at the National Convention."

In July, Chief Ware will travel to Ocean City, Maryland, where he will be honored by the American Legion at the state level. The following month, he will attend the organization's 99th National Convention in Reno, Nevada, for the presentation of the National Firefighter of the Year Award at the National Commander's Banquet.

In January 2017, Chief Ware was awarded **Career Firefighter of the Year** by the Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council No. 2577. In addition, in March 2017, the Largo-Kettering Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States awarded him **Outstanding Firefighter of the Year**, and the **National Firefighters Citation**.

Congratulations, Assistant Fire Chief Darren! Your actions reflect well on you personally and professionally and exemplify the excellent caliber of service we strive to provide to the residents of Prince George's County.

## Rushern L. Baker Tells Crowd: "County Will Be Working Full Throttle During Last 18 Months of the Administration"

County Executive Baker Draws More Than 500 Business Leaders at State of the Economy Address

By LORI C. VALENTINE  
PGCEDC

CLINTON, MD—Last Wednesday, County Executive Rushern Baker delivered his 2017 'State of the Economy' Address at the Colony South Hotel in Clinton, Maryland. Co-hosted by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, the event drew a crowd of over 500 local business leaders, developers and elected officials who were eager to hear Mr. Baker's vision for the economy. Having coined the phrase "Prince George's County is the economic engine of the State of Maryland, and I dare say the region," Mr. Baker stated that the final 18 months of his Administration will be working at "full throttle."

"Last year, I talked about the tremendous economic opportunities we have here in the County and the places where we were going to invest and capitalize on our assets. I talked about the investments we would be making in order to continue this trend of growth for Prince George's County," said Baker. "This year, we are pressing down on the gas of our economic engine and we not are done yet. This engine is still running at a great pace and we will continue to run at full throttle. We are moving towards our destiny!"

Mr. Baker further emphasized his desire to work hard on all of the projects and initiatives that have defined his tenure as County

Executive. The Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative, development in Suitland, New Carrollton and downtown Largo, the build-out of the Regional Medical Center and the pouring of resources into improving the school system remain high on his priority list. Mr. Baker also expressed his confidence that Prince George's County will, indeed, be the home of the FBI. Mr. Baker's pick to lead economic development for the County shares the same sentiments.

"Today was a great day for Prince George's County. As the Chief 'Excitement' Officer for Prince George's County, I have the distinguished privilege to go out every day and tell the world about the great opportunities in Prince George's County," said Jim Coleman, EDC President and CEO. "This county is on fire because of the transformative opportunities that would not have been possible without the vision and decisive thinking of our County Executive, Rushern Baker. Because of him, everything that should be up, is up; and everything that should be down, is down. Because of him, the EDC is fully committed to making Prince George's County the Gateway to commerce in this region and the world."

County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis joined Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable President and CEO M.H. Jim Estep to bring greetings to the audience. Mr. Estep served as the master of cere-



PHOTO COURTESY MIKE YOURISHIN  
Left to right: Derrick L. Davis, Council Chair, Prince George's County Council; Jim Coleman, President and CEO, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation; County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County; H. Jim Estep, President and CEO, Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable

monies and highlighted all of the assets Prince George's County has at its disposal.

"This is an incredible community, lead by an incredible leader," said Estep. "To have such highly-educated thinkers and intellectuals, such beautiful parks and recreation facilities, such successful businesses and business leaders, some of the most skilled elected and appointed government officials, a highly-skilled workforce, an abundance of land, courageous first responders, military and educators, to be located at the gateway to our nation's capital and have such a rich and diverse history, we have a lot to be thankful for in Prince George's County!"

The 2017 State of the Economy Address was sponsored by

Pepco, along with generous donations from Gold Sponsors NAI Michael, Proflex, and Old Line Bank.

The next opportunity to network with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation will be at its Women's Excellence & Leadership Luncheon on June 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the MGM National Harbor Hotel, 101 MGM National Avenue, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

For more information about the Luncheon, please visit [www.pgcedcexcellence.com](http://www.pgcedcexcellence.com). To register for this upcoming event, contact Nichelle Holmes at 301-583-4650 or [naholmes@pgcedc.com](mailto:naholmes@pgcedc.com) or visit [www.pgcedc.com/events](http://www.pgcedc.com/events).

### Awards from A1

#### Excellence in Education— Dr. Debra Mahone

Dr. Debra Mahone currently serves as the director of State and Federal programs in Prince George's County, Maryland. She is a highly skilled educational leader, experienced in school reform, program and leadership development, and curriculum and technology integration. Among many other accomplishments, Dr. Mahone was successful in implementing the largest one to one, iPad de-

ployments in the nation in 2013. Dr. Mahone serves as a true example of a trailblazer in the field of Education.

#### Excellence in Community Service—Lisa Liu

Lisa Liu is the Founder and Manager of Long River Realty, an international real estate company with residential and commercial clients in the United States, China, Korea, India and Europe. In addition to this, Lisa Liu serves as the Asian Business Advisor to the Prince George's County EDC,

and has aided Prince George's County by creating mutually beneficial partnerships with the County and the local, Asian business community.

#### Excellence in Entrepreneurship— Sara Bahethi

Ms. Saraswati (Sara) Bahethi currently serves as the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer of Science Systems and Applications Inc., (SSAI). As the co-founder and majority owner of SSAI, which was founded in 1977, she is responsible for short-term and

long-term cash management in addition to the overall fiscal control of the company.

Please join the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation in applauding the accomplishments of these extraordinary women.

For more information about the Women's Excellence & Leadership Luncheon, please visit the website at [www.pgcedcexcellence.com](http://www.pgcedcexcellence.com). To register for this upcoming event, contact Nichelle Holmes at 301-583-4650 or [naholmes@pgcedc.com](mailto:naholmes@pgcedc.com) or visit [www.pgcedc.com/events](http://www.pgcedc.com/events).



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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## CHiPs

CHiPs  
Grade: B-  
Rated R, pervasive harsh profanity and vulgar dialogue, some nudity, some strong violence  
1 hr., 40 min

There's a really funny R-rated buddy-cop movie starring Michael Peña as a reckless law-enforcement officer. It's called *War on Everyone*, and it co-stars Alexander Skarsgard. You should see it!

There's also *CHiPs*—a significantly less funny though still watchable buddy-cop movie starring Peña and Dax Shepard as motorcycle-riding California Highway Patrol officers. It has the same title, punctuation notwithstanding, as *CHiPs*, a 1977-83 TV series, but I assume that's a coincidence, as they have almost nothing else in common.

In this version, Shepard—who also wrote and directed—plays Jon Baker, a banged-up former motorcycle racer who now chews pain pills like candy and has just become a CHP officer in sunny Los Angeles. He's partnered with Frank "Ponch" Poncherello (Peña), a federal agent working undercover as a CHiP to investigate a series of armored-car robberies that might have been perpetrated by crooked L.A. cops. (Not to spoil who it might be, but Vincent D'Onofrio is also in the cast.)

Jon's an eager rookie who wants to do everything by the book and earn back the respect of his shrewish wife, Karen (Kristen Bell, Shepard's real-life spouse). He doesn't know that Ponch, a loose cannon, is a Fed with a secret agenda who's interested only in pursuing his investigation and not, for example, in doing everyday CHP work. Jon is touchy-feely and enlightened (always "three beers-too-intimate," Ponch calls him); Ponch is insensitive, grossed-out



ROTTENTOMATOES

Dax Shepard (*Hit & Run*, TV's *Parenthood*) and Michael Peña (*Ant-Man*) star in the action-comedy *CHiPs*, directed by Shepard from his own script. Jon Baker (*Shepard*) and Frank Ponch Poncherello (Peña) have just joined the California Highway Patrol (CHP) in Los Angeles, but for very different reasons. Baker is a beaten-up former pro motorbiker trying to put his life and marriage back together. Poncherello is a cocky undercover Federal agent investigating a multi-million dollar heist that may be an inside job—inside the CHP. The inexperienced rookie and the hardened pro are teamed together, but clash more than click, so kick-starting a real partnership is easier said than done. But with Baker's unique bike skills and Ponch's street savvy it might just work ... if they don't drive each other crazy first.

by male affection or physical closeness. The movie keeps coming back to this subject, one of Shepard's personal fascinations. Is it "homophobic" for Ponch to refuse to hug a man clad only in underwear? How much skin-on-skin contact is acceptable before it becomes "gay," and why is that a problem? The returns on this topic diminish considerably before Shepard is finished with it, I can tell you that.

Anyway, things shift about midway through the film, when Ponch finally fills Jon in on the federal investigation and they start working together on it. It's a good development that should have come sooner: there is much more fun to be had in opposite-but-partnered characters having

the same goal than there is in an odd couple working on different agendas. These versions of Ponch and Jon are cluttered with extraneous quirky personality traits—besides what I've already mentioned, Jon is overly sensitive to smells, and Ponch is a sex addict and compulsive masturbator—but this gives the film a pleasant unpredictability. It follows the formula of the buddy-cop action movie, but it's peppered with detours and Seinfeldian conversational tangents that vary widely in quality but at least keep things from feeling too familiar.

Michael Peña's casual disregard for social norms is the movie's most consistent pleasure, followed closely by a run-

ning gag about his tense relationship with his former partner (Adam Brody). Shepard's obsession with cars and motorcycles pays off in the action scenes, an example of a filmmaker's personal interests making him a good fit for the material. At the other end of that spectrum is a glaringly out-of-place gag about paparazzi, one of several purely self-indulgent touches that make you think, C'mon, Dax. That's not what grown-ups do when they make real movies for big studios. *CHiPs* is uneven in that way, veering from scathing humor to patience-trying nonsense and back again, but it winds up just barely on this side of the thin blue line between good and bad.

### 2035 from A1

hensive planning for sustainable communities. The award was formally presented at the APA'S annual conference in New York City on May 8.

*Plan Prince George's 2035 Approved General Plan (Plan 2035)* specifically earned accolades for its efforts to seek diverse participation in the planning process, including targeted outreach to immigrant communities and the use of a wide range of communications platforms to inform and engage community stakeholders through the planning process. Reviewers also found the plan's presentation to be

clear and compelling. The "Why Does this Matter Section" was specifically noted as effective at communicating the plan's contents.

"The Prince George's County Planning Department is honored to have been recognized for doing what we feel is natural-engaging our community in envisioning its future," said Andree Green Checkley, Planning Director. "Community engagement is not only a key component in any successful planning process, but lays a foundation for our communities to work together for years to come."

Submitted plans were reviewed and scored based on three factors: the principles,

processes and attributes of comprehensive plan standards. The principles focus on a livable built environment; harmony with nature; resilient economy; interwoven equity; healthy community; and responsible regionalism. The processes looked at the preparation and implementation of the plans. The final factor looks at the attributes that shape the content and characteristics of comprehensive plans.

*Plan Prince George's 2035* presents an innovative and bold blueprint for the long-term growth and development of Prince George's County, Maryland. Developed with input from thousands of citizens,

businesses, elected officials, property owners and other stakeholders in the County, the Plan looks broadly and strategically at how the county should continue to grow and strengthen over the next 20 years both as a community and as part of the greater Washington metropolitan area. The Plan's goals include capturing a greater share of the region's forecasted job growth, creating walkable urban places, meeting the needs of the county's changing population, and preserving valuable natural and historical resources. To learn more about *Plan Prince George's 2035* visit [www.pg-planning.org](http://www.pg-planning.org).

## Tomato, Tomahto

### Select the Best Tomatoes For Your Garden and Table

By MELINDA MYERS



Sliced, sauced, or cooked in your favorite recipe; tomatoes are a favorite and versatile vegetable. What's more, they taste best when grown and harvested from your own garden or container.

Ensure the best flavor and greatest results by selecting the most disease-resistant varieties and growing your tomatoes in full sun and moist, well-drained soil.

Select plants with the growth habit that works best with your garden space and gardening style. Determinate tomatoes are perfect for small-space gardens and containers. They grow to a certain height, stop growing, and produce their fruit over a relatively short timeframe. Indeterminate tomatoes continue to grow throughout the season, producing flowers and fruit until frost kills the plant or you prune off the growing tip found at the end of the main stem(s). Stake or tower the plants to save space, reduce disease and insect problems, and make harvesting more convenient.

Further narrow down your selection and grow varieties best suited to the intended use. Plant tags often provide recommendations. Or, save time and do a bit of research before visiting the garden center. The Bonnie Plant Tomato Chooser ([bonnieplants.com/tomatoes/choose-your-tomato](http://bonnieplants.com/tomatoes/choose-your-tomato)) can help you select the best tomato for your growing conditions and the intended use.

Bite-sized tomatoes are great for salads, relish trays, and snacking. Red Robin and Sweet 'n Neat produce clusters of red cherry tomatoes on compact plants. Grow them in containers or even a window box.

Tumbling Tom Red and Tumbling Tom Yellow cherry tomatoes are compact, cascading plants that create an attractive edible display in tall containers, hanging baskets, or window boxes.

Grow the explosively sweet Sun Gold and Sun Sugar cherry tomatoes. They're the candy of the garden and will get even your most reluctant family members, young and old, to eat their tomatoes. Stake or cage these tall plants and, if space is limited, grow them in a 24-inch-diameter pot.

Paste and sauce tomatoes have meatier fruit, making them perfect for sauces, soups, and preserving. Roma is the traditional favorite. The egg-shaped fruit has thick walls and few seeds. Use them during the growing season for sauces, chop and add them to an omelet, or can and freeze them for future use.

Expand your options with San Marzano heirloom paste tomato. Popular with gourmet and home chefs, the sweet, complex flavor makes a fabulous sauce. Chop a few and add them to salads, or slice and top your favorite sandwich. You'll enjoy the flavor and versatility of this tomato.

Grow a few slicing tomatoes. Most gardeners look for large, juicy tomatoes to enjoy on their sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, and salads. Look for varieties that are suited to the growing conditions. Solar Flare and Creole are heat-tolerant and keep producing despite high summer temperatures. Start picking tomatoes as soon as 65 days after planting by growing short-season varieties like Early Girl and New Girl tomatoes.

An All-America Selections winner, Celebrity, has great disease resistance and is an excellent all-around tomato. Grow this determinate tomato in a cage, or stake the plant to save space.

Heirloom varieties have been grown for more than 50 years and have maintained their original traits and popularity. Cherokee Purple's rich flavor rates high in taste tests. The dusky pink fruit with deep red interior looks as beautiful as it tastes. Add some fun and sweet flavor with Mr. Stripecy. The irregular striping of the red and yellow beefsteak-type fruit make this a popular choice.

So, gather your favorite recipes and create a list of both longtime favorites and new tomato varieties to include in this year's garden.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening* and *the Midwest Gardener's Handbook*. She hosts *The Great Courses* How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone DVD set and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio segments. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Bonnie Plants* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).

# The Prince George's Post

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

Your Newspaper of Legal Record



# Calendar of Events

May 18 — May 24, 2017

## Night Hike

Date and Time: Friday, May 19, 2017, 7:30–9 pm  
 Description: Come join a Naturalist on a nocturnal nature-themed hike in the park.  
 Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-Resident: \$6  
 Ages: Ages 6 & up  
 Location: Watkins Nature Center  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Cyrus Chestnut Trio

Date and Time: Friday, May 19, 2017, 8 pm  
 Description: Pianist Cyrus Chestnut's hard swinging, soulful sounds have become a staple in the jazz community. Blending contemporary jazz, traditional jazz and gospel, plus the occasional seasonings of Latin and samba, Chestnut gives himself plenty of freedom to explore different emotions, while keeping his music in recognizable form.

*"His brand of crisp articulation and blues-inflected harmony evokes another era ... multifaceted and dynamic ... Mr. Chestnut was the evening's star and he brought charisma to the role ..."*—**The New York Times**

Cost: \$25/person; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
 9652 Muirkirk Rd., Laurel, MD  
 Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

## 5 Forces 5K Run/Walk

Date and Time: Saturday, May 20, 2017, 9 am  
 (Onsite registration: 8 am)  
 Description: Come and run to support the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation at Watkins Regional Park. Enjoy the 3.1-mile course through our beautiful park and see all of our amenities on your run/walk. Register online at the [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com) e-store.

Cost: \$25/ages 16 & up; \$15/veteran/active duty; \$10/ages 15 & under  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: Watkins Regional Park  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## Street Eats, Acoustic Beats and Craft Beer Festival

Date and Time: Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1–5 pm  
 Description: Join us for a brew-tastic time at Watkins Regional Park. Taste craft beers, listen to music, visit vendors, and much more. Food will be available for purchase from food trucks.  
 Cost: Resident \$25; Non-Resident \$33  
 Ages: 21 & up (children permitted, but not encouraged)  
 Location: Watkins Regional Park  
 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
 Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## Region 3 Summer Kick-Off Carnival

Date and Time: Saturday, May 20, 2017, 1–3 pm  
 Description: Come join us at the Region 3 Summer Kick-off Carnival for BBQ, Live Entertainment, Gaming Station, Summer Camp Demos, and so much more. You don't want to miss this!  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Southern Technical/Recreation Complex  
 7007 Bock Road, Fort Washington, MD  
 Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY: 301-699-2544

## Concert: Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute Band

Date and Time: Saturday, May 20, 2017, 8 pm  
 Description: The Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute Band is a group of talented musicians and vocalists, who have a love and appreciation for the musicianship of Earth, Wind & Fire. This tribute band's roots primarily lie in gospel music, but they truly bring to life the magic of R&B, funk and jazz sounds that embody Earth, Wind & Fire. From the funky and "earthy" grooves to the sophisticated and complex lyrics and orchestrations, the Earth, Wind & Fire Tribute Band will continue to keep ... Earth, Wind & Fire, will live on forever!  
 Cost: \$30/person; \$25/person (students and seniors)  
 Ages: All ages welcome  
 Location: Harmony Hall Community Center  
 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD  
 Contact: 301-203-6040; TTY 301-699-2544

## Langley Park Day

Date and Time: Sunday, May 21, 2017, 12 noon–5 pm  
 Description: Enjoy an afternoon celebrating the diversity of Langley Park with music, entertainment, children's activities, great food and crafts, and fun for the entire family!  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: All ages  
 Location: Langley Park Community Center  
 1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD  
 Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

## Wellness: Walk and Talk With the Doc

Date and Time: Monday, May 22, 2017, 8:30–9:30 am  
 Description: Walking is good medicine, and it is a great way to connect with others. In this popular FREE program, health care professionals will share information and lead group walks. No registration is required. Just put on your walking shoes and join us!  
 Cost: FREE  
 Ages: 50 & up  
 Location: Fox Hill Park  
 5001 Collington Road, Bowie, MD  
 Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Fuel Cell Cars Already Here in California, and They're Coming Soon to the Northeast

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is it true that fuel cell cars are finally available for mainstream drivers in the U.S.?*

—Jack Mixson,  
 Wilmington, DE

For years, green car enthusiasts have been heralding the dawn of a new era of pollution-free driving powered by fuel cells, which combine readily available hydrogen with oxygen to fire up the engine. NASA created the first commercial grade fuel cells in the 1960s to power satellites and space capsules, and automakers have been talking up their potential for use in cars and trucks ever since.

But the idea has never gotten beyond the prototype stage, due mostly to the lack of any refueling infrastructure. After all, drivers are used to being able to refill their tanks on almost every corner, while the new generation of electric and plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) can be recharged from any electrical outlet.

But FCVs (fuel cell vehicles) may still represent the holy grail of auto travel because they combine the environmental benefits of electric vehicles (no reliance on fossil fuels and no pollution) with the driving range (~300 miles between refueling) of con-

ventional cars. While GM, Hyundai and Daimler are heavily invested in fuel cell vehicle production, Toyota and Honda are already offering fuel cell vehicles for sale or lease to drivers in California, given the Golden State's head start in creating a hydrogen refueling network. According to the California Fuel Cell Partnership, 27 hydrogen refueling stations are already up and running around metro Los Angeles and the Bay Area, with 33 more coming online soon.

Toyota's Mirai FCV seats four and offers all the trimmings of any new car—touch-screen entertainment, dual climate control, steering wheel mounted controls, radar to prevent accidents and help with parking, and a 312 mile range per fill-up. The MSRP on the Mirai is \$57,500, but Toyota is currently offering \$7,500 back. Another option is a 36-month lease on the Mirai for \$349/month plus \$2,499 up front.

Meanwhile, Honda's new Clarity FCV is similarly appointed but offers a roomier interior (seating for five) and a longer range (366 miles per fill-up). Californians can lease the Clarity (it's not for sale in the U.S.) for \$369/month for 36 months plus \$2,868 due at signing, with Honda covering the first \$15,000 worth of hydrogen fuel.



CREDIT: RYNSEOUT, FLICKRCC

**Toyota's Mirai fuel cell vehicle is already available in California, the only U.S. state with any kind of hydrogen refueling infrastructure in place.**

Drivers behind the wheel of the Mirai or Clarity qualify for a one-time \$5,000 tax rebate from California for driving a green car, not to mention access to HOV lanes statewide even with just a single occupant.

Of course, fuel cell drivers won't want to leave California just yet. Outside of the Golden State, there are exactly three publicly accessible hydrogen re-

fueling stations (Massachusetts, Connecticut and South Carolina each have one). But later this year Toyota, in partnership with France's Air Liquide, will start to roll-out a new network of hydrogen refueling stations around the northeastern U.S. so drivers there can start to enjoy the benefits of driving the latest, greatest and greenest technology ever to grace the American road.

CONTACTS: California Fuel Cell Partnership Stations Map, [cafcp.org/stationmap](http://cafcp.org/stationmap); Honda Clarity, [automobiles.honda.com/clarity](http://automobiles.honda.com/clarity); Toyota Mirai, [toyota.com/mirai](http://toyota.com/mirai).

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## Cable from A4

out \$35 million to Gretchen Carlson, a former Fox News anchor, and several unidentified women to settle their lawsuit against Ailes. Fox News also lost two top hosts, Greta Van Susteren and Megyn Kelly (who later accused Ailes of sexual harassment) and paid \$40 million in severance to Ailes in the ensuing fallout.

Following the ouster and made-for-television-scandal of Roger Ailes, 21st Century Fox released a statement that vowed to, "continue our commitment to maintaining a work environment based on trust and respect. We take seriously our responsibility to uphold these traditional, long-standing values of our company." Yet, O'Reilly remained on the payroll—his last contract even included a clause for his termination in case any new cases of harassment came to light—and women who

claimed to have suffered under his abuse were being quieted, as per usual.

It is clear that if Fox News could not be moved by decency to maintain a "work environment based on trust and respect," it was certainly moved by dollars.

O'Reilly was also a problematic figure in many other ways. He has a long and well-established history of making racist remarks. Days before his expulsion from Fox News, O'Reilly watched a speech Rep. Maxine Waters gave from the House floor discussing patriotism in our nation's current political environment, and his response was to mock her hair, calling it a "James Brown wig." Outraged that a college president was criticized as racist for posting a picture of his staff dressed in sombreros and mustaches, O'Reilly claimed that if you go to any Mexican restaurant in the world, staff comes out, "singing "Guan-tanamera" with the sombreros

on." I've had my own brushes with O'Reilly, including an interview where he demanded that leaders such as myself "stop the BS" in relation to reducing what he coined "the Black crime problem." But it was neither racism, nor the bitter fruits of sexism that ended O'Reilly's storied rise at Fox News.

Fox News had a choice to make: keep O'Reilly, whose ratings were still strong despite the scandal, or hurt the bottom line and lose 90 advertisers, and counting, who had stampeded away from the taint of scandal. Despite O'Reilly's repeated denials of the harassment claims and support from people like Sean Hannity, a Fox news contributor who is now facing his own accusations of sexual harassment, and President Trump, who has his own colorful history with women, including boasting about grabbing them, and dealing with his own accusations of sexual ha-

arrassment, Fox News could no longer bear the cost of keeping their star contributor.

But while O'Reilly may be down, he is far from out. His permanently tarnished reputation aside, we haven't seen the last of Bill O'Reilly. Just days after his unceremonious ouster from Fox, O'Reilly is making his media comeback online, resuming his *No Spin News* podcast. His publisher has said he will continue to publish O'Reilly's books. And he received a sizeable parting gift from Fox News in the amount of \$25 million—a year's worth of his salary.

There is a victory to celebrate here, but it is a qualified one. If, at the highest levels of leadership, we commit to the belief that "women, children, and men have inherent dignity that should never be violated." The rise and money-padded fall of O'Reilly sends a mixed message, to say the least, to women and men in the workplace.

## Student from A1

course offerings at our college, and the Middle College Program was designed to ensure that the college is able to impact and affect students' lives even when they are in high school," Dr. Baker-Brown added.

Kyshira will attend Towson University in the fall where she plans to major in psychology and has aspirations of getting her Ph.D. and someday becom-

ing a counseling psychologist. During her time as an Academy of Health Sciences student, she served as president of its National Honor Society and secretary of the CRU Christian organization.

Kyshira is also an active volunteer with more than 220 service learning hours. She has also participated in the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run/Walk and volunteered at D.C. Central Kitchen, Pratt House for the

Homeless, and PGCC's very own Children's Development Clinic.

When Kyshira isn't serving others, she's quite an active student. She has made the dean's list for both the fall and spring semesters of 2016 and maintained a 4.0 GPA. Kyshira also has earned numerous leadership awards and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars on PGCC's Largo campus.

In her spare time, Kyshira enjoys running and is learning to speak Mandarin.

Prince George's Community College's 58th Commencement Exercises will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Showplace Arena and Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, MD This is an event reserved for graduating students and their family members. For more information please visit the website at [www.pgcc.edu](http://www.pgcc.edu).

## ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April needs you!!

Help Us Celebrate 29 Years in the County!

Andrews Air Force Base

September 25, 2017 all day—The Courses at AAFB

Prince George's County Christmas in April is sponsoring its 28th Annual Christmas in April • Prince George's County Susan Denison Mona Golf Tournament on September 25, 2017, at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. All profits from the tournament go toward funding the 2018 program, which renovates the homes of elderly and disabled residents of Prince George's County at no cost to the homeowner.

*Golfers and sponsors are needed!*

Please call 301-868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more.

Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 80 needy families in 2018. Please call soon as space is limited.