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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY J.F. MEILS, VIA AP

A home on Route 50 in Talbot County in Maryland shows support for Gov. Larry Hogan, who has made a priority of visiting rural areas during his first term.

## Maryland Divided: Is the Political War on Rural Maryland Dead?

By J.F. MEILS  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD—In 2009, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley closed the visitor center at the Sideling Hill cut, the symbolic gateway to Western Maryland, as a cost-saving effort.

Some saw the move as personal, or at least confirmation

of how the former governor felt about the state's rural counties.

"We had only two visitor centers that were closed in the entire state under O'Malley," said William Valentine, an Allegany County commissioner. "It wasn't too hard to figure out what happened."

Current Gov. Larry Hogan reopened the Sideling Hill Visitor Center in 2015.

Earlier this year when Hogan took the stage in Annapolis at P.A.C.E., a conference dedicated to Western Maryland, he opened with the following: "When I was sworn in two years ago, I said the war on rural Maryland was over—and I meant what I said."

Hogan's surprise election in 2014 happened in part because of an unexpected surge of rural

voters that repeated for Donald Trump two years later. And while Hogan has paid more attention to rural Marylanders than his predecessor, some politicians in rural areas say he has struggled to deliver what they want most—more money for infrastructure and less regulation from Annapolis.

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## PG County Adopts \$3.8 Billion FY 2018 Budget

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council adopted a \$3.8 billion balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2018 on Thursday, May 25. The FY 2018 County Budget becomes effective with the new Fiscal Year which begins July 1, 2017.

Prince George's County Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D)—District 6, during budget adoption remarks, thanked Prince George's County residents for their participation and engagement during the budget process.

"This new and balanced Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and stronger economy uniquely position Prince George's County to take its rightful place as an economic engine in the region. Credit for this success belongs in great part to the people of Prince George's County. Residents have remained engaged in the Council's budget process, sharing important priorities and voicing critical community concerns. We listened, and worked hard with this budget to prioritize and balance your mandates with available County resources."

See **2018 BUDGET** Page A7

## County Council Announces Recipients of FY 2017 Domestic Violence Grant Awards

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, in an initiative combatting domestic violence and related abuse in the County, has announced a list of 11 nonprofit recipients of the Council's FY 2017 Domestic Violence Grants.

The Council appropriated \$500,000 in grant funding this fiscal year and once again in

FY 2018 to support prevention activities and programs serving the housing, counseling, or advocacy needs of County residents who are victims of domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D—District 6), says the Council is working to heighten awareness, strengthen the County's safety net, and en-

See **GRANT AWARDS** Page A5

## Melwood Announces "Dining For Veterans" Campaign

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bendure Communications

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—In recognition of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month in June, Melwood invites the community to take part in its "Dining For Veterans" campaign. Participating restaurants in the greater D.C. metropolitan area have agreed to donate a portion of their proceeds from Memorial Day, May 29, through Independence Day, July 4, to Melwood's Operation: Tohidu®, a retreat program in Nanjemoy, MD, for veterans from around the country who suffer from post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury, and other service-related traumas.

Since 9/11, overseas conflicts have produced at least 650,000 veterans with service-related injuries—and thousands more have invisible wounds, such as PTS. Any veteran or active duty service member who has been diagnosed or is self-reporting with PTS or other service-related trauma is eligible to attend Operation: Tohidu—at no cost to them. The retreats focus on confidence-building and reintegr-

ation through experiential learning, outdoor activities, education, and group discussions.

"Operation: Tohidu is run by veterans, for veterans," said Melwood's Program Director of Veteran Affairs, David Blackledge, a retired Army Brigadier General with two Purple Heart medals for wounds sustained in combat. "I understand all too well the effects of PTS, brain injury, and other service-related traumas. At Tohidu, we provide a peaceful and supportive atmosphere where participants connect with nature and their fellow warriors, and with the help of experienced counselors, become empowered with alternative therapies to better manage anxiety and stress."

Retreats are designed for both male and female veterans, who participate separately, and couples where one or both individuals are veterans struggling with the effects of service-related trauma. Each retreat session serves up to 16 participants. They follow the challenge-by-choice principle using the adventure-based therapy model, whereby participants are invited to voluntarily join in each

See **VETERANS** Page A7

## Trisha Leigh Waddell Earned Master's Degree from McDaniel College

By PRESS OFFICER  
McDaniel College

WESTMINSTER, MD—Trisha Leigh Waddell of Hyattsville earned a master's degree in Deaf Education from McDaniel College.

She also received "The B. Jill Brooks Hodge Professional Development Award for a graduate student who has demonstrated academic excellence with a strong compassion for individuals with special needs and an interest in serving the deaf or disabled" during the commencement ceremony.

"Trisha Leigh Waddell served as house director of the ASL house, an on-campus residence where ASL is the primary method of communication, as well as a mentor in the ASL lab as a graduate student at McDaniel. A deaf daughter of deaf parents, she pursued her undergraduate degree at Gallaudet University, where she was a double major in theatre and English. There, she contributed to Gallaudet's newspaper, *The Buff and Blue*, and was on the



PHOTO COURTESY MCDANIEL COLLEGE

Trisha Leigh Waddell proudly poses with her Master's Degree.

college's yearbook staff. During the summer of 2014, she worked with deaf youth in London as an intern at Deafinitely Theatre. She completed an internship at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C., and wishes to continue her pursuit of impacting the lives of deaf teens. "

McDaniel College awarded more than 600 undergraduate and graduate degrees during the 147th commencement ceremony on May 20. Commencement speaker was College historian James E. Lightner to kick off the college's 150th anniversary, which will be celebrated in the 2017–2018 academic year.

The graduates hailed from 26 states, plus the District of Columbia, and 17 countries.

McDaniel College, founded in 1867 and nationally recognized as one of 40 "Colleges That Change Lives," is a four-

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### INSIDE

#### Maryland Department of Environment Releases Annual Healthy Beaches Progress Report

The report describes Maryland's beach monitoring program and efforts to make information on beach conditions readily available. The Department of the Environment works with local health departments to make sure water quality is monitored.

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#### Moving Forward for Children in California and Nationally

There is now a test for California's Governor and legislative leaders. Expanding the California EITC and creating a new early home visiting program to support vulnerable families would help the state make progress towards ending child poverty.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Netflix DVD Subscribers Are Holding On at Four Million Strong

Netflix got its start by toppling DVD Goliath Blockbuster Video, delivering DVDs to customers homes and eliminating late fees. And though the antiquated disc-by-mail service is dwindling, more than 4 million subscribers still use it.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

The action sequences have energy, if not a lot of personality, building to the usual summer blockbuster climax (the heroes have to blow something up). It's all fine. It's fine. To a large extent it's coasting on goodwill from the previous film—but the previous film established a lot of goodwill to coast on.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

How are farms and farmers dealing with climate change?

—Michael Harris,  
Lorton, VA

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Korean—the 12th language offered in Prince George's County Schools

Back when you went to high school, what language were you likely to study? Latin, maybe, because years and years ago (like when I went to school) almost all schools had Latin. And maybe French.

This year Prince George's added Korean to the curriculum at Eleanor Roosevelt, the first public school in Maryland to offer it. Next year Roosevelt will offer both Korean 1 and Korean 2.

Other languages offered in the county schools are Arabic, Chinese, Russian, American Sign Language, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese and Japanese. And Latin.

Today, in Prince George's every high school has foreign language classes, and so do most of the middle and even elementary schools. According to Maria Flores, supervisor of world languages in Prince George's, 37,000 students (28 percent) are taking a foreign language, up from 35,000 last year. (This information from an article by Donna St. George in the *Washington Post*.)

### Academia

John and Ruth Anthony, of Morningside, have two granddaughters graduating: Samantha Wade, from Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School and Crossland Evening High School, and her sister Nicole also from Wise. They both graduated June 1, Nicole in the afternoon and Samantha in the evening.

Betty Cottrell, of Skyline, has two grandkids graduating, both children of her daughter Kathy: Andrew Dangin graduated with a degree in business administration from Stevenson University on May 21. Rachel Dangin graduated from Northern High in Calvert County and will be going on to Towson State University.

Caitlin Rose Woods, daughter of Lewis and Trisha Woods of Lothian, graduated May 13 from Southern High School. Her father is the son of the late John and Anne Woods, once of Allies Road in Morningside. Her mother Trisha is the granddaughter of the late Claude and Dolores Pitts who lived just across the street on Allies.

### Jousting and lacrosse, our two State Sports

Jousting was named the Official Sport of Maryland in 1962. In fact, Maryland was the first state to adopt an official sport.

And now, lacrosse has become big in Prince George's high schools, including Crossland and Central. Across the County there are now 21 boys' and 18 girls' teams.

On October 1, 2004, lacrosse became Maryland's Official Team Sport.

### Changing landscape

Visit the Morningside Fire House and ask to see their new tables—the huge one in the break room and the second one in the McCarthy Room. Both are custom-made and elegant, both bearing the logo of #27.

As I've already told you, Aldi's in Camp Springs is in the process of doing a major renovation. Stan Holmes went by there and found many things with serious markdown, to make way for the work. He took a photo of the gallon of milk he got for 99¢.

The Family Dollar in Andrews Manor has something going on. Stan says it's an AutoZone.

Groundbreaking was May 10 at the Cadillac Motel, near Brandywine Crossing. There are plans to develop the site for such retailers as Verizon, Chipotle and Hibachi Grill, and a Lidi grocery. Where the Cadillac now stands, motel owner Manny Patel plans an office building. Later he hopes to attract a four-star, 100-room hotel and a medical office complex.

If you know of any commercial changes in your neighborhood please email me at mud-dmm@aol.com.

### Coming up

Morningside holds its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

St. Philip's Parish, in Camp Springs, is hosting Vacation Bible school 2017 in their "backyard Bible Camp" from July 17 through July 21, 6 to 8:30 pm. For information, contact April King at StpaReligiousEd@gmail.com or JoAnne Mulcahy at stphilip-parish@comcast.net.

### We're #1!

Thanks to progressive policies and practices, County residents and businesses are recycling more and throwing away less, making Prince George's #1 in Maryland for recycling.

### Morningside Memories

I began this column in the summer of 1976, 41 years ago, at the request of Morningside Mayor Glaubit.

My first column listed the leaders at the local schools' Summer Playgrounds (which we no longer have). At Morningside School, leaders were Sharon Hoffman of Camp Springs, Ann Marie Morgan of Reamy Drive and Paul Curry of Boxwood Drive. At Skyline School leaders were Jan Eggers and Walter Geissdorfer, both from Oxon Hill, and my daughter Elaine McHale of Skyline Drive.

In that first column I also mentioned the annual Maryland Municipal League Convention in Ocean City. Mayor Gerald Glaubit, Councilmen Lester Ryan, Harry Musser, Charles Kiker and Bert Etienne, town secretary Rebecca Capps, town engineer John D. Emler, town attorney Harry E. Taylor Jr. and Police Chief Matt Rosch attended.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Helen Padgett and Lucia Scott, June 16; Bill Kimbles, June 18; Stephanie Phipps, June 19; Christian Nichols and Michael Taylor, June 20; my grandson Conor McHale, Aletheia Fadness, Mark Witherow Sr. and Antonio Jackson, June 21; and Gary Fadness, June 22.

Happy anniversary to Ange and Marlyn Meoli on their 55th anniversary, June 16; and to Calvin and Debbie Brown, their 24th, on June 20.

On a personal note: In June I especially remember my mother, Rose Marie Krummack Mudd, who was born June 16, 1903. And my parents, Dr. Richard and Rose Mudd, who were married at St. Mary's Church in Ravenna, NB, on June 20, 1928. I miss them so much.

*Happy Father's Day  
to all the fathers  
who read my column*

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy birthday to William King, Stephanie Samuel, Dae Panda-Massey, Jasmine Taylor, Jody Marsh, Sandra Miley, Ruth Wilson, Rendell Crawford, Rita Pinkney, June Fauber, Calvin Stephen Lewis, Sally Fauber Lucas, Atara Serene Bourne, Madison Falby, Carol Bell, Eddie Wilson, Ayden Anthony Jones, Barbara Marsh, Beverly Baker, Raymond Porchea, Alston Knight, Kendra Neal, Rodney Tyree and Rahsaan Silas Thomas who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating their birthdays in June 2017.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to Joachim & Esther Neckere, Nathaniel & Sheila Holmes, Tony (Sr.) & Beatrice Chapman, Brewer & Pauline Clark, Robert & Sandra Miley, Vincent & Carolyn Glee, Nadia & Joseph Prah who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating a wedding anniversary in June 2017.

### PROGRESSIVE LIFE CENTER'S KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM

Kinship Care Program is funded by Prince George's County Department of Family Services and the Department of Social Services. Are you an aunt/uncle, grandparent, sibling, or cousin caring for a relative's child and desire community support? For more information about the program and to make a referral contact Evette Clarke at (301) 909-6824.

### STARLITE PERFORMING ARTS

Starlite Performing Arts 11th Annual Summer Production presents *The Princess and The Frog*. Performing Arts Production for boys and girls featuring drama, modern, jazz, hip hop, field trips, arts and crafts, computer lab and free pizza Wednesdays.

The \$150.00 registration fee (Non-Refundable) includes one t-shirt and one DVD of the show per child. Tuition is \$125.00 per week. Ages 5 and up Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM-6:00 PM. Begins Monday, June 12, 2017

and ends Friday August 18, 2017. Final performance will be Sunday, August 20, 2017 at Dr. Henry Wise High School in Upper Marlboro, MD.

For more information, contact the center at 9000 Edgeworth Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743 (301) 333-0051 or visit [www.starliteboogie.com](http://www.starliteboogie.com). Email: [Starlitedanceacademy@comcast.net](mailto:Starlitedanceacademy@comcast.net).

### RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

A retirement celebration honoring Robert "Bob" Gaskin was held Sunday, June 4, 2017 3:00-7:00 PM at Camelot by Martin's, 13901 Central Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD. Robert Gaskin retired after 48 years of dedicated service to Prince George's County Public Schools.

Robert was a teacher at Spaulding Junior High School, Counselor at Largo High School, Counselor at Crossland High School, Administrative Assistant at Kettering Middle School, Vice Principal at Bethume Junior High

See AQUASCO Page A3

## Neighborhoods

### Hospital Receives a Gold-Level Rating In the 2017 Wellness at Work Awards

LANHAM, MD—Doctors Community Hospital has been recognized with a gold-level rating in the 2017 Wellness at Work Awards—a statewide honor. The rating recognizes exemplary accomplishments in the promotion of workplace health.

The Wellness at Work Awards are granted by the Healthiest Maryland Businesses program, which was founded in 2010 by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The initiative includes more than 400 employers and is dedicated to protecting and promoting wellness in the workplace.

In determining workplace ratings, the Wellness at Work Awards reviewed institutional health policies and protections. It also examined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Worksite Health ScoreCard. Doctors Community Hospital received a score of 74 percent compared to the national average of 60 percent.

This score reflects the hospital's focus on healthy living, which incorporates both patient care and employee's work life. Some of the hospital's employee-focused wellness initiatives include:

- Employees and their families have access to a low-cost exercise facility on its main campus
- Hospital eateries and vending machines are stocked with healthy food options
- Free seminars are available on topics that range from stress management to nutrition
- Wellness navigators serve as staff resources

"We are honored to receive a gold-level rating in the Healthiest Maryland Businesses' Wellness at Work Awards," says Paul A. Hagens, Jr., vice president of Human Resources. "Employees spend a lot of time in their work environments, and we are grateful for their tireless commitment to our patients. By providing programs that support healthy behaviors at work, we hope to give back to our employees to benefit them, their families, our patients and our community."

"At Doctors Community Hospital, promoting wellness is central to everything that we do. Our employees deserve the very best workplace experience we can provide, and we want them to enjoy good health at work and beyond," says Pam Nicholson-Flora, benefits and compensation manager. "Receiving this honor is a rewarding recognition of our efforts to be the healthiest workplace in Maryland."

Doctors Community Hospital is a premier medical and surgical hospital located in Lanham, Maryland. With a mission of being dedicated to passionately caring for the health of patients and the community, the hospital has provided high-quality as well as comprehensive health care to residents of Prince George's County and the region since 1975.

A 212 available bed facility, Doctors Community Hos-

pital has a wide range of specialty programs and services.

- Bariatric and Weight Loss Center
- Cardiology Services and Outpatient Vascular Studies
- Center for Comprehensive Breast Care
- Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine
- Comprehensive Orthopedic Program
- Diabetes Care
- Doctors Regional Cancer Center
- Emergency Services
- Infusion Center
- Primary Care
- Rehabilitation Services
- Sleep Center
- Vascular Health Program

For more information, please visit [DCHweb.org](http://DCHweb.org) or call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

### Walmart Announces 1,931 Veteran Hires in Maryland as Part of Its Veterans Welcome Home Commitment

BALTIMORE, MD—On May 26, Walmart announced it has hired 1,931 veterans in the state of Maryland since introducing its Veterans Welcome Home Commitment in May 2013. The commitment guarantees a job offer to any eligible, honorably discharged U.S. veteran. With a goal to hire 250,000 veterans nationwide by the end of 2020, Walmart has since hired more than 170,000 veterans nationwide, and more than 22,000 have been promoted to jobs of greater responsibility.

"At Walmart, we have seen firsthand that veterans and active service members bring tremendous skills, like leadership, attention to detail and conscientiousness, to their civilian jobs," said Retired Brigadier General, Gary Profit, senior director of military programs for Walmart. "We are proud to salute these individuals during all stages of service—from making a decision to enlist in the armed forces to when they return home."

In addition to its commitment to hiring veterans, Walmart also ensures their family members are given long-lasting career opportunities. Walmart's Military Family Promise guarantees a job at a nearby store or Sam's Club for all military personnel and military spouses employed by Walmart and Sam's Club who move to a different part of the country because they or their spouse have been transferred by the United States military. Walmart also participates in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes Program, recruiting tens of thousands of veterans through career fairs.

To commemorate Memorial Day and support military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice, Walmart is giving a \$100,000 grant to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), a national organization that offers help, hope and healing to all those grieving the death of a loved one serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This grant will support the TAPS

Casework and Emergency Assistance Program for survivors in need.

Walmart has a long history of supporting veterans, service members and their families. In 2011, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation committed \$20 million by 2015 to support veterans and their families with assistance for programs that provide job training, transition help and education. With the early completion of the commitment in May 2014, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation renewed the commitment, announcing an additional \$20 million through 2019 to support job training, education and innovative public/private community-based initiatives that address challenges many veterans face when returning to civilian life.

For more information about Walmart's commitment to veterans, service members and military families, please visit: <http://www.walmartcareer-swithamission.com/> or <http://corporate.walmart.com/global-responsibility/veterans-military-families/> and follow on Twitter @WalmartToday.

### Summer Training for 'CASA' Volunteers

RIVERDALE, MD—One of our volunteers will soon attend the high school graduation of the foster child who she has helped the past year as his court-appointed special advocate.

In the fall, he will become among the fewer than 10 percent of foster children who go to college, which may not have happened if it wasn't for our volunteer encouraging him to excel.

Court-appointed special advocates, who are known as "CASAs," help foster children beat the odds and succeed. If you would like to learn more about CASA volunteers—or even how to become one—we invite you to attend the Open House at 6 p.m. on June 15 at our headquarters: 6811 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 402, Riverdale, MD.

We are Court Appointed Special Advocate/Prince George's County, a nonprofit that since 2001 has recruited, trained and supervised CASAs for foster children, America's most vulnerable boys and girls.

On Tuesday, July 18, we will begin new training for would-be CASA volunteers that will feature five weekday sessions, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and run through Aug. 3. Those assigned a youth 14 or older, must also attend a class set for Thursday, Aug. 17.

You will learn how to investigate a child's well-being and report your findings and recommendations to a judge, who could order, for example, that the youngster be removed from a home or a school that you find to be unfit or even unsafe.

To apply to be a CASA volunteer and participate in the upcoming training, please contact Michelle Martin: (301) 209-0491, ext. 201, or at [volunteer@pgcasa.org](mailto:volunteer@pgcasa.org), or visit our website: [www.pgcasa.org](http://www.pgcasa.org). The application deadline is June 23.

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

### Prepare for Major Life Expenses With Tax-Advantaged Accounts

College tuition, a new pair of glasses and retirement may seem unrelated, but the tax law says otherwise. By knowing how and where to save your money, you could pay for each of these expenses with tax-advantaged—or in some cases income-tax-free—money.

Individual Retirement Agreements (IRAs) and 401(k)s are perhaps the two most well-known examples of these types of accounts. But they're not alone. With educational and medical expenses in mind, consider the following types of accounts and how you might be able to use one to help yourself or your family.

**Invest your college fund in a 529 plan.** State-sponsored 529 plans come in two forms. Prepaid tuition plans let you lock in today's rate for in-state public schools and 529 college savings plans allow you to invest your savings based on your goals and risk tolerance. Contributions aren't a federal tax write-off, but if you invest in your state's plan, there might be a state income tax write-off.

As new parents ourselves, my wife and I made the decision to start preparing for our son's education with a 529 college savings plan. However, the state where we live doesn't offer a tax incentive. After diligently researching our options, we chose to establish the account in another state.

Many states let non-residents invest in their 529 plans and you can compare the state-based benefits, investment options, fees and contribution rules when choosing your plan. The College Savings Plans Network (CSPN) has tools to compare 529 plans by features or by state.

If the money is spent on qualified educational expenses, such as tuition, fees or school supplies, you don't pay federal income tax (and may not have to pay state income tax) on investment gains.

**Provide financial support for a disabled person using an ABLE account.** News of a life-changing disability could come at any time. Following the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, states can now sponsor ABLE savings accounts. Like 529 plans, contributions may be tax-deductible on the state (but not federal) level and the investment earnings can be withdrawn tax-free to pay for qualified expenses related to a mental or physical disability.

Beneficiaries must meet two criteria to qualify for an ABLE account: the disability must have begun before they were 26 and it must have "marked and severe functional limitations." Anyone can contribute to the beneficiary's ABLE account, and there is a limit on the total annual contributions—\$14,000 as of 2017.

For individuals dealing with a disability and those taking care of a loved one, an ABLE account could make it easier to manage and plan finances. Generally, if you have a disability you're disqualified from some types of federal government aid if you have over \$2,000 in assets. The first \$100,000 in an ABLE account doesn't count against the limit for non-Medicaid services, and the entire account balance doesn't count against the Medicaid limit.

Collectively known as ABLE 2.0, several new bills may increase the annual contribution for those who have a disability and are working, increase the eligibility age to 46 and allow families to rollover money from a 529 college savings plan to an ABLE account.

**Make medical expenses more affordable with an FSA.** Some employers offer a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) as a benefit to their employees. Employees can fund the accounts by putting aside a portion of their paychecks. You can then spend the money on qualified medical expenses, including eye exams, glasses and dental procedures, without paying income tax.

FSA accounts have a use-it-or-lose-it provision and the money you don't use could be forfeited at the end of the year. Employers could, but aren't required to, allow employees to roll over up to \$500 each year or give them an additional two-and-a-half-month grace period to use the money.

**Bottom line:** Paying for higher education, covering medical-related expenses and saving for retirement are three important financial goals. Incorporating tax-advantaged accounts into your long-term plan could be a win-win for your wallet. You might be able to save money now by lowering your tax bill and lower your effective costs later by withdrawing and using the money for qualified expenses.

### Aquasco from A2

School and Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. Robert worked in the Central Office Division of Human Resources as Instructional Personnel Supervisor, Recruitment Officer, Director of Staffing and Chief Human Resources Officer.

### WESTPHALIA GATORS YOUTH SPORTS ACADEMY

Calling all players (13–14 years.) coaches/volunteers

sponsors and community members. Sports include Flag & Tackle Football, Basketball & Cheerleading. Off season training starts Monday June 18th from 6:00 PM–7:30 PM, at DA Swamp (Little Washington Park) 2407 Sansbury Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. If you need more information contact Anthony Coachfam Hooker, 240-462-3181, westphaligators@gmail.com, or call Robert Moore, Jr. at 301-536-6812.



## Maryland Department of Environment Releases Annual Healthy Beaches Progress Report

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Lt. Governor

BALTIMORE, MD—Maryland beaches were open for swimming with no health-based advisories nearly 99 percent of the time for the fifth year in a row last summer, a Maryland Department of the Environment report shows.

The Department's *Maryland Healthy Beaches 2017 Progress Report* states that 185 monitored beaches in Maryland were open without an advisory 98.9 percent of the time last summer, marking the fifth straight year that the rate exceeded 98 percent and the 12th consecutive year that the rate was 96 percent or greater.

"The Department of the Environment partners with local governments to make a day at the beach a fun and healthy time for Maryland families," said Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles. "Beach conditions are monitored from Western Maryland lakes to the Ocean City surf, with updated information readily available on the Maryland Healthy Beaches website and through smartphone apps. We also urge everyone to follow the website's do's and don'ts for swimmers to stay healthy and waters to keep clean."

The report describes Maryland's beach monitoring program and efforts to make information on beach conditions readily available. The Department of the Environment works with local health departments to make sure water quality is monitored. The department sets water quality standards and assures conformity in the program statewide. Prior to the start of beach season on Memorial Day, local health departments collect water samples from

beaches and perform surveys to identify any nearby pollution sources that might adversely affect water quality. If any pollution sources are found they are corrected when possible.

Local health departments determine where, when and how often a beach is sampled. The health departments continue to collect water samples during the season. Samples are sent to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene laboratory for analysis. When fecal indicator bacteria standards are exceeded, the results are reported to local health departments so that beach managers can issue an advisory. An advisory is a recommendation against swimming or activities where submersion under water is likely. Beaches are only closed when the waters are affected by a sewage spill or overflow or other harmful contaminants.

Beach advisories and closures are shared with the public in many ways, including the Maryland Healthy Beaches website ([www.MarylandHealthyBeaches.com](http://www.MarylandHealthyBeaches.com)). That website provides color-coded status reports on beaches throughout the state and daily updates on rainfall, which causes runoff that can affect water quality. Swimmers can also receive information through Maryland Healthy Beaches smartphone applications and by signing up for email or text alerts.

The Department of the Environment's website also includes information on Vibrio, bacteria that occur naturally in brackish water such as the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and in salt water, especially during warm weather months. Vibrio infections are relatively rare in Maryland and nationwide. However, when Vibrio or other bacteria come into contact with an open wound they can cause serious infections.

Vibrio infections can be particularly dangerous for people with liver disease or weakened immune systems.

Although swimming in natural waters is not risk-free there are several things you can do to reduce the likelihood of getting sick.

- Avoid swimming near storm drains along the beach and within 48 hours of a heavy rain event, or until the water clears.
- Try not to swallow beach water.
- Shower or bathe after swimming.
- Dogs may not be allowed at some beaches. Dispose of dog waste properly (bring small plastic bags with you.)
- Avoid swimming if you feel ill or have open cuts or sores. If water contact can't be avoided, cover your open cut or sore with waterproof bandages.
- If they are available, use diaper-changing stations in restroom facilities, or change diapers away from the water's edge.
- Remember to properly dispose of used diapers.
- Wash your hands with soap and warm water after using the bathroom or changing diapers.
- Take all trash with you off-site in a bag.
- Volunteer in local beach cleanup efforts.
- Do not feed seagulls or other wildlife.
- When boating, use an approved marina pump-out station for boat waste disposal.
- Report any unsafe or unhealthy conditions to a lifeguard or beach manager.
- Visit the Current Conditions page on [marylandhealthybeaches.com](http://marylandhealthybeaches.com), or your county website, for water quality information.

### Divided from A1

Part of Hogan's challenge is structural, but it's also about perception. Mostly urban and suburban Democrats hold 70 percent of the seats in the Maryland Senate and 64 percent in the House of Delegates, enough to override a veto. This is because the vast majority of the state's population is clustered near Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, and tend to vote Democratic.

"For eight years (under O'Malley), people in rural Maryland felt disenfranchised, felt that Annapolis was out of step with them," said Chris Shank, Hogan's chief legislative officer. "And some in rural Maryland were falling more and more behind."

How much of that should be blamed on urban and suburban legislators is debatable.

"Everyone from all the different regions of the state can make a case for why they are getting the short end of any deal out of Annapolis," said Sen. Richard Madaleno, D-Montgomery, who is openly considering a run against Hogan in 2018. "The grass is always greener in someone else's yard."

### The Hogan-Trump Nexus?

When Hogan won Maryland's gubernatorial race in 2014, it was a bona fide political upset—and something of a beating. Hogan not only bested his Democratic opponent—then-Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown—he did so by almost 4 percent in a state where there are more than twice as many registered Democrats as Republicans.

Brown's loss was widely attributed to an uninspiring campaign portrayed by Republicans as a third term for O'Malley, with whom Brown served. In the closing days of Brown's campaign, President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton, as well as their high-wattage wives, showed up to stump for him.

Brown also outspent Hogan in the general election by about \$1.5 million (combining party and individual campaign spend-



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY J.F. MEILS, VIA AP

William Valentine, an Allegheny County (Maryland) commissioner, in his office at Carl J. Valentine & Son, the plumbing, heating and air conditioning business started by his father in 1947.

ing). Money aside, Brown could have won the state without a single Republican vote if the 950,000 or so Democrats who came out in 2014 simply voted for him in greater numbers.

Two years later, Hillary Clinton would lose the presidency to Donald Trump for many of the same issues with turnout and the lack of a clear message.

Hogan's victory in Maryland is often attributed to a low turnout in an off-year election combined with a boomlet in the rural vote and a big number from Anne Arundel, his home county.

"Turnout overall stunk in 2014," said Todd Eberly, professor of political science and public policy at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

But that's not quite what the numbers belie. Statewide turnout in 2014 was only about 2,000 votes fewer than in 2010. And Hogan got only 9,000 votes more in Anne Arundel than former Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich, who lost to O'Malley in 2010.

However, Hogan did run up the count in rural Maryland.

Compared to Ehrlich's losing effort in 2010, Hogan did 17 percent better in Western Mary-

land (Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties) and 14 percent better in the northern suburbs and exurbs of Frederick, Harford, Carroll and Baltimore counties. The mid-to-lower Eastern Shore counties came out for Hogan by 5 percent more than Ehrlich. But Southern Maryland came out strongest for Hogan, particularly in Calvert and St. Mary's, which went for him by 31 percent more than they did for the Ehrlich in 2010.

Put together, those counties delivered 63,000 more votes to Hogan than they did to Ehrlich. Hogan beat Brown by 65,510 votes.

Hogan ran on a platform of cutting taxes and reducing both spending and regulation.

He has arguably struggled to deliver on those promises. But he has come through for rural areas in other ways, including \$14 million for downtown revitalization efforts in Hagerstown, Cumberland and Salisbury.

While the governor can point to this and other small victories as proof of his promise to "end the war on rural Maryland," state and local politicians from rural counties universally say they

need more. And they want less resistance from Democrats in Annapolis, who they see as best as ignorant of their issues.

While some of those Democrats are sympathetic to the unique concerns of rural areas, they also say there are limits to what they can do.

"They are constantly ringing the bell in the Democratic caucus and more broadly to folks in the senate that we have to put more priority on smaller, rural communities and they're right, entirely right," said Sen. Jim Rosapepe, D-Prince George's and Anne Arundel.

There is also simple majority politics to consider and, some say, gamesmanship around rural issues.

"It's in some of my colleague's political self-interest to make out their constituency as the victim," Madaleno said.

### To Be a Rural politician

Representing rural areas in Maryland tends to mean climbing one of two uphill paths: attempting to win concessions in

# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin

United States Senator for Maryland



### Cardin, Van Hollen Announce \$17.4 Million in AmeriCorps Funding for Maryland

Senators Vow to Fight Trump Effort to Eliminate Community Service Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen (both D-Md.) today announced that Maryland has received \$17.4 million in AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency for volunteering and service programs.

“AmeriCorps makes incredibly important investments that strengthen the fabric of our communities, and it does so using the power of partnerships among federal, state and local entities,” said Senator Cardin. “Perhaps the best part about the \$17.4 million in grants announced today is that they will mobilize more than \$15 million in additional resources at the local level, nearly doubling their strategic impact for positive change.”

“AmeriCorps volunteers and everyone who chooses to work for the public good are heroes to the communities they serve,” said Senator Van Hollen. “This funding will give those who want to serve in Maryland the opportunity to help tutor children, teach in schools, support veterans, and protect our environment.”

Senators Cardin and Van Hollen are committed to protecting AmeriCorps programs, which were completely eliminated in President Trump’s FY2018 budget.

The federal investment includes 11 grants totaling \$8.5 million, which will support 1,581 AmeriCorps members. CNCS will also provide up to \$6.4 million in education scholarships for the AmeriCorps members funded by these grants to help pay for college, vocational training, or pay back student loans. The federal investment is pro-

jected to generate an additional \$15.2 million in local support to increase community impact and return on federal investment.

The federal investment announced today also includes \$2.4 million for the Maryland Office on Service and Volunteerism, the Governor-appointed state service commission. Later this summer, the Office on Service and Volunteerism will make additional grants to support AmeriCorps programs in the state.

This year’s AmeriCorps grant cycle was highly competitive, with a continuing level of strong demand by nonfaith and faith-based organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. The 2017 competition prioritized investments in economic opportunity, education, governor and mayor initiatives, veterans and military families, disaster services, and initiatives to build safer communities.

Below is a listing of 2017 AmeriCorps competitive grants in Maryland. For full grant and scholarship funding totals, visit <http://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/sites/default/files/MD%20FY2017%20AmeriCorps%20Cover%20Sheet.pdf>.

- **Maryland Conservation Corps**—AmeriCorps members will engage in environmental restoration and park improvement projects, environmental programming, and disaster preparedness outreach in Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, Patapsco Valley, Assateague Island, Gunpowder Falls, Susquehanna, Tuckahoe and New Germany State Parks. (35 AmeriCorps members)

See AMERICORPS Page A6



Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: UMD

#### CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center is a vibrant community of artists, students and audiences, where great work happens both on- and offstage. We present approximately 1,000 events each year spanning all performing arts disciplines. Transformative performances, workshops, lectures, dialogues and other events featuring visiting artists from around the world, as well as students and faculty from the university’s academic departments of music, dance and theatre, allow for unparalleled engagement. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at Maryland is located at the corner of Route 193 (University Blvd.) and Stadium Drive on the campus of the University of Maryland.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Moving Forward for Our Children in California and Nationally

Alameda County in California straddles the San Francisco Bay area and stretches from Silicon Valley north to Oakland and Berkeley. A major branch of the San Andreas Fault lies beneath the most densely populated part of the county. That’s where Betty lives. She was hard at work full time in the health care field, with her own catering and massage therapy business on the side, raising four children as a single mother when a series of health crises created an earthquake that shattered her life. After three surgeries on her spine she could not work, struggled, and slid into homelessness with her two youngest children. Living in shelters and transitional housing, it took three years before they could find affordable housing through a federal housing assistance program.

Fortunately the federal safety net has been there to catch Betty and her now 8-year-old and 13-year-old children. Medicaid and SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, have also been lifelines in their lives. Last year, Betty was finally able to go back to work part-time and received a nearly \$4,000.00 refund from the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) combined, with the help of free tax assistance from United Way Bay Area. To her, it was a huge support after hard times. For the first time in three years she says, “We did stuff that was normal, and I was able to put money in the bank, buy a phone and pay off my bills.” She felt again the dignity and self-respect she’d felt when working full time and supporting her family without government assistance.

She’s ready to go back full time to her career in the health care field just as another giant earthquake is looming that could be catastrophic, not only for Betty and her children, but also for the millions of children in America in families struggling to stay afloat. The draconian Trump budget is an all-out war against poor children and their families. First it attacks both Betty and her children’s health care by slashing \$1.4 trillion out of Medicaid just to give Betty’s rich neighbors, the millionaires and billionaires in Silicon Valley and San Francisco, huge tax

breaks they don’t need or deserve. Betty could lose her monthly health visits that control her chronic condition and with it her ability to work. Her children, already buffeted by bad times, might lose their health care and dental care too. They could lose the roof over their heads with cuts in federal housing assistance programs at a time when the median home value in Alameda County is \$773,000. And if the President’s proposal to slash SNAP is enacted, these cascading assaults mean the family could once again face hunger and homelessness without health care.

States like California, where more than one in eight of our nation’s poor children and nearly one in six poor children of color reside, have the opportunity and responsibility to reweave some of the holes that already exist in our federal safety net in the face of these looming immoral budget assaults on their most vulnerable children. Some already have been at work and are continuing their efforts. In 2015, we applauded California leaders when they created a new state Earned Income Tax Credit that builds on the federal EITC to provide an income boost to some low-income working families.

That gave Betty’s children hope for a better future.

California policy leaders are now crafting a state budget that has a chance to expand the state EITC so more working poor families like Betty’s can benefit and to offer new help for parents and their young children benefiting from CalWORKs, the state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program. And final decisions are close at hand. The state Assembly has adopted a proposal to expand the state EITC to reach working families earning up to \$22,000 per year, including self-employed workers who are currently excluded from the credit. Research shows the EITC has long-lasting benefits for children, families, and communities. It is one of the most effective programs to lift families out of poverty. Children receiving the EITC have higher test scores and are more likely to graduate high school and attend college. The benefits of the EITC extend to the next generation by increasing earnings when children reach adulthood. The Assembly also approved a new voluntary early home visiting program to improve outcomes

See WATCH, Page A8

## Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



### Trump Administration Charts a Course to Criminal Injustice

“At a time when people across the aisle have finally found some of the modest, yet promising, agreement that we need to fix our broken system, the Trump administration and Attorney General Sessions have thus far indicated that they want to double down on the failed policies of the past. Sessions seems intent on turning back the clock—threatening to increase the use of mandatory minimum sentences, criticizing consent decrees that improve police-community relations, and expanding federal use of private prisons. For the sake of our safety, our economic health, and the values we profess, we can’t afford to go back. We must press forward with reforms.”

—Sen. Cory A. Booker, “We Refuse to Turn Back The Clock: Advancing Criminal Justice Reform in The Face of Retreat,” State of Black America, May 2, 2017

Dear Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the 20th century called. It wants its failed, heavy-handed criminal justice policies back.

In a throwback to the George W. Bush administration, Sessions is widely expected to formally order all federal prosecutors to impose the harshest sentences for all drug offenses and offenders, including the return of the widely unpopular and discredited mandatory minimums.

This “dumb on crime,” bygone-era approach to criminal justice will catapult our nation back to the days of racially-infected mass incarceration, warehousing Black and brown bodies at a rate wildly disproportionate to their overall rate of population as a result of overzealously disproportionate law enforcement. It will perpetually ensnare nonviolent offenders, who have small chance of being rehabilitated while in prison, leaving them to face near-insurmountable obstacles and odds to fully re-enter society, while robbing already vulnerable communities

of an ex-offender’s future potential as an employed and civically engaged citizen. It comes with a heavy price tag for taxpayers—both in terms of safety and cost—with study after study revealing a cynically slim return on investment, if any.

Sessions’ reversal of Obama-era policies that sought to correct the egregious wrongs of our nation’s broken criminal justice system—such as reserving the harshest sentencing and enforcement resources for serious, violent, high-level offenders—flies in the face of promising consensus that has been steadily building among civil rights and social justice organizations, states led by Conservative governors, and across the partisan divide in Congress. It seems everyone, except the Department of Justice, understands that flooding our prisons—and keeping private prisons in business to warehouse the anticipated overflow from federal prisons—is not a solution that has, or will, make us safer.

According to data from The Sentencing Project, Louisiana has the highest state imprisonment rate, yet its governor recently announced a deal to reduce the state’s prison population by 10 percent—an initiative that will save Louisiana taxpayers an estimated \$78 million annually. Right now, four of the 10 top states with the highest incarceration rates are pursuing “smart on crime” criminal justice reforms that safely reduce our bloated prison population by focusing on alternatives to punishment and improved re-entry programs that increases the chances of ex-offenders never returning to prison.

And we should go a step further. How about working to keep as many people as we can out of the clutches of our broken, racially and socio-economically unjust criminal justice system in the first place? As a nation, we must agree to prioritize prevention and address crime before it happens. That means looking at—and effectively treating—the root causes of crimes. It means, among other things, housing the home-

See URBAN LEAGUE Page A6

## The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post  
P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151  
Phone: 301-627-0900 • Legal Fax: 301-627-6260  
Email: [pgpost@gmail.com](mailto:pgpost@gmail.com)  
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<b>Publisher/Senior Editor</b> Legusta Floyd	<b>Editor</b> Michal W. Frangia
<b>General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager</b> Brenda Boice	<b>Typesetter/Page Layout</b> Jennifer Sheckels
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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Do the Kids Really Know How You Feel?

Experts will constantly tell you that good communication is a necessary element in any successful relationship. While we generally think of that advice in relation to spouses, friends and co-workers, one of the most important relationships to evaluate for good communication is with our children.

Do your kids really know how you feel about them? Yes, they should assume you care about them, since you provide shelter and food, but are you really communicating your love, care and pride in them on a regular basis?

It's easy to do when our children are small. Babies and toddlers are easy to hug and whisper "I love you" to even when misbehaving. But that constant communication of love often diminishes as our children grow up, and may almost disappear as we face a grumpy teen whose response to most communication efforts is a grunt, eye-roll or that ever popular, "Whatever."

But regardless of a child's age, or attitude, it's important to communicate your positive feelings in a variety of ways. The easiest, and most direct, is simply to say, "I love you" on a regular basis. Even if the response is only, "Yeah, whatever," your children should know your bottom line is that you really love them.

There are other important ways to communicate your feelings for your children. Simply demonstrating that you care about your child's world and its problems will always improve parent and child communication. When your child wants to share, you need to take the time to listen to what he or she is saying. Your job isn't to judge, criticize, or dismiss the problems, but to really listen, to understand and to care about what you're hearing.

It's also vital that you let your children know you're proud of them. When a child puts in extra effort and is truly working hard, that's the time to tell him or her how proud you are of that effort and of what's being accomplished. Learn to praise the effort being expended, not just the final result, and you can help motivate a child to continue to work hard and be proud of their achievements.

Communicating with our children can often be difficult task, especially as they become teenagers, but putting a real, daily effort into communicating to your child the love, caring and pride you have for him or her can only result in a stronger, more positive relationship.

*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*

### Grant Awards from A1

hance the effectiveness of nonprofit partners.

"The Council believes a community working together can end domestic violence. This grant funding is the first round of an ongoing Focused Collaboration Grant initiative designed to comprehensively

and collectively strengthen communities, support domestic violence survivors, and build capacity for nonprofits who help residents and families live violent-free lives in Prince George's County."

For a list of the Council's FY 2017 Domestic Violence Grant Awards, visit <http://pgc-council.us/DVGP>.

### Master's from A1

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For more information about McDaniel College, visit the website at [www.mcdaniel.edu](http://www.mcdaniel.edu).

## Netflix DVD Subscribers Are Holding On at Four Million Strong

By JACK PACIOTTI  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—Netflix is the undisputed king of streaming. Globally, 93.8 million people subscribe to the streaming service—nearly 50 percent more than their closest competitor Amazon Prime, with more than 66 million subscribers, according to Recode.

Netflix got its start by topling DVD Goliath Blockbuster Video, delivering DVDs to customers homes and eliminating late fees. And though the antiquated disc-by-mail service is dwindling, more than 4 million subscribers still use it. Amy Snurr, of Westminster, Maryland, is one of those subscribers.

"We don't do Netflix DVDs as much as we used to with Redbox around but we still enjoy it," Snurr wrote in an email. She has been a subscriber since 2009, but only added the streaming service last year.

Willie Carr also had a similar experience with the streaming service.

"Streaming is actually what I do most, I haven't used the disc service in actually quite a while; probably a couple years," the Waldorf, Maryland resident said.

Carr has been a member for about seven years, but will probably end the DVD service soon, he said.

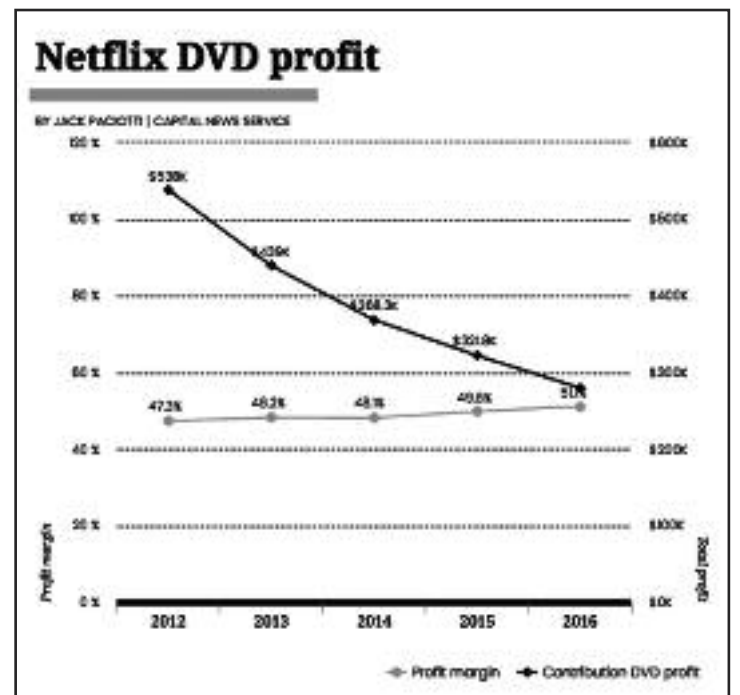
"Almost anything you want to watch nowadays is available via [streaming]," he said. "The last thing that I used it for was *The Big Bang Theory*."

Netflix DVD subscribers are dwindling, but Netflix still manages to make 50 cents in profit for every dollar they put into the service. Despite this, their net profit has nearly been cut in half since 2011.

Amanda Lotz, a media scholar and professor at the University of Michigan, attributes the continued success of Netflix DVDs to film enthusiasts and the established infrastructure the company has built.

"I can only guess, but the infrastructure is built, and as subscribers have decreased they've likely decreased the number of DVDs purchased so that their costs have decreased along with revenue," Lotz wrote in an email. "It is worth maintaining as long as it is profitable, even if it isn't the company's core business anymore."

Since Netflix split into two separate services in 2011, streaming has been their main



SOURCE: NETFLIX EARNINGS REPORTS

focus. Global streaming subscribers have increased an average of 13.48 million each year.

Lotz credits Netflix's international success partially to the first-mover advantage. Because Netflix was one of the first to heavily invest in streaming, they were able to capitalize on an untapped market.

Moreover, Netflix was launched in the U.S., a large and lucrative market, Lotz said. This

gives Netflix an edge over companies that have launched in smaller countries with less buying power.

Current trends for Netflix will likely continue—DVD subscribers will fall, streaming subscribers will rise, and the company will expand. Maybe one day Netflix DVD subscribers will finally hit zero, but for the time being, they're still holding on, 4 million strong.

### Divided from A3

Annapolis or managing counties, cities and towns without much help from it.

"The game is mostly legislative," said James Gimpel, professor of government and politics at University of Maryland. "You assign as many benefits to the winning coalition as possible and exclude the losers as much and as many as possible."

Most rural politicians in Maryland understand this political calculus perfectly. It affects most if not all the decisions they make.

"We're out here withering on the vine," said County Commissioner Paul Edwards, R-Garrett County, who is the son of Sen. George Edwards, R-Garrett, Allegany, Washington. "We asked for \$1.3 million from the legislature to help keep our schools open, but we're not gonna get it because the bigger counties are going to think that any money coming to us is going to be taken from them."

And some of those bigger counties would be right, especially Montgomery County, which pays more than \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes, but gets back less than \$1 billion in state aid. Counties like Caroline and Somerset receive more than double in state aid what they contribute in non-federal taxes.

Often it's not about winning or losing financially for rural representatives, it's just getting a seat at the table.

"I think (Hogan's) been as sensitive to rural counties as he can in light of the fact he doesn't have a lot of money," said County Councilman Bud Otis, R-Frederick.

Almost universally in rural areas, local politicians say the Hogan administration has made a priority of being responsive. When asked what the governor has specifically done for them, simply listening is almost always the first thing mentioned.

"The big thing he's been open to is changing the atmosphere that the state wasn't as business friendly as it could be," said County Executive Steven Glassman, R-Harford. "Just the customer service in some of the state departments to work with the local politicians has helped."

But that doesn't mean Hogan has the means—read: money—to get big things done for rural Maryland. And that forces many a Republican in Annapolis to go begging legislatively, searching for common ground that gets washed away a bit more each year by partisanship.

"I learned real quick when I first got here (in Annapolis)—I know how to count," said Sen. Edwards. "Sometimes you have to compromise to get things done. A lot of times you have to play defense."

Beyond party, what fuels the divide in the statehouse, according to numerous rural Republicans, is a lack of familiarity with the nuances of their issues. The

legislative rub tends to come down to the key difference between urban and rural areas: restraining growth versus encouraging it.

"So many people in Annapolis have this vision that one size fits all. It does not," said County Councilman Ricky Travers, D-Dorchester. "The impacts of some of these bills are absolutely horrendous on rural Maryland."

Two of the biggest issues for rural politicians are a pair of regulations that affect new residential construction. These include the so-called BAT septic requirements in critical areas, or those surrounding the Chesapeake Bay, and the law that dictates all new homes in the state must have indoor fire-suppression sprinklers. The cost, according to most rural lawmakers, puts new homes out of reach for young buyers.

"Everything outside of a town is well and septic," said County Commissioner Wilbur Levensgood, R-Caroline. "The new septic and sprinkler laws have made a house almost un-touchable to a young family. If they get a job here, they're moving to Delaware."

### What rural wants

Cuts to the state's highway user funds were made to every county in 2009. For most counties, those funds would never return.

"In 2008, we got \$4 million in highway user funds," said Valentine. "The last couple of

years, we got \$400,000. There are 526 miles of road in Allegany County."

Caroline County, whose entire annual budget is about \$44 million, experienced a similar cut as Allegany from their highway money in 2009. "If you take \$4 million in cash away from our roads, that's a real stifling," said Levensgood. "We've cut a lot. It's hurt a lot of people, but we've managed to keep our roads open."

Part of being a rural politician in a small county is not having the luxury of hiding.

"When we're out there dealing with employees, laying them off, these are people we live with. We see them day in and day out, so it's tough," said Travers.

The problems begin to feel circular. If you can't fix your roads, it's hard to entice business. Without business or affordable homes, you can't keep young people or hope to attract new ones. If your population is decreasing, so is your tax base—which leaves you with less money to maintain your roads.

Some counties and municipalities are beginning to experiment with new approaches, particularly in the economic sphere, but for some the perceived stream of obstacles from Annapolis is simply too much to overcome.

"It's all politics," said Paul Edwards. "I don't care what anyone says."

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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.

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2  
Grade: B-  
Rated PG-13, some profanity,  
a couple of suggestive lines,  
sci-fi action and violence  
2 hrs., 16 min

In this week's episode of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, entitled *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, the ragtag group of space-rogues led by self-described "Star-Lord" Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) meets a new friend: Peter's father, played by Special Guest Star Kurt Russell! Peter never knew anything about his dad, only that he was not an Earthling and that he left Peter and his mom behind.

*GOTGV2*, again written and directed by James Gunn, has the same tone and attitude as its predecessor—think glib *Star Trek*—and much of the same swashbuckling space action. It begins with baby Groot dancing to ELO's *Mr. Blue Sky* while Peter says, "Showtime, a-holes," and the Guardians fight a giant space-squid. Fun, you know? Kind of the same fun as last time, and this is at least the 10th film this century to feature "Mr. Blue Sky," but still. Fun.

But it's missing some of the pizzazz. Part of that is due to the storyline, which has low stakes and is surprisingly uncomplicated for a Marvel movie. The Guardians do a job for a race of narcissists called the Sovereigns, and as payment get custody of Gamora's (Zoe Saldana) adopted sister Nebula (Karen Gillan), a fugitive who's wanted in space-court for her crimes in the first film. But Rocket the space-raccoon (voiced by Bradley Cooper by way of George Costanza) steals



ROTTENTOMATOES

Set to the all-new sonic backdrop of *Awesome Mixtape #2*, Marvel Studios' *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2* continues the team's adventures as they traverse the outer reaches of the cosmos. The Guardians must fight to keep their newfound family together as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage. Old foes become new allies and fan-favorite characters from the classic comics will come to our heroes' aid as the Marvel Cinematic Universe continues to expand.

the Sovereigns' valuable space-batteries (the same things Nebula was caught trying to steal), making enemies of the Sovereigns. It's while fleeing them that the Guardians meet Peter's father, an immortal being named Ego (a bit on the nose) who has created his own planet and lives there with Mantis (Pom Klementieff), a bug-like empath woman with whom the hulking Drax (Dave Bautista) develops a rapport.

But it's a good 80 minutes before anything like a villain or opponent shows up to give the film some conflict. Much of the time is spent on the Peter-Ego relationship, the son skeptical of the man who abandoned him, the father seemingly sincere in his desire to make amends. (In flashback, we see a digitally enyoungened Kurt Russell head over heels in love with Peter's

mom.) Once Peter accepts Ego, it turns sitcom maudlin: Gamora thinks something is fishy about Ego's planet; Peter gets all "Why are you trying to take this away from me?" and says Gamora is just jealous because he found his family; Gamora acts wounded because (sniff) "I thought we were your family"; etc.

Meanwhile, there's intrigue among the Ravagers, the space-pirates who raised Peter from a boy. The Sovereigns hire them to capture battery-thief Rocket, and their leader, Yondu (Michael Rooker, stealth MVP), disappoints his crew and is subjected to a mutiny. Rocket and Yondu bond over their shared self-destructive tendencies while trying to stop the new Ravager leader, Taserface (Chris Sullivan), from killing everyone and Nebula from killing Gamora.

Gunn's screenplay, punctuated with laughs but not what you'd call consistently funny, is blithely easygoing, never too concerned about the crises facing our heroes. I had the same issue with the last one: It's hard to get caught up in the peril of the moment when the characters themselves don't seem to find it very threatening. The action sequences have energy, if not a lot of personality, building to the usual summer blockbuster climax (the heroes have to blow something up). It's all fine. It's fine. To a large extent it's coasting on goodwill from the previous film—but the previous film established a lot of goodwill to coast on. Now we just need some of the rest of the Marvel Cinematic Universe to show up and give these people something to do.

#### AmeriCorps from A4

• **Civic Works Service Corps**—AmeriCorps members will make public land improvements, complete energy efficiency modifications, tutor and mentor students, and help older adults age in place in Baltimore. (110 AmeriCorps members)

• **Reading Partners Maryland**—AmeriCorps members will manage volunteer recruitment and day-to-day operations of literacy tutoring programs for low-income students at elementary schools in Baltimore. (45 AmeriCorps members)

• **Teach For America Maryland**—AmeriCorps members will teach more than 15,000 students for two years in low-income and disadvantaged schools in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County. (239 AmeriCorps members)

• **Volunteer Maryland**—AmeriCorps members will develop and improve direct service volunteer programs at up to 30 service sites. (32 AmeriCorps members)

The following programs Maryland organizations also received AmeriCorps funding, which will support AmeriCorps members in Maryland and in communities across the country.

• **Notre Dame Mission Volunteers**—AmeriCorps members will provide tutoring, small group instruction, and environmental education to economically disadvantaged students and adults in Baltimore. (495 AmeriCorps members)

• **The Choice Program**—AmeriCorps members working through the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Choice Program will provide case management services for youth and their families in the greater Baltimore metro area. These AmeriCorps

members will improve the academic engagement of 330 students, increase the vocational knowledge and skills of 90 economically disadvantaged youth, and help 120 youth stay out of foster care. (50 AmeriCorps members)

• **Legacy Corps**—AmeriCorps members will provide caregiver support services to veterans and military families. (542 AmeriCorps members)

• **HIAS, Inc.**—AmeriCorps members will provide and facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to the improved economic well-being and security of refugees. (10 AmeriCorps members)

• **World Relief Refugee AmeriCorps**—AmeriCorps members will assist with the integration and community engagement of refugees by building volunteer capacity and providing direct client services to refugees within the scope of financial literacy, health and mental health extended case management. (10 AmeriCorps members)

• **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**—AmeriCorps members will recruit and train new community volunteers to support and expand cultural orientation services. (13 AmeriCorps members)

Maryland is also home to an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) campus in Baltimore. AmeriCorps NCCC is a residential program that engages young adults 18–24 in team-based service nationwide. Based in five regional campuses, AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs across the nation and are deployed to short-term projects related to urban and rural development, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and long-term disaster recovery. FEMA Corps, a branch of AmeriCorps NCCC, supports projects exclusively dedicated to emergency management work

in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In 2016, Baltimore ranked third among U.S. cities for producing AmeriCorps members, and Maryland ranked tenth among states.

Organizations are currently recruiting for AmeriCorps members to begin service this fall. AmeriCorps members typically receive a modest living stipend and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, or scholarship, upon completion of their service. The award can be used to pay for future education costs or to pay back student loans. Those interested in serving can learn more by visiting [ameri-corps.gov/join](http://ameri-corps.gov/join).

Last fall, AmeriCorps celebrated a major milestone when the program surpassed one million members pledging to "Get Things Done" for America. AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 members in intensive service annually to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations at 21,600 locations across the country. These members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Since 1994, more than 1 million men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing more than 1.4 billion hours of service and earning more than \$3.3 billion in scholarships to pay for college, more than \$1 billion of which has been used to pay back student loan debt.

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads volunteer initiatives for the nation. For more information, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).

## Vacation Escape

### Take Your Getaway From Vacation Stressed To Vacation Ready



PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI

(NAPSI)—Raising families, navigating jobs, balancing social commitments—there's a lot on Americans' plates these days. In fact, 51 percent of U.S. vacationers admit they're more stressed today compared to a year ago, according to a recent study from Wyndham Vacation Rentals. When you add to that the pressure of vacation planning, the stress is not only preventing many from enjoying their vacation to the fullest but stopping them from going in the first place! Fortunately, there are a number of simple tips that the majority agree reduces stress and helps them get the most out of vacation by being more vacation ready.

• **Don't wait until the last minute to pack:** According to the same study, packing is so dreaded that half of all vacationers said they would give up alcohol for a month or social media for a week to avoid doing it! Travelers can reduce the stress of packing, though, without making too much of a sacrifice. Nearly two in three say not procrastinating on packing your bags minimizes stress.

• **Creating separation from work can help you get into a vacation-ready mind-set.** More than half felt not checking work e-mail and voice mail reduces stress. The majority of travelers said taking an extra day off work before leaving for vacation or coming back a few days before returning to work would also help.

• **Space, clean clothes and closed doors:** More than three in five vacationers think booking accommodations with space and privacy would make their next vacation less stressful and half of vacationers think that being able to do laundry would help. Consider booking a vacation home with Wyndham Vacation Rentals for a kitchen, laundry room, multiple bedrooms and lots of living space.

• **Plan out your budget:** Three in five vacationers reported being stressed about spending too much money on vacation. Thankfully, planning ahead of time by making a budget (and sticking to it!), saving enough before you leave, and bringing along your own road trip snacks and drinks can help. If you're staying in accommodations with a kitchen, cooking in for a few meals while you're away can also keep your wallet fuller.

• **Seek advice from others:** Many travelers feel burdened by the overload of vacation planning information available, but nearly half would find premade itineraries valuable. There are a lot of great resources out there for top things to do, see and eat in every destination. For example, Wyndham Vacation Rentals' local market experts curated destination experience guides that strike the perfect balance between downtime and "go" time, so travelers can relax while still seeing the best of each location and experience hidden gems when it comes to dining and shopping.

In addition to these destination guides, Wyndham has also created a planning hub that includes more tips for overcoming travel pain points and great summer travel deals to further help the everyday traveler get vacation ready. To visit the Wyndham planning hub, go to [www.BevacationReady.com](http://www.BevacationReady.com).

#### Urban League from A4

less, removing the heavy price tag and stigma around mental health and mental health services, feeding the hungry, ensuring a quality education in every zip code, and providing work tied to living and gender equitable wages.

The Department of Justice is moving in the wrong direction and a course correction is critical. The resistance, in all its forms and arenas, remains firm, especially among the states, which bear the fiscal brunt of policies that call

for the indiscriminate filling of jails cells at a heavy cost to their budgets and the safety of their citizens. A growing number of states are reluctant to follow the Department of Justice's lead, and we hope more states come to the realization that crime can be reduced through a variety of methods that don't involve throwing the book at people who can be rehabilitated, while keeping the public safe.

We must resist the rollback. We must retreat from the failed policies of the past, not return to them.

The Prince George's Post Your Newspaper of Legal Record

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## Calendar of Events

June 15 — June 21, 2017

### St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church Annual Festival

Date and Time: June 15–18, 2017, 11:00 am–9:00 pm  
Description: Enjoy popular Greek foods featuring Baklava, Souvlaki, Gyros. Live music nightly. Dancing, crafts, wine, and more. Rain or shine! Free admission and parking.  
Cost: Free, open to the public  
Location: St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church  
7101 Cipriano Road, Lanham, MD  
Contact: [www.sttheodores.org](http://www.sttheodores.org)

### Nemours Mansion & Gardens Lunch at Hotel duPont

Date and Time: Thursday, June 15, 2017, 9:30 am–10:30 pm  
Description: Welcome to the Hotel du Pont located in the heart of the legal and financial district of downtown Wilmington, Delaware. Enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon served amidst the hotel's elegant furnishings and signature artwork. Next, we depart for the Nemours Mansion and Gardens, a 300-acre estate of the last industrialist and philanthropist Alfred I. duPont. Included are a guided tour through a series of rooms on three floors, followed by a bus tour through the gardens and surrounding grounds. After our tour, we will travel to the Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park where you can shop and get dinner on your own. After a beautiful evening walk and a meal, we will depart for home.  
Cost: Resident: \$102; Non-resident: \$133  
Location: All Trips and Excursions depart from and return to two convenient locations:  
FIRST STOP: Lake Arbor Community Center,  
10100 Lake Arbor Way, Mitchellville, MD  
SECOND STOP: College Park Airport,  
1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive,  
College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-445-4500; TTY 301-699-2544

### Platinum Movie: *The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne* (2013)

Date and Time: Friday, June 16, 2017, 11 am  
Description: How does a poor, single, African American mother from segregated 1950s America wind up as one of the world's most notorious jewel thieves? A glamorous 81-year-old, Doris Payne is as unapologetic today about the nearly \$2 million in jewels she's stolen over a 60-year career as she was the day she stole her first carat.  
Cost: \$2/person  
Ages: 60 & better  
Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD  
Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Flying Solo Gallery Talk

Date and Time: Saturday, June 17, 2017, 11am  
Description: Artist and creator of *Flying Solo*, Misty Cole, will be on hand to speak about her inspiration for the exhibit, her methods creating it and answer your questions.  
Cost: Free with museum admission  
Ages: All Ages  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

### Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Date and Time: Saturday, June 17, 2017, 12 noon–5 pm  
Description: Bring your family, blanket and lawn chairs for a joyous day of live entertainment, genealogy workshops, children's activities, exhibitions and historical interpretation.  
Cost: FREE!!  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Walker Mill Regional Park  
8001 Walker Mill Road, District Heights, MD  
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY: 301-699-2544

### Adult Line Dance Social

Date and Time: Saturday, June 17, 2017,  
8 pm–12 am (midnight)  
Description: Stay active, keep fit and have fun doing it at this Adult Line Dance Social. Socialize with friends or meet new ones. Get out and mingle while learning the latest line and hand dances with style. Very light refreshments will be served.  
Cost: Resident \$10; Non-resident \$13 (pre-pay)  
Resident \$14; Non-resident \$19 (day of event)  
Ages: 18 & up  
Location: Potomac Landing Community Center  
12500 Fort Washington Road, Fort Washington, MD  
Contact: 301-292-9191; TTY: 301-699-2544

### Father's Day Beer Tasting & Tours at Riversdale

Date and Time: Sunday, June 18, 2017, 12:15 pm–3:15 pm  
Description: Celebrate dad, grandpa, or another special gentleman with a FREE guided tour of Riversdale. Step into the 19th-century dependency kitchen, where costumed interpreters demonstrate and prepare hearty fare 19th-century style. As an extra special treat, beer lovers can visit the tasting station, where a variety of brews will be available for sampling. This tasting is made possible and organized in partnership with Town Center Market.  
Free tours are limited to one free tour with each paid admission. Reservations are not required and tastings are first-come, first served while supplies last.  
Cost: Adults: \$5; Seniors: \$4; Students: \$2;  
Children 4 & under FREE  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Riverdale Historic Site  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### The Windsock Arms

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 5:30–7:30 pm  
Description: Guest Bartender Marty Wollesen, Executive Director of The Clarice, serves up the cocktails tonight, while a string quartet from the National Orchestral Institute and Festival serenades you with songs of flight. Enjoy after-hours access to the exhibits, socialize with friends, and snack on appetizers provided by Geppetto Catering.  
Cost: \$10 includes food and drink  
Ages: 21 & over  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-5316; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Climate Friendly Farms: Agriculture Adapts to Global Warming

Dear EarthTalk:

*How are farms and farmers dealing with climate change?*

—Michael Harris,  
Lorton, VA

Agriculture may well be one of the industries hardest hit by the effects of global warming. The non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental advocacy group, reports that warming-related drought and flooding is already behind tens of billions of dollars in American agricultural losses annually. Given this growing threat, more and more farmers are looking to incorporate tools and techniques—let alone switch up what crops they grow—to be prepared for the big environmental changes already underway.

According to Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources (CSANR), some of the most promising warming-friendly farming technologies and practices include conservation tillage (stirring up the soil less), precision agriculture (which employs information technology to monitor crop development, refine soil inputs and optimize growing conditions), improved cropping systems (refining the sequence of which crops follow each other on a given piece of land), and anaer-

obic digestion of organic wastes (via capturing methane waste and turning it into useable energy).

NRDC has been working on sustainable agriculture for decades, and recently launched its Climate Resistant Farms campaign to focus on helping farmers roll with the punches of global warming through implementation of some of these new techniques. The group works directly with farmers to develop and share some of these best practices regarding soil health and water use.

"Climate change and extreme weather will likely have detrimental impacts on crop production, but farmers can use cover crops and other soil stewardship practices to make their farms more resilient to the climate change impacts already being felt and those likely to come in the years ahead," reports NRDC. "Such practices can also help to reduce and capture the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change."

NRDC analyzed the carbon capture and water-holding benefits of soil stewardship methods to increase soil organic matter in the 10 highest-value-producing agricultural states in the U.S. They found that "using cover crops on just half of the acres devoted to the nation's two most ubiquitous crops—corn and soybeans—in those top 10 states could help capture more than 19



CREDIT: CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM, FLICKRCC

**Midway Farms in Warsaw, Virginia has employed conservation tillage systems and soil quality improvement practices to save water and stay resilient against the threats of climate change.**

million metric tons of carbon each year and help soils retain an additional trillion gallons of water."

But despite the benefits, fewer than seven percent of U.S. farms plant cover crops, while only one percent of total cropland nationally has them. NRDC would like to see the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP)—which is backed by U.S. taxpayers—offer discounts to farmers who implement cover crops "just as safe drivers can get discounts on their car insurance."

CONTACTS: CSANR, [csanr.wsu.edu](http://csanr.wsu.edu); NRDC, [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).

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

### 2018 Budget from A1

Over 65% of the FY18 budget, \$1.97 billion, has been appropriated for education, which exceeds the Maintenance of Effort state mandate by \$30 million. The Board of Education funding level is nearly 3-percent higher, \$51 million more than last year's school spending. The Council also provided an additional \$5-million for school repairs, funding for library restoration, and \$2-million for Prince George's Community College to support career training and workforce development for the soon to be constructed Regional Medical Center in Largo.

The newly-adopted spending plan also provides funding for 200 police recruits; 115 firefighters;

25 deputy sheriffs; new positions to process warrants and manage records; 70 correctional officers; seven new correctional treatment coordinators in the Work Release Center, and funding for all dispatcher and call taker positions.

In response to the wage gap for Developmental Disabilities (DD) provider organizations directly serving Prince George's County residents with disabilities, the Council has provided a one-time measure—\$3.5 million in EDI Funds—to support a cluster of employers and prevent lost jobs for County residents and workers.

Chair Davis addressed the measure, noting that the Council's actions to produce a livable wage in the County has produced challenges for provider agencies that must be addressed.

"Prince George's County is one of two Maryland jurisdictions that raised the minimum wage, and the funding for Developmental Disabilities provider organizations is not adjusted to account for wage differences in counties like ours that mandate a higher minimum wage. Providers are struggling to bridge that gap and while a long-term solution is the State's responsibility, 'Temporary Gap Funding' from the County would serve as a bridge to stabilize the Developmental Disabilities system over the next two years and help prevent further deterioration while the State develops a long term solution."

In bi-county budget action earlier this month, lawmakers from Prince George's and

Montgomery counties unanimously adopted the FY18 Operating and Capital budgets for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC); the bi-county portion of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC); and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC). Both Councils approved the WSSC FY 2018 Operating and Capital budgets of \$1.4 billion which includes a 3.5-percent rate increase for water and sewer customers, adding approximately \$1.46 per month to the average customer's bill. WSSC's budget continues to focus on the continued rehabilitation of water and sewer pipeline miles throughout WSSC's system.

### Veterans from A1

of the various activities and challenges. A participant may choose the level of involvement in an activity and this choice is respected by others in the group and the instructors. All participants are encouraged to, at a minimum, be present and encourage others who are performing the activity.

Most importantly, Melwood fully pays for all participants to attend Operation: Tohidu, including accommodations and travel.

"Campaigns such as 'Dining for Veterans' are critical to generating revenue that will help fund

the retreats so we can continue to provide this amazing experience for America's heroes," said President & CEO of Melwood, Cari DeSantis. "Several years ago, we began searching for ways to increase services for veterans. We knew we could provide job opportunities, but the ability to proactively tackle healing and empowerment through a program such as Operation: Tohidu was a driving force for us to get it done. We make sure the participants that come through the doors leave with some resources they need to help them reintegrate and thrive in their respective communities."

Restaurants currently participating in the "Dining for Veterans" campaign include:

• **Noodles & Company, Lanham, MD:** June 16, 5–8pm. 25 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign.

• **California Pizza Kitchen, Tyson's Corner, VA:** June 22, all day. 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign.

• **Pizza Hotline, La Plata, MD location:** July 5, August 8, and September 5. 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign.

• **Pizza Hotline, Charlotte Hall, MD:** July 5, August 8, and

September 5. 10 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign.

• **Potbelly Sandwich Works, National Harbor:** July 13 from 5–8pm. 25 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign.

• **Honey Baked Ham:** Visit Honey Baked Ham to purchase a gift card. 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the campaign. ([https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/dining\\_for\\_veterans](https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/dining_for_veterans))

For more information about Melwood and to participate in the "Dining for Veterans" program, please visit [www.melwood.org/dineforvets](http://www.melwood.org/dineforvets).



## IT'S BBQ SEASON

With the backyard BBQ season starting for most on Memorial Day, here are six tips to keep your cookout as eco-friendly as possible.

- Serve your food with reusable or biodegradable plates, cups and utensils. No Styrofoam!
- Use cloth napkins that can be washed and reused.
- If using a charcoal grill, use lump charcoal made from natural and sustainable wood. Avoid lighter fluid if possible.
- Set up recycling bins so guests will know to recycle.
- Remind your guests to bring reusable containers so they can take home any leftovers.
- If you have leftover food scraps, place them in a special compost pile in your backyard. Don't compost? Save the scraps for a neighbor who does.

Prince George's County Council Member and all staff of the Department of the Environment, Redevelopment, Archiving, and Office of Central Services to promote best practices and sustainability in our facility services.