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

Culling oysters ready for market is a daily job in the aquaculture business. At Choptank Oyster Company in Cambridge, Maryland, the work is done outdoors year-round.

On Eastern Shore, Can Solar, Aquaculture Supplant Big Chicken?

By J.F. MEILS
Capital News Service

CAMBRIDGE, MD—Kevin McClarren has been growing oysters in nets on the Chesapeake Bay for 20 years.

"We were told it would never work," said McClarren, who manages four acres of floating oyster grounds for the Choptank Oyster Co. near Cambridge in

Dorchester County. "Now we're ground zero for the artisanal oyster movement in Maryland."

Since 2011, MARBIDCO, the Maryland Agriculture and Resource-Based Industry Development Corp., has doled out 50 loans to budding shellfish aquaculture startups for a total of \$3 million.

According to McClarren, the problem is there's not enough

demand in-state for all the newly cultured oysters being produced—or enough distributors to move them to markets beyond Maryland.

Which makes aquaculture—like solar, another relative newcomer to the Eastern Shore—not quite the economic salvation some hope it will be. Similar to Western Maryland and the state's northern counties, the Eastern

Shore is in the process of forging a new economic identity.

Their quandary: finding new industries that create large numbers of decent jobs while protecting the Chesapeake Bay and maintaining the region's pastoral feel for both tourists and locals. The old economic mainstays of

See SOLAR Page A5

CASA/Prince George's Again Named as One of The "Best Nonprofits"

Selected by Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

By PRESS OFFICER
CASA PG County

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County, MD, today was again named as one of the region's "best nonprofits" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington.

The Catalogue, a guide to giving, previously picked CASA/Prince George's County for the honor in 2013. The nonprofit provides court-appointed special advocates to protect the best interests of foster children.

"People want to know where to give and they need trusted information. Based on our in-depth review, we believe that CASA/Prince George's County is one of the best community-based nonprofits in the region," said Barbara Harman, founder and president of the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

Ann Marie Binsner, executive director of CASA/Prince George's County, said, "We thank the Catalogue for its recognition and support, which will help us as we push to dramatically increase the number of foster children we are able to serve."

CASA Prince George's County, founded in 2001, has about 180 CASA volunteers. Each is assigned to a child, who is foster care due to abuse or neg-

lect. The organization's goal is to assign a CASA volunteer to each foster child in the county, which now has about 500 such at-risk boys and girls.

The Catalogue, in its 15th year, evaluates small nonprofits, those with annual budgets of less than \$3 million. This year, it named 108 nonprofits as among the region's "the best." Since its inception, it has also raised \$38 million for area nonprofits.

The Catalogue's network now includes more than 400 vetted nonprofits working in the arts, education, environment, human services, and international sectors throughout greater Washington.

In addition to evaluating nonprofits and raising funds, the Catalogue offers trainings, neighborhood-based opportunities for collaboration, and a speakers' series for those who want to engage in the needs, challenges, and accomplishments of our shared community.

The Catalogue believes in the power of small nonprofits to spark big change. As the only locally focused guide to giving, its goal is to create visibility for the best community-based charities, fuel their growth with philanthropic dollars, and create a movement for social good in the greater Washington region. The Catalogue charges no fees and raises funds to support its work.

July 4th SoberRide® Campaign Launched to Deter DUI in Prince George's County

By PRESS OFFICER
WRAP

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Preparing to combat that time of year when, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), over a third (36%) of all U.S. traffic deaths involve drunk drivers, free Lyft rides will be offered to deter impaired driving throughout the Washington-met-

ropolitan area on Independence Day (July 4th).

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the 2017 Independence Day SoberRide® program will be in operation beginning at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 4th and continue until 2:00 am on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe

See SOBERRIDE Page A3

Ag Land Preservation Highlighted in PG County

By PRESS OFFICER
PG Coil Conservation

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On April 20, 2017, the Prince George's Soil Conservation District celebrated Ag Land Preservation in Prince George's County at the 43rd annual co-operator dinner. With nearly 225 in attendance, 19 landowners were presented with "Preserved Farmland" signs to be displayed on their property. The

Prince George's Soil Conservation District began administering Ag Land Preservation for Prince George's County in 2007. To date, a total of 58 properties, for 5,500 acres, have been permanently preserved. There are several options for land preservation in the county. Programs available include the Maryland Agricultural Land

See SOIL Page A3

EDC President and Chief "Excitement" Officer Jim Coleman Receives "Good Scout" Award From the Patuxent District Boy Scouts

"Eagle and Boy Scouts Can Do Anything When it Comes to Leadership!," Coleman Says.

By R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS
PGCEDC

LARGO, MD—On June 13, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation President and Chief "Excitement" Officer Jim Coleman received the "Good Scout" Award at the Patuxent District Boy Scouts' 2017 Annual Good Scout Award Luncheon. Mr. Coleman was exhilarated to be recognized but also encouraged support for the Patuxent District Boy Scouts, as the Scouts work to get the training that turns them into world leaders.

"Eagle and Boy Scouts do anything you can think of when it comes to leadership," said Coleman. "They're Secretaries of State and many have been congressmen and senators. The idea of going out and helping our communities is instilled in them and we see the positive results of their training every day. We count on our Boy Scouts to enhance our commu-

nity and to be the leaders of the future. I am honored and humbled to receive this award from the future leaders of America. It is the highest honor."

The Patuxent District Boy Scouts Good Scout Award Luncheon is held annually and recognizes community leaders whose work has had a positive impact on youth. Mr. Coleman received this year's award at the culmination of the luncheon, which highlighted the work of the Patuxent District Boy Scouts and recognized scouts who are leaders amongst their peers. Mr. Coleman was chosen because of his fervent dedication to improving the lives of all who live in Prince George's County.

"Today, we had a tremendous event honoring Jim Coleman, the President and CEO of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation," said Chair Eddie L. Pounds. "We chose Mr. Coleman because he is an outstanding leader in the business com-



PHOTO COURTESY R. JOSHUA REYNOLDS

Left to right: Eagle Scout Bercari Franklin; Event MC, Len Lucchi, Esq.; "Good Scout" Awardee Jim Coleman; Boy Scout Davis Miller

munity. When we look at the significance of the EDC and the impact it has on emerging and future leaders, we are excited about the synergies that can come from a partnership with Jim Coleman and the EDC. I couldn't think of a better person to have received this award."

In addition to receiving a trophy, Eagle Scout Bercari

Franklin and Boy Scout Davis Miller outfitted Mr. Coleman with a Boy Scouts of America neckerchief and the Boy Scouts of America Ranger Hat, which he adorned proudly for the remainder of the luncheon and business day.

See GOOD SCOUT Page A3

INSIDE

Area Motorists Are Reaping the Benefits of Lower-Than-Last Year Prices at the Pump

This is the first time in 204 days that the national gasoline price has dipped below year-ago levels. Many factors play into the price at the pump, but the common denominator for last June and the current month is crude oil.

Community, Page A3

Saving Medicaid—An Urgent SOS

They plan to vote on a Senate bill just before they leave Washington for the July 4th recess. We can't tell you everything that's in it because Senate leadership is keeping its bill secret and doesn't plan to reveal it until just before they vote. But we know it's bad—ending Medicaid as we know it.

Commentary, Page A4

Economic Development Corporation Joins Local Dignitaries at Groundbreaking For Town Hall of Upper Marlboro

The ensuing years filled in the property which ultimately became the Town Hall that serves as the administrative offices for elected officials, the Town Police Department and local meeting room.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Alien: Covenant

We've seen all of this before—and even if we hadn't, Scott keeps telegraphing the action, so that almost none of the things that surprise the characters are surprises to us. This would be a disappointment as a standalone sci-fi horror film. As an entry in the Alien franchise, it's almost an insult.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest in greener booze? Are there any good organic beers, wines or liquors out there?

—Mike Richardson,
Norwalk, OH

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

Celebrate the 4th in Morningside with parade, family fun and fireworks

The annual Morningside Independence Day Parade is due to kick off about 11 a.m. July 4 at the Morningside firehouse and march up the hill to the VFW. I expect to be waving my flag from under the big tree at Suitland Road Baptist Church. Come up and say hi.

After the parade, make your way into Morningside, to the Town Hall for Family Fun Day featuring food, games and vendors.

Then return before dusk to get ready for the great fireworks display.

For information, call the Town Hall during working hours, 301-736-2300.

People

Nicole Haynes, granddaughter of Betty and the late Ray Cottrell, of Skyline, graduated last week from Falls Church High School and will be going on to the University of California at Berkeley to study Community Planning. She is the daughter of Kristin (Cottrell) and Richard Haynes of Annandale.

Aaron Crouch, 18, is a young man to watch. He graduated from Suitland High's Creative Visual & Performing Arts last year, singing opera. This year he has been using one of his scholarships to attend the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, studying vocal performance, and he'll be going on to Juilliard.

The McHale family moved to Skyline Drive 59 years ago this week. Our five children (later, seven) loved the big back yard and the trees. I'm still in the same house. The pin oak, red oak, white oak (Maryland State Tree), hickory, gumball and several beach trees are just getting taller.

Applause

For the 33rd consecutive year, Prince George's County has earned a Tree City USA award for its commitment to effective urban forest management. The award is given by The Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

CONGRATULATIONS

Makayla Eugene, daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene received a 4.25 grade point average all four quarters at Gwynn Park Middle School in Brandywine, Maryland for 2016-2017 while balancing honors courses and an extracurricular schedule. Hard work, dedication and focus always pays off. Congratulations Makayla on your achievements.

Morgan Eugene, daughter of Curtis and Stephanie Eugene, ended the 4th Quarter with a 4.60 Grade Point Average, and a 4.46 year-to-date at Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland while balancing honors courses. Morgan excelled in academic achievement the entire school year while playing multiple sports and standing strong through an extremely tough year. Thank you to the teachers, administrators, coaches, and The Village who unselfishly believe in her and support her journey. Morgan is now a Senior at Frederick Douglass High School. Congratulations Morgan on your achievements.

CELEBRATE THE ARTS

Visit arts.pgpark.com to learn more about cultural arts complexes and to browse through a listing of upcoming performances, exhibitions, classes and art programs for the public.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy birthday to Patricia Dotson, Beverly Douglas, Charles Douglas, Cynthia Duckett, Dominick Duckett, James Forbes, Gregory Hawkins, Tamika Johnson, William Taylor, Annette Worthy, Ruby Brooks, Dominique Hardy, Jeremy Hall, Kimberly Jackson, Alicia Johnson, Reginald Johnson, Wendell Lee, Sean Montgomery, Janice Mozee, Rosalind Pinkney, Valerie Pinkney, Rhoda Slade, and Shondell Wilkerson who are members of New Hope Fellowship Parish celebrating birthdays in July.

MOVIE NIGHT

Watch *Sing* Saturday, July 15, 2017, 8-10 PM. Enjoy Movie Night with family and friends this summer starting at sunset on the Green at beautiful Watkins Park. Stop at the Watkins Summer Operations for unlimited train rides, face paint-

May they rest in peace

Condolences to Fran Sabatini on the recent death of her grandson, Andrew Christopher Heiss.

Stephanie Michelle "Stephie" Musser, 18, great-granddaughter of Virginia and the late Matt Rosch of Morningside and a new graduate of Southern High School, died June 6 in an auto accident in Lothian. She worked at Heavenly Chicken & Ribs in Dunkirk. Stephie was the daughter of Audrey Irvin and Samuel Musser, Sr.; stepdaughter of Sandra Musser; granddaughter of Carol Tucker, Lillian Taylor and Nancy Bell; sister of James, Jonathan and Sam Musser, Jr.

Cynthia Veronica Brown, 50, formerly of Skyline and a 1984 Central High grad, died June 13 at the Washington Hospital Center. She was born in Washington, graduated from Skyline Elementary, Foulis, Central, and Prince George's Community College. She played basketball, soccer, and softball and was a swimmer. She excelled in IT (Information Technology) and worked for the Dept. of Defense. She continued her studies at Maryland U. and almost completed her Bachelor of Science degree. Her father, Jerome N. Brown predeceased her. Survivors include her mother, Susie J. Brown, sister Stephanie Brown, and other family. Services were at Pope Funeral Home, with Pastor William Swann officiating.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Faith "Dycki" Brown, Alexis Schuler and my great-grandson Wesley McHale, June 29; Karen (Beardmore) Ellis, June 30; Ruth LaBelle and Jordan Foster, July 1; Sharon Simms, Matthew Clark and Megan Frostbutter, July 2; Gloria Grapevine's 92nd, Pat Richardson Conlon, Sarah Booth and Jack Hay II, July 3; Grace Carruth, Matthew Ryan White and Nya Nichols, July 4; Jean Ihrig and Timothy Hollowsky, July 5; Chrissy Bennett and Marie Goliheh, July 6.

Happy anniversary to Carl and Sue (Stine) Mason, on their 32nd on June 29.

Happy 4th of July to all my readers!

ing, mini golf and carousel rides from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Cost is \$5.00 for resident and \$6.00 for non-resident. All ages. Snacks and refreshments will be sold on site. Location is Watkins Regional Park, 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Contact number is 301-218-6757; TTY: 301-699-2544.

SEAFOOD FEAST

Save the date, September 23, 2017—Come and enjoy a Seafood Feast at New Hope Fellowship/Nottingham Myers located at 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. More information about the Seafood Feast will follow in August.

SUMMER FRIDAYS

Don't forget Summer Fridays at National Harbor. You can go and have fun playing corn hole, hopscotch, hula hoops, Connect Four, and lots more activities with friends. You will also be able to enjoy performances by Bobby McKey's, giveaways and listen to the DJ spin your favorite jams. You can experience the best sunset view in the DMV. Get your flip-flops on and bring your camera and have some fun.

Neighborhoods

Council Member Turner Prepares to Welcome Food Truck Hubs to District 4

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Council Member Todd M. Turner (D)—District 4, looks forward to welcoming Food Truck Hubs to the Bowie Town Center and Capital Office Park, following the adoption of CR-30-2017 and CR-31-2017 by the County Council on June 6, 2017.

Food Truck Hubs, as defined by legislation, are outdoor areas designated by the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) where two or more mobile units may sell freshly prepared foods, or fresh fruits and vegetables. Food Truck Hubs increase public access to healthy food options, encourage economic development and promote entrepreneurship and revitalization.

Council Member Turner, says additional Food Truck Hubs will benefit County residents, workers and aspiring entrepreneurs.

"Food truck hubs offer unique value to our community and economic development efforts. We look forward to a successful business venture with these mobile food vendors in the cities of Bowie and Greenbelt while balancing the interests of public health, safety and overall community wellbeing."

The County Council approved the opportunity for Food Truck Hubs in 2015, however special Council authorization was required to locate a Food Truck Hub outside of the designated areas. Both the cities of Bowie and Greenbelt supported the designations at the Bowie Town Center and Capital Office Park, respectively.

The Bowie Town Center Food Truck Hub will be located at 15606 Emerald Way, and the Greenbelt Food Truck Hub will be located at Capital Office Park, 6404 Ivy Lane in Greenbelt.

As required by the legislation, Food Truck Hubs are subject to an application approval and inspection by DPIE.

BGE Ready for Summer Heat and Storms

BALTIMORE, MD—The Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1, and BGE is prepared to respond to weather-related emergencies and urges customers to take proactive steps to protect their families and properties. While BGE customers are experiencing fewer and less frequent power outages than ever before due to major investments being made in the electric delivery system, customers should always have a plan in place should outages occur, especially during hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30.

New standard offer service electric rates are now in effect and residential customers who purchase their electricity from BGE will see a bill reduction of nearly \$8 a month over the previous year. This is the result primarily of lower supply prices which have been on a downward trend for several years. Customers who purchase their electricity from BGE are paying less today for the energy supply portion of their bill than they did in 2007. Customers are also using less energy today, thanks to energy efficiency programs and smart grid upgrades.

"At a time when energy supply prices are lower, BGE continues to make significant

investments in our system to provide safe and reliable service to our customers not only in advance of the summer storm and heat season, but all year long," said Stephen J. Woerner, BGE president and COO. "While we invest in our system and routinely drill on our plans to ensure they are prepared to meet the demands of extreme summer weather, we ask our customers to also prepare for the possibility of severe weather."

The company has invested more than \$8 million in specific electric distribution system upgrades and new technologies to get ready for the 2017 summer. These investments include more durable poles and wiring, expanded options for rerouting service to minimize the number of customers affected by an outage, and automated equipment that responds to system damage allowing field personnel to be deployed to other areas where on-site work is required.

This work is part of the approximately \$700 million invested each year in the company's systems, part of more than \$7 billion invested in gas and electric system upgrades since 2002. These include ongoing investments in natural gas pipes, utility poles, overhead power lines, underground cable and other equipment. An additional \$4 billion will be invested during the next five years. System upgrades and expansions are expected to lead to fewer outages and faster restoration when outages occur.

BGE completes hundreds of tasks to prepare for the summer season, and as part of the Exelon family of companies, BGE now can draw on resources from sister utilities Delmarva Power in Delaware, PECO in Pennsylvania, Atlantic City Electric in New Jersey, Pepco in Washington, D.C., and ComEd in Illinois to restore power more quickly after major storms.

Before severe weather hits, customers should:

- Have a supply of bottled water and easy-to-prepare, non-perishable foods available.
- Charge cell phones and mobile devices.
- Have a flashlight with fresh batteries on each floor of your home.

- Customers requiring refrigeration for medication or electricity for medical equipment should have alternate arrangements in place in the event of an extended power outage.
- Customers with landlines should keep a corded phone handy to report outages if their cell phone loses power.

- Visit bge.com/alerts to choose how to receive information, via text, email or phone, including when power is out in their area, when service is expected to be restored, or when power is restored.
- Text "ADDOUTAGE" to MYBGE (69243), to enroll in our two-way texting program to report outages and check the status of their outage.

If severe storms hit, visit BGE's enhanced outage map at bge.com/outagemap for information on general locations of outages in BGE's service territory. Customers also can report or view the status of an electric outage through a mobile device at bge.com.

Higher temperatures can lead to higher energy bills, and BGE provides a variety of programs to help customers save energy and money. For example, BGE's Smart Energy Savers Program®, the company's full suite of energy efficiency programs, helps residential, business, government and non-profit customers save energy and money. For more ways to save energy, visit www.bgesmartenergy.com.

In addition, customers can save energy and lower their bills this summer by following a few simple tips:

- **Turn it off:** Turn off all unnecessary lighting and devices.

- **Manage your thermostat:** Keep thermostats at a constant, comfortable level when at home. Raise the thermostat setting for days of extreme heat to save even more. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping.

- **Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed:** About 40 percent of unwanted heat comes through windows. Simply closing blinds and curtains, which act as a layer of insulation, can reduce heat in your home.

- **Use ceiling fans to circulate air:** For those without air conditioning, use ceiling fans or portable fans with the windows partially open to circulate fresh air into your home. For those with air conditioning, fans can be used to evenly distribute cool air.

- **Use appliances wisely:** Run appliances that produce heat (like clothes dryers, ovens and dishwashers) at night when it is cooler.

- **Take advantage of Energy Savings Days.** BGE schedules Energy Savings Days when the demand for electricity is expected to be particularly high. This typically occurs on very hot summer weekdays when both homes and businesses are using higher amounts of electricity, especially with air conditioning. You will be notified (via phone, email or text), usually the day before a BGE Energy Savings Day. Simply use less electricity between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on an Energy Savings Day. You will then be notified by phone, email or text of how much money you saved.

Peppermill Village Community Center Closes

LANDOVER, MD—The Peppermill Village Community Center in Landover closed to the public on June 17 to allow crews to start a \$6.6 million renovation project. Construction is expected to take approximately 18 months—with the new 15,389 square foot building debuting in the latter part of 2018.

The project, which was initially proposed in April 2014, represents more than 4 years of planning and hard work. Throughout the project, the community's input was incorporated into the design of the new facility. The new facility offers a variety of options for patrons—including a fitness center, gym space, a kitchen, and multi-purpose rooms. The completed community center will also feature teen and senior rooms. The building's new design follows LEED Silver certification qualifications, and also meets Maryland's Building High Performance Standards Code.

COMMUNITY

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

Sporting Events on a Budget—It's Possible With a Plan

Season ticket holder or first timer, watching your team take the field or visiting new teams in a different venue, gripping your seat tightly during the finger-biting last minutes of a close game or cheering on a decisive win—sports can certainly be some of the best entertainment possible.

Whether you enjoy baseball, football, soccer, hockey or any other sport, the roaring crowd, sights and smells that fill a stadium have something to offer everyone. A little planning can help keep your costs under control, and you can apply the ideas below to almost any sporting event.

Save money on the tickets. You may be sticking with your home team through thick and thin, but you can still look for ways to save money. Avoiding the most popular games, such as those on the weekends and when you're playing against big-name teams, can be help. To further maximize your savings, consider the following tips:

- **Find tickets on reseller websites.** Buying tickets from a scalper could save you money, but it also opens you up to the possibility of getting scammed. Instead, you could look for secondhand tickets on legitimate reseller websites that verify authenticity and guarantee your purchase.

- **Connect with a season ticket holder.** Try to connect with a season ticket holder who can't make a game and offer to buy their tickets. Even if they're going to the game, a season ticket holder might be able to get you a good deal. For instance, Major League Soccer (MLS) season ticket members can sometimes get a discount on additional tickets.

- **Check for an employee discount.** Some companies offer their employees discounted tickets to sporting events as a benefit. Government employees and current military members or veterans may also be eligible. However, sometimes you can only choose from a limited list of games.

- **Join the fan club.** Becoming a member of a team's official fan club can cost \$20 to \$40 a year and could more than pay for itself with discounts on tickets or gear and access to special events.

- **Go during the preseason.** Preseason tickets can be especially cheap. In 2016, you could buy preseason NFL tickets for less than \$10. You may not get to see your favorite players on the field, but it you could still save money while spending quality time with your kids or friends.

- **Try the minor league.** A minor league game can be a fun alternative to a major league game. Some of the teams have an enthusiastic and loyal fan base and the stadiums are often smaller, which lets you get closer to the action. The extras, like parking and snacks, are often cheaper as well.

Timing your purchase can also be important. If you suspect a game will sell out, it may be better to buy early than risk having to pay above face value on a reseller site. With less popular games, ticket prices tend to drop as game day approaches.

Compare transportation options. Public transportation isn't a guaranteed money saver if you're going with a large group. Carpooling or splitting the cost of a ride from a car-sharing app could be cheaper. If you're driving, look for off-premises parking lots. You may need to walk a bit, but you'll also be able to save money and might avoid some of the post-game traffic.

Eat before and bring snacks. Everyone knows stadium food is expensive and filling up on a big meal before the game can help you avoid cravings. Unbeknownst to some fans, stadiums might let you bring in outside food. However, there's often a strict bag policy, which could limit the size of your bag and may require bags to be transparent. Check the stadium's policy closely and call the team's office if you need clarification.

Bottom line: A sporting event can be a wonderful way to build memories and spend a day with your friends or family. However, the expenses from a single game can quickly stack up if you're not careful. Luckily, there are many ways to save money on tickets, transportation and food and still have a memorable experience.

Good Scout from A1

The garb worn by Boy Scouts and their Scout Masters is an outward representation of the high level of leadership training that young men across the country receive. Eagle Scout, Bercari Franklin explains the impact of that training:

"People look at me differently because of the attributes I've acquired while in scouting," said Franklin. "The experiences I've encountered still stick with me. Because of scouting, the things I thought I'd never do, I've done. The places I thought I'd never travel to, I've been. These are not only my friends, they are my brothers. I love how scouting has changed my life."



Nathaniel Sillin is a freelance writer and editor based in Washington, D.C. He has written for various publications, including The Washington Post, The Washington Times, and The Washington Business Journal.

To learn more about how you can support the Patuxent District Boy Scouts and help develop the leaders of tomorrow, please visit the website at <https://www.ncacbsa.org/>.

Soil from A1

A conservation easement on the property. To date, 36 properties have been preserved thru HARPP for 3,339 acres, 18 properties thru MALPF for 1,651 acres and 4 properties thru Rural Legacy for 510 acres for a total of 58 easements for 5,500 acres.

A conservation easement on the property. To date, 36 properties have been preserved thru HARPP for 3,339 acres, 18 properties thru MALPF for 1,651 acres and 4 properties thru Rural Legacy for 510 acres for a total of 58 easements for 5,500 acres.

Area Motorists Are Reaping the Benefits of Lower-Than-Last Year Prices at the Pump

If Trend Continues, Consumers Could See Cheapest Summer Pump Prices Since 2005

By PRESS OFFICER
AAA Mid-Atlantic

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Speculators and fortune-tellers who placed their bets on higher gasoline prices this summer are losing their shirts. Despite OPEC's big production cut last November which sent jitters to the futures market, the "petroleum complex is having trouble generating much buying momentum." So much for reading the tea leaves. Instead of rising as predicted, the price of a barrel of crude (bbl) dipped nearly six percent this week, and pump prices are seven cents cheaper than they were a year ago in Virginia, three cents cheaper since then in Washington, D.C. and down a penny in Maryland from this time last week, notes AAA.

"This represents the first instance since November 16 that current prices are below those of the previous year," according to the Oil Price Information Service, which provides daily fuel price data to AAA. "At one point this winter, it was not uncommon for motorists to mete out 50-55cents/gal more for their fuel than 12 months prior."

"Barring an unforeseen exigency, an act of God, a natural disaster out of the blue, a catastrophic hurricane striking the Gulf Coast infrastructure, or a crisis in the Middle East, some analysts are now forecasting if the trend line continues, consumers could end up paying the cheapest summertime gasoline prices in 12 years or since 2005," said John B. Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic's Manager of Public and Government Affairs. "Every penny counts. During the

driving summer season, each penny saved on gasoline translates into about \$4 million per day in savings, estimate OPIS."

At \$2.35, today's national gas price average is two (2) cents less than the price on this day one year ago. On June 9, 2016, the national gas price was \$2.37. This is the first time in 204 days that the national gasoline price has dipped below year-ago levels. Many factors play into the price at the pump, but the common denominator for last June and the current month is crude oil. WTI settled as low as \$49.07 bbl and as high as \$51.23 bbl in the June 6-10 week in 2016. Today, the price per barrel of crude opened around \$45 bbl, despite the high for 2017 in April at \$53.76.

Twenty-three (23) states are reaping the benefit of lower-than-last year prices at the pump. Consumers in the Great Lakes and Central states region are seeing the biggest benefits with double-digit drops. Across this region, gasoline supply often outweighed demand despite a few weeks where demand fluctuated upward, making the market volatile in May. This trend has carried over into June.

Gas Prices As of June 9, 2017

(Self-serve Regular)

Location	Price Today	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Washington, D.C.	\$2.52	\$2.53	\$2.53	\$2.55
Metro Area	\$2.31	\$2.32	\$2.34	\$2.35
Maryland	\$2.33	\$2.37	\$2.32	\$2.34
Virginia	\$2.13	\$2.15	\$2.16	\$2.20
National	\$2.35	\$2.38	\$2.34	\$2.37

The 23 states include: Alabama (-10 cents), Arkansas (-2 cents), Washington, D.C. (-3 cents), Georgia (-6 cents), Iowa (-4 cents), Illinois (-21 cents), Indiana (-28 cents), Kansas (-2 cent), Kentucky (-15 cents), Maryland (-1 cent), Maine (-3 cents), Michigan (-22 cents), Missouri (-3 cents), Mississippi (-2 cents), North Carolina (-8 cents), Nebraska (-6 cents), Ohio (-27 cents), Oklahoma (-7 cents), South Carolina (-8 cents), Tennessee (-11 cents), Virginia (-7 cents), Wisconsin (-10 cents) and West Virginia (-7 cents).

On the other side of the country, not one state on the West Coast or in the Rockies region is seeing the downward trend in gasoline prices. In fact, all states in West Coast region are seeing double digit growth in gasoline prices compared to the price one year ago today: Alaska (+22 cents), Arizona (+10 cents), California (+21 cents), Hawaii (+34 cents), Nevada (+21 cents), Oregon (+19 cents) and Washington (+22 cents).

Two major factors play into the West Coast price jumps. In April, the West Coast was the only region in the country seeing year-to-year demand growth.

Then in May, planned and unplanned refinery maintenance negatively affected gasoline production. While imports helped the West Coast meet supply demands, prices have not stabilized as demand grows and supply remains constrained.

Historically, the first three weeks of June can generally indicate whether consumers will sustain gasoline demand into summer months. However, with gasoline production a profitable bet for refineries, the cheaper crude oil barrel prices may still lead to high refinery output.

The record level of gasoline production the US has seen throughout the year will continue to have downward pressure on prices—even as demand grows during the summer driving season. For consumers, this likely means a high probability that prices at the pump drop even further this summer.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel, and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Launches Redesigned Family of Websites

By PRESS OFFICER
MNCPPC

RIVERDALE, MD—The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) today unveiled the redesign of its main corporate site and its Prince George's family of websites to better serve its customers.

The new sites provide users with an improved online experience through easier navigation, enhanced search functionality, a unified, uncluttered design and integrated calendars that will keep you informed on all Commission events. The sites also now feature prominent boxes on all respective homepages of their most requested information and services.

"We are so excited to reveal these websites after receiving feedback from our users who told us what improvements and features

they desired to see," said M-NCPPC Chairman Elizabeth M. Hewlett. "We listened to their comments and these new websites are our way of making it easier for users to find the information they need quicker and easier," she added.

Users are encouraged to visit the three newly updated websites along with the brand-new Prince George's County Planning Board website to access information on services, programs, public meetings and more. Visitors can log on to:

- www.mncppc.org—to apply for job opportunities, bid opportunities, and stay up-to-date on Commission news.
- www.pgplanning.org—to find zoning information, check permit status, and get information on plans for their neighborhoods.
- www.pgparcs.org—to see what recreational classes and activities they can register for.

- www.pgplanningboard.org—to testify at a hearing, become a person of record, view Planning Board agendas and hearings and more!

For additional information, or to share suggestions and comments, please send an email to: publicaffairs@ppd.mncppc.org.

About M-NCPPC

M-NCPPC was established in 1927 by Maryland State Law and charged with acquiring, developing and maintaining park land, open space, and planning for the orderly development of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In Prince George's County, M-NCPPC's responsibilities also include the management and operation of the county's public recreation program and facilities. For additional information on the services and programs offered by the M-NCPPC in both counties, log on to www.mncppc.org.

SoberRide from A1

from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

During this seven-hour period, area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

The charity also offers its SoberRide program on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Halloween and the winter holidays this year starting on December 15, 2017 and operating through and including New Year's Eve.

(In March 2017, WRAP announced a partnership with the ridesharing service Lyft to provide WRAP's SoberRide service in the Washington-metropolitan area through 2017. SoberRide, the popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, will now be solely available via the Lyft mobile app ridesharing platform.)

"In 2015 and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, over a third (36%) of all U.S. traffic fatalities during Independence Day involved drunk drivers," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President. "Worse, 46-percent of male drivers ages 21 to 34 killed in U.S. Independence Day crashes over the last half-decade were drunk."

SoberRide is offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. cov-

erage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year's July 4th SoberRide campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Lyft, MillerCoors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided

67,432 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the non-profit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with historically keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberide.com.

COMMENTARY

Anthony Brown

*U.S. Congressman
4th District of Maryland*



Congressman Brown and 22 Armed Services Democrats Introduce Bill to Boost Unity and Deterrence Against Russian Aggression

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Congressman Anthony G. Brown (D-MD), House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA), and 21 other original co-sponsors introduced the Fostering Unity Against Russian Aggression Act of 2017. A summary of the bill is available at http://democrats-armedservices.house.gov/_cache/files/f/b/fb1f6471-575f-4384-acb1-6abfa19cd2d5/B024B2F94920831136DF8C19D532EFDA.summary-of-smith-russia-bill-final.pdf, and its text can be found at http://democrats-armedservices.house.gov/_cache/files/4/a/4a4c5f08-e6dc-4ef4-9fb-d-fae4a4ddc8c/70C13FF4D39C94FCE406E4EF14E4D818.smitwa-013.xml.pdfv. Brown and Smith made the following statements about the bill:

“Russia has repeatedly worked to weaken our democracy and sow disunity among the United States and its allies. In addition to maliciously interfering in our election and those in Germany and France, the Kremlin has deployed missiles in violation of arms control treaties and committed unprovoked acts of aggression in Eastern Europe. This bill calls for a comprehensive strategy to address Russia while working to deescalate conflict that would be catastrophic for all. Ranking Member Smith’s legislation is a significant step forward in ensuring we hold Russia accountable for its harmful and destabilizing

activities around the world,” said Brown.

“I am pleased to work with Congressman Brown on this bill to forcefully and responsibly counter Russian aggression, its violation of arms treaties, and its campaign to erode democratic values worldwide,” said Smith. “It is time for Congress to lead on this issue, especially given President Trump’s unwillingness take the danger seriously. This bill adopts an intelligent and proactive approach to strengthening allied and partner defenses, increasing deterrence, and boosting our cohesion while requiring measures to reduce the risk of miscalculation and accidental nuclear war.”

The bill’s original co-sponsors are Rep. Anthony G. Brown (D-MD), Ranking Member Adam Smith (D-WA), Rep. Bob Brady (D-PA), Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI), Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), Rep. Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU), Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA), Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA), Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX), Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ), Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI), Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Rep. Donald McEachin (D-VA), Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA), Rep. Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Rep. Tom O’Halloran (D-AZ), and Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-NY).

Marc Morial, President and CEO

National Urban League



JAY-Z's Father's Day Gesture Brings Focus to Prisons, Poverty and the Price of Freedom

“What has been demonstrated here is that usually only one factor determines whether a defendant stays in jail before he comes to trial. That factor is not guilt or innocence. It is not the nature of the crime. It is not the character of the defendant. That factor is, simply, money.”

—Robert F. Kennedy,
United States Attorney General, 1964

Hip-hop legend JAY-Z celebrated Father’s Day by allowing incarcerated fathers to spend the day with their families.

Pick any day of the week in America and an estimated 700,000 people are populating our nation’s local city and county jails. Of those behind bars, 60 percent, nearly half a million people—many of them Black and Hispanic—will remain in jail, not because they have been convicted of any crime, but because they are guilty of the unpardonable crime of poverty and cannot afford the court-stipulated price placed on their freedom.

Pretrial incarceration can look very different based on race and socio-economic status. A Bureau of Justice study found that African Americans are 66 percent more likely to remain incarcerated before trial and Hispanic defendants were 91 percent more likely to remain trapped behind bars, in comparison to white defendants. If a defendant cannot afford bail (nationally, 61 percent of defendants are required to post bail for pretrial release), he or she will stay behind bars until trial. It is in that purgatory of being presumed legally innocent, but locked away from your family, your job and support networks that Black and Hispanic communities are further traumatized and shattered.

For decades, activists and social justice groups have fought against this destructive facet of mass criminalization and incarceration. This year, the movement to reform our criminal justice system’s current application of pretrial incarceration added the platform, power and philanthropy of a high-profile ally to its unceasing work: JAY-Z. The rapper, entrepreneur—not a businessman, but a business, man—and now proud father of three, donated to Southerners on New Ground and Color of Change to free and reunite incarcerated fathers with their families on Father’s Day—the continuation of an earlier campaign to bail out mothers of color for Mother’s Day. To put the impact of incarceration on communities of color in context, it is important

to note that today one in nine Black children living in America has an incarcerated parent in jail.

In a Father’s Day essay for *Time* magazine explaining why he was taking on the “exploitative” bail industry, JAY-Z was personal and poignant:

If you’re from neighborhoods like the Brooklyn one I grew up in, if you’re unable to afford a private attorney, then you can be disappeared into our jail system simply because you can’t afford bail. Millions of people are separated from their families for months at a time—not because they are convicted of committing a crime, but because they are accused of committing a crime. [...] When black and brown people are over-policed and arrested and accused of crimes at higher rates than others, and then forced to pay for their freedom before they ever see trial, big bail companies prosper. This pre-incarceration conundrum is devastating to families.

The cost of being imprisoned as if you are guilty while you are legally innocent is high and the damage extends well beyond jailhouse bars. From the separation of family members to jeopardizing current—and future—housing, benefits and work, studies have also consistently found that in comparison to defendants who were released before trial, defendants who remained incarcerated were three times more likely to be sentenced to prison, tended to receive longer sentences, and are more likely to reoffend the longer they are incarcerated. Because the inability to pay bail is both an impediment to freedom and a major cause of pretrial incarceration, people are essentially being punished for being poor. Like so many other misguided criminal justice actions, pretrial incarceration makes us less safe and poorer. As a nation, we are collectively footing a monstrous \$9 billion dollar annual bill to incarcerate people who have not been convicted of a crime, while the ballooning bail bond industry continues to profit off the poverty and desperation of vulnerable communities.

Many solutions to the problem of pretrial incarceration have been proposed, from limiting the use of pretrial incarceration to individuals who pose a threat to society to implementing alternative forms of bail besides cash bail—or forcing defendants to use bail bond companies that put profits before people and engage in predatory lending practices. We must reform this two-tiered system of injustice urgently—to save lives, families, communities, and restore our faith in our badly damaged criminal justice system.



PHOTO CREDIT: US AIR FORCE / BOBBY JONES

JOINT BASE ANDREWS—HOME OF AIR FORCE ONE

Joint Base Andrews is a U.S. military facility located in Camp Springs, MD. Named for Lieutenant General Frank Maxwell Andrews (1884–1943), former Commanding General of the U.S. Forces during WWII, the base serves as the home for two Boeing VC-25 aircraft, known by the call sign “Air Force One” when the President is on board. It also plays host to one of the largest annual air shows. In 2009, Andrews Air Force Base and Naval Air Facility Washington merged to create Joint Base Andrews. For more information about the base or to inquire about scheduling a tour, contact the Public Affairs Office at 240-612-4428.

Photo caption: President Obama’s first trip: Col. Steven Shepro, 316th Wing commander, and 316th Wing protocol members render a salute as Air Force One departs.

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Saving Medicaid—An Urgent SOS

This is an urgent SOS. Right now Republican Senators are working behind closed doors on their own version of the terrible American Health Care Act (AHCA) passed by the House of Representatives in early May that would rip away health coverage from 23 million people. They plan to vote on a Senate bill just before they leave Washington for the July 4th recess. We can’t tell you everything that’s in it because Senate leadership is keeping its bill secret and doesn’t plan to reveal it until just before they vote. But we know it’s bad—ending Medicaid as we know it. Your help is needed right now to keep Senators from moving forward with this terrible health plan! More than 50 years of progress made in expanding and improving comprehensive child-appropriate health coverage for children across America hangs in the balance. Everybody who cares about children needs to mobilize as you have never mobilized before and raise a ruckus to save children’s health care safety net.

When Medicaid was first created in 1965 it provided children with a range of services necessary to treat acute and long-term health conditions, but there was no pediatric- and development-specific benefit. A 1964 government study found 50 percent of military draftees were rejected as a result of poor physical and mental health that could have been diagnosed and successfully treated in childhood and adolescence. The realization that children’s health was a national security issue led to a sea change for children. In 1967 Medicaid added the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit for children up to age 21 to meet their unique and developmental health needs, guaranteeing children a full range of comprehensive primary and preventive care and access to all medically necessary health and mental health services.

Since then we have been striving to live up to the promise of ensuring all young people are able to reach healthy adulthood—laboriously trying to expand coverage to more children thousands by thousands, millions by millions, state by state. Today, thanks to Medicaid, the Children’s

Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 95 percent of children in America have health coverage—a historic high. Medicaid has evolved to be an essential part of the coverage system for children, ensuring 37 million children the health coverage they need to survive and thrive, including 40 percent of all children with special health care needs, and covering more than 40 percent of all births. Medicaid plays a critical role for children with special health care needs—for example, providing services throughout childhood to an infant born with a heart condition or a child with autism. For families struggling to find the financial resources needed to care for their children with disabilities, Medicaid is a lifeline and often the only viable source of financing for their children’s extensive and expensive health care needs. For some children with complex health conditions, Medicaid supplements private health coverage to ensure them access as they grow to needed specialized medical equipment and devices such as hearing aids and wheel chairs. Medicaid is also a valuable source of preventive services, helping children get the well-child visits and screenings they need to support healthy develop-

ment and prevent expensive complications later.

By investing in child well-being now, our nation and economy will recoup huge benefits later. Medicaid is far more efficient and cost-effective than private insurance for children and research comparing children eligible for Medicaid during childhood to their non-eligible peers found Medicaid-eligible children were more likely to graduate from high school, attend college, make greater contributions as adult taxpayers, and live longer than those without coverage.

Yet despite more than 50 years of progress, improvements, and success, the Senate is on the verge of recklessly crafting a bill to repeal and replace the ACA and end Medicaid as we know it. Like the terrible AHCA bill in the House, Senate Republicans want to convert Medicaid to a “per capita cap,” which means changing Medicaid’s financing structure from a federal guarantee of coverage for all medically necessary services to an annual per person federal payment that does not increase regardless of the extent of use or cost. Please don’t let this misleading jargon fool you—this

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Are You Getting the Most Out Of That Family Vacation?

Summer vacations are a fairly recent innovation, becoming popular around the middle of the nineteenth century. Schools traditionally took a summer break, "vacating" school buildings during the hot summer months, and it was from those actions that the vacation concept grew.

But despite a century and a half of growing vacation popularity, many of us still do a fairly poor job of letting our vacations do what they're supposed to do—give us a change to relax, to escape daily stresses and return refreshed and recharged.

Of course, for many of us in high-stress and demanding jobs, it can be difficult to walk away from work responsibilities for an extended period of time. Yet when one takes a large part of the office on that vacation, at least mentally, it usually means little relaxation, and can bring added stress as work demands now impinge on what should be family fun time.

Fortunately, there are cures for this problem. One is simply to schedule specific work times during your vacation. Maybe it's one or two mornings a week when work obligations can be addressed while the family goes off to enjoy themselves. Then, when work responsibilities are met, turn off the office demands and relax.

Another issue that can add stress to a family vacation is trying to fit in too much. When each and every minute is committed it's a guarantee that stress levels will be high. While it's fine to plan and schedule, part of the calendar should block out open time to discover something new and unexpected, or just to sit back, relax and do nothing.

It's also important to be realistic about what your family can and can't do. A good vacation has the whole family enjoying it, rather than fighting and complaining. One way to handle that is simply to plan for activities that will at least meet some of the needs of each family member. Kids are capable of understanding that not everything has to center on them, at least when they know their desires are also being considered. That morning visit to the museum might elicit some groans, but should be acceptable when it's followed by that afternoon at the water park.

The key to a successful vacation is to keep it simple, don't over-plan or over-schedule. Make the goal that everyone comes back as refreshed and relaxed as possible.

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

Economic Development Corporation Joins Local Dignitaries at Groundbreaking for Town Hall of Upper Marlboro

\$1.2 Million Restoration Project to Enhance Services for Residents and Business Community

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—On June 14, the Town of Upper Marlboro took major steps toward the future as it broke ground to make way for a new addition to expand the Town Hall and make renovations to the existing Town Hall structure. County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III and EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman were among notable dignitaries who joined Board of Commissioners President Jim Storey and the Town Commissioners of Upper Marlboro for the groundbreaking ceremony. Joined at the podium by Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Senate Majority Leader Douglas J.J. Peters, Delegate Joseph Vallario, and Delegate Marvin Holmes, Mr. Coleman served as the guest speaker for this momentous occasion and spoke about the rich history of the Town. He likened the future of Upper Marlboro to a Shining City Upon a Hill.

"Today we are witnessing a renaissance in Upper Marlboro. The Town of Upper Marlboro is becoming the 'New Shining City Upon a Hill,' just like the one President Ronald Reagan spoke about in his farewell speech. A tall, proud city built on rocks, stronger than oceans... teaming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace," said Coleman. "This project will bring new energy to the residents and businesses of Upper Marlboro by providing



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Pictured: County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III Prince George's County (center); Former Town Commission President Steve Sonnett; Town Commission President Jim Storey; Delegate Joseph Vallario; State Senator Douglas J.J. Peters; Commission Treasurer Nancy Clagett; Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller; Delegate Marvin Holmes; EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman; Commissioner Linda Pennoyer

them with suitable space to conduct their business. I congratulate Board President Storey and the Commissioners for their years of hard work that have led to today's historical groundbreaking. This new facility will create a new 'Shine' for this Shining City Upon a Hill."

This story about perseverance is reflective of the same perseverance and tenacity that has brought about a renaissance throughout Prince George's County with rising household median incomes, record high school graduation rates, a brand new hotel and casino employing over 3,600 residents and more than 35 companies relocating to the County over the last 18 months. Town Commission Board President Jim Storey credits the leadership of

former Board President Steve Sonnett as well as the vision and tenacity of the Town to control its own destiny with the birth of this project.

"Our Town leadership has pointed us in the right direction and we have been following through with that vision in order to serve the community better," said Storey. "Our old facility is well-used and well-loved, but it is outdated. The new facility will provide us with something for the community as well as the employees and will ultimately enhance the services we provide to our residents. Special thanks to Jim Coleman for coming out to inspire our next steps. He's great; the right person for the job."

The history of the Town of Upper Marlboro Town Hall

dates back to the 1940's when it was built as an open-roofed community pool house. The ensuing years filled in the property which ultimately became the Town Hall that serves as the administrative offices for elected officials, the Town Police Department and local meeting room. Expected renovations on this \$1.2 million project will include a larger meeting room, ADA-compliant restrooms and break rooms, upgraded communication and security capabilities, efficient work-space for daily administrative operations, and much needed storage space for Town Archives and emergency preparedness supplies and equipment. All funding for the Town Hall project will come from existing Town reserves.

Solar from A1

crop farming, raising chickens and catching fish and crabs provide jobs and preserve the area's character, but all three industries face economic pressures that make their future uncertain.

Big Problems for Big Chicken?

There are about 304 million chickens on Maryland's Eastern Shore, or 670 per resident, according to the U.S. Census of Agriculture. In 2015, chicken production was valued at \$930 million, or 41 percent of the state's total cash farm income.

The issue for some on the Eastern Shore is how the broiler business is changing, specifically in the size of chicken houses, which have evolved over time from open-air buildings that were about 16,000 square feet to enclosed structures of some 36,000 square feet, housing upwards of 30,000 chickens each.

"A lot of chicken houses built in the eighties and nineties have run out their useful life," said Bill Satterfield, executive director of Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. "The growth of new chicken houses of the last few years is not going to continue. Companies are not taking on any new growers."

The impact on air quality from the larger chicken houses is coming under increasing fire from environmentalists and politicians.

In April, the D.C. Court of Appeals overturned a 2008 Environmental Protection Agency order that exempted chicken producers from following federal air pollution standards for animal waste. The industry is expected to appeal to the Supreme Court. If they lose or the court doesn't take the case, chicken growers will have to begin complying



Oysters grow in a floating 4-acre aquaculture field run by Choptank Oyster Company near Cambridge, Maryland in Dorchester County.

with EPA reporting standards as early as July.

"It's not just the stinky smells," said Sacoby Wilson, an environmental health scientist from University of Maryland. "There are different contaminants (coming from the chicken houses) that can impact your eyes, nose, throat, mood, cause asthma and contribute to other respiratory conditions."

Should the industry lose its legal fight, compliance with EPA standards could significantly impact the cost for growing chickens on the Eastern Shore.

"Right now they (growers) don't have to have any technology to reduce emissions coming out of those houses, so this is actually a game changer," Sacoby added.

As watermen fade, can aquaculture fill the gap?

There are two people on the Maryland state seal, a farmer and a fisherman. Both are under threat on the Eastern Shore, but the plight of the area's watermen is exceedingly desperate.

"We are a dying breed," said Robert T. Brown, who is the president of the Maryland Watermen's Association.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the average crab haul in the 1980s was about 45 million pounds a year. By the 2000s, that number had decreased to 29 million pounds per year, prompting sweeping environmental and fishing regulations that went into effect in 2008.

Those efforts appear to be paying off. According to the 2017 Blue Crab Winter Dredge survey, a measure of the total blue crab population, the spawning-age female crab population in the Chesapeake Bay is 250

million, the highest in the survey's history.

"If you take the long view and you look at the return on investment in making sure water quality is improving, there are very real economic benefits to citizens and communities in the bay watershed," said Alan Girard, Maryland's Eastern Shore director for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Popular in discussions about future watermen industries with a low environmental impact on the bay is aquaculture, specifically oyster farming without using the bottom of the bay.

The economics of growing oysters in netted floats versus harvesting them from the wild is stark. Depending on the market, a cultured oyster will fetch more than three times one that is pulled directly from the bay bottom. But the work—and start-up time for new operators—is daunting. It takes two to five years for an oyster to mature. And culling oysters ready for market must be done by hand on a daily basis.

Finding buyers for oysters is another challenge. Even for established operators like Choptank, there are only so many distributors.

According to McClarren, there's not enough demand in Maryland to consume all the oysters being produced in-state, so selling them outside Maryland is crucial. "Choptank Sweets" can be found as far north as Maine and as far west as Las Vegas.

Lately, Choptank's sales numbers are dipping. McClarren is worried that Maryland is overenthusiastic about oyster aquaculture without really understanding the limited market for oysters.

"The state's pushing people into it, but they're not looking at the back end," said McClarren. "Nobody's stepping back and saying let's assess this program."

Even if markets open up for increased oyster production via aquaculture, it seems unlikely to be a driver of employment on the Eastern Shore. At Choptank, it only takes three full-time employees to process one million oysters a year.

Food vs. Clean Energy

Like watermen, the Eastern Shore's farmers were once a po-

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Alien: Covenant

Alien: Covenant

Grade: B+

Rated R, a lot of harsh profanity, some strong violence and gross sci-fi action, brief sensuality and partial nudity
2 hrs., 2 min

To watch the *Alien* prequels—*Prometheus* (2012) and now *Alien: Covenant*—is to marvel at the changes in astronaut-hiring practices that must have been implemented between the earlier chapters and the later ones. The characters in Ridley Scott's 1979 original, set in 2124, are competent spacefarers who encounter difficult situations. But the people in *Prometheus* (set in 2093), and even more so in *Covenant* (set in 2104), are clumsy dumbasses who slip in puddles of blood, fire their weapons haphazardly, bend face-first into unknown organisms, smoke cigarettes on alien planets, ignore obvious warning signs, violate safety protocols, and are easily tricked by robots. Whatever reforms were made at the Weyland Corporation in the first couple decades of the 22nd century, they resulted in much smarter (and, I must say, charismatic) employees.

The new film, set 10 years after *Prometheus* and again directed by Scott, begins aboard the colonization ship *Covenant* as it makes its way across the universe to a habitable planet designated Origa-6. In cryogenic sleep are 2,000 colonists and 15 crew members, while Walter (Michael Fassbender)—a cyborg of the same design as David in *Prometheus* but upgraded to an American accent and a more opinionated personality—tends to the ship's needs. A malfunction causes the crew to wake up seven years early, except for the captain, who burns alive in his pod and is jettisoned into space.

So! We're off to a good start. (I won't tell you which famous actor has a cameo as Capt.



ROTTENTOMATOES

Ridley Scott returns to the universe he created, with *Alien: Covenant*, a new chapter in his groundbreaking *Alien* franchise. The crew of the colony ship *Covenant*, bound for a remote planet on the far side of the galaxy, discovers what they think is an uncharted paradise, but is actually a dark, dangerous world. When they uncover a threat beyond their imagination, they must attempt a harrowing escape.

Crispy, but I can tell you you'll laugh when you recognize him.) The new captain, Oram (Billy Crudup), is prickly and weak, uncertain of his authority. It is mentioned two or three times that he's a man of faith, but that fact never becomes relevant (one assumes there are deleted scenes). Investigating a rogue transmission, Oram and company find a planet near their current location that seems to be even better for colonization than Origa-6. Wouldn't hurt to send a landing party down there, see where the signal is coming from, check things out, get eaten by aliens, etc.

Most of the film, then, is set on this planet, a desolate, Earth-like place that is probably quite colorful when it's not being photographed in steel-gray tones. (The future, as usual, is desaturated.) The dead captain's widow, Daniels (Katherine Waterston), argues with the new captain about what they should

do; fans of the *Alien* franchise will not be surprised when the correct opinion turns out to be the woman's. Other crew members, mostly interchangeable, include Karine (Carmen Ejogo), Upworth (Callie Hernandez), Ricks (Jussie Smollett), Lope (Demian Bechir), and Faris (Amy Seimetz). Danny McBride plays a pilot named Tennessee, the closest thing to comic relief that the drab film has to offer.

I'll let you discover how this is connected to the events of *Prometheus*, which ended with that movie's surviving female (Noomi Rapace) and David the polite British android commanding an alien ship to go in search of life. Logic suggests that the character who cannot die is more likely to be in this part of the story than the one who can, so expect the two Michael Fassbenders to have differing views on a robot's place in society. You may also enjoy the moment when David plays a tune

on the flute and it is the musical score from *Prometheus*, which I guess he saw somehow.

Frustratingly, the screenplay (credited to *The Aviator* writer John Logan and newcomer Dante Harper) has intriguing ideas that are swallowed up in the formulaic rehashing of past *Alien* imagery. For every five minutes of philosophical conversation about the origins of life and *Paradise Lost* references, there are 15 minutes of morons poking at alien things, being infected by them, and giving birth to CGI monsters that burst from their ribcages. Tense moments are rare and mild. No characters are exceptional. We've seen all of this before—and even if we hadn't, Scott keeps telegraphing the action, so that almost none of the things that surprise the characters are surprises to us. This would be a disappointment as a standalone sci-fi horror film. As an entry in the *Alien* franchise, it's almost an insult.

Solar from A5

tent economic force in the region. Some argue the bay-oriented environmental regulation that decimated the ranks of watermen is doing the same to the area's farmers, only slower.

"If each year, the agricultural community is impacted by new and onerous bills from Annapolis, it makes it difficult for folks in the ag industry to thrive," said Kurt Fuchs, government affairs officer for Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, which carries about \$2.6 billion in outstanding farm loans and has 11,000 borrowers scattered around the region.

According to an analysis of U.S. Census of Agriculture figures from 1997 to 2012, the date of the last census, Eastern Shore farmland is not disappearing. In fact, when combining the shore's nine counties over the last 15 years of available data, there has been a 4 percent increase in acres of farmland, to just over a million in 2012.

Caroline, the only Eastern Shore county without any coastline on the Chesapeake, ranks first in Maryland in total value of agricultural products sold and is the state's leading producer of wheat.

But with wheat prices depressed, many farmers in Caroline are hurting.

"The majority of farmers locally have diversified into either the chicken industry or some other



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

Wilbur Levengood, a Caroline County Commissioner, stands on one of his tractors on his land near Goldsboro, Maryland.

industry so they can keep their heads above water," said County Commissioner Wilbur Levengood, R-Caroline, who still farms about 300 acres near Goldsboro. "Guys who are paying big land rent and doing it on dry land, they're in trouble," he added.

Some Eastern Shore farmers are considering solar for revenue, thanks in part to a bill that increased Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard for clean energy use to 25 percent statewide by 2020. Gov. Hogan vetoed the bill in February, but it became law via legislative override.

"I think the Eastern Shore has been favorable (for solar) because of the sheer amount of land not currently in use," said Leigh Yeatts, interim executive

director of the MDV-SEIA, the regional arm of the Solar Energy Industry Association.

The shore's flat topography, and relative closeness to transmission areas also make it ideal for large-scale solar generation.

The biggest solar installation in the state is under construction in Somerset County. Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp., a Canadian company, is in the process of installing up to 150 megawatts of solar generation on a series of arrays across 1,000 acres on different patches of land south of Princess Anne, the Somerset County seat.

The next largest site in Maryland is in Hagerstown and produces 20 megawatts annually, according to the SEIA.

The plan submitted to Somerset County by Great Bay Solar LLC and approved by the state's Public Service Commission estimates that upwards of 4,000 direct and induced jobs will be created during construction, but the site will only require 27 jobs once the project is done.

The Algonquin facility's future energy is already under contract to the U.S. government's General Services Administration. The sweetener for Somerset County, whose local officials did not resist the facility, is \$2.5 million annually in tax revenue.

But for all the potential clean energy and government revenue that could be generated by solar, not everyone on the Eastern Shore is down with the area becoming a hub.

"The last thing we want to do is replace our food sources with energy," said Colby Ferguson, director of government relations for the Maryland Farm Bureau, which is not against solar, but does not want it located on productive farmland.

Some counties, like Talbot and Frederick, in the past have placed short-term moratoriums on the installation of solar projects in order to devise appropriate regulations.

"Every field has a classifica-

tion," said Jennifer Williams, a

See SOLAR Page A7

Personalize Your Garden

Add Some Extra Appeal To Your Landscape With Garden Art

By Melinda Myers



Adding excitement to your garden is easy. You can create instant, year-round color, structure, motion and fun to your landscape with a bit of garden art.

Just like shopping for plants, look for pieces that complement your gardening style. And consider all the benefits each piece of art provides. Many pieces are functional as well as beautiful, helping you get the most from your garden budget.

In centuries past, garden art included statues of gods and beautiful people as well as pieces that mimicked nature's ornamental qualities. You can still find those traditional garden statues. But these days you will also find colorful pieces made from a variety of weatherproof materials in a variety of styles.

Look for garden art that's functional as well as beautiful. You no longer need to settle for drab plant supports. Look for items like the Kaleidoscope Tomato Cage (gardeners.com) made of durable, heavy gauge steel and adorned with colorful weatherproof glass inserts. Train peas and pole beans up colorful and sturdy structures like Kaleidoscope Spiral Supports. These make creating an edible, ornamental landscape a breeze.

Bring your garden to life with garden art that moves in the wind. Metal wind spinners, mobiles and wind chimes add motion and in some cases sound to the garden.

Try creating a bottle bush using individually mouth-blown art glass globes instead of wine bottles. Select those suited to the outdoors. Strategically place them in the garden, so you can enjoy the way the sunlight plays off the unique, colorful glass.

Add a bit of color and ornamental appeal when purchasing your next birdbath or bench. And don't forget about other winged visitors. Some garden art, like poppy sways, also capture water for hummingbirds, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

Artfully direct water from the roof using decorative rain chains into a rain barrel or mulched area. Use this century-old technique to slow the flow of water, preventing mulch and mud from splashing onto the house. Those in cold climates will appreciate the beauty of the ice-covered chains in winter.

Extend your enjoyment by lighting up the landscape with solar powered artwork. Set solar stakes donned with birds, roosters or calla lilies throughout the garden. You'll enjoy their charming style by day and colorful glow at night. Lead your guests to the front door or backyard garden with the help of solar powered Mosaic glass globes.

Include a bit of fun and whimsy in your landscape. Let your garden design and garden art reflect your personality. A flock of funky metal chickens meandering through the garden or school of steel Fish Out of Water Garden Stakes swimming through your perennials may just be the extra character your garden needs.

Take some time this season to finish off an established garden, create a focal point for a new garden or just add new life to an existing landscape. Whatever the reason, you're sure to enjoy the added beauty only garden art can provide.

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

Calendar of Events

June 29 — July 5, 2017

Barnyard Birds

Date and Time: Thursday, June 29, 2017, 2–3 pm
Description: Take a guided tour through the farm and learn about chickens, turkeys, peacocks, geese, and ducks. Meet them up close and personal, and do fun activities that help you learn about our feathered friends.

Cost: Resident: \$4; Non-resident: \$6
Ages: 5 and older
Location: Old Maryland Farm
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6702; TTY 301-699-2544

Animals of Greenbelt

Date and Time: Thursday, June 29, 2017, 4 pm
Description: Join a Park ranger in a presentation of wildlife and their characteristics that call this special place their home.

Cost: Free
Ages: 5–12
Location: Greenbelt Park—Meet at Sweetgum picnic area
6565 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD
Contact: 301-344-3944

Sky Zone Trip

Date and Time: Friday, June 30, 2017, 6:30 pm
Description: Come with us to Sky Zone where the sky is NOT the limit!

Cost: \$20
Ages: 10–17
Location: Glenn Dale Community Center
11901 Glenn Dale Boulevard, Glenn Dale, MD
Contact: 301-352-8983, TTY 301-699-2544

Bubble Ball

Date and Time: Friday, June 30, 2017, 8:30–10:30 pm
Description: Bubble Ball is a remix of bumper cars, sumo wrestling, and ridiculousness. You'll laugh ... get knocked over ... and laugh some more. Each player is protected by a large, transparent bubble that covers the entire body except for the lower legs, with an opening above the head. This event has endless opportunities of fun and depends on the creativity of the player. We'll see you there!

Cost: FREE!
Ages: 13–17
Location: Bowie Community Center
3209 Stonybrooke Drive, Bowie, MD 20715
Contact: 301-464-1731; TTY 301-699-2544

Exhibit: Barry Goldstein

Date and Time: Saturday, July 1–Sunday, July 30, 2017, 10 am–5 pm
Description: After a career running a premier accounting recruitment agency in Washington, D.C., Barry Goldstein sold his business to pursue art.

Studying and working in a wide range of media from drawing to painting to sculpting, he sees our physical and non-physical world in new ways.

Cost: Free
Ages: All ages welcome
Location: Montpelier Arts Center
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

Black-Eyed Susan Indoor Summer Classic

Date and Time: Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2, 2017, 8 am
Description: Indoor BEST Horse Show

Cost: Free for spectators
Location: The Show Place Arena
14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

University of Maryland July 4 Spectacular

Date and Time: July 4, 2017, Concessions open at 5 pm; Entertainment begins at 7 pm; Fireworks start at dusk—approximately 9 p.m.
Description: The University of Maryland and the City of College Park host a Fourth of July celebration with fireworks and Rock and Roll tunes. Grass seating is limited, so bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Concessions will offer hamburgers, hot dogs, funnel cakes, ice cream, snow cones, soda and bottled water. Personal coolers are allowed. Alcohol and personal fireworks are prohibited on campus.

Cost: Free
Location: University of Maryland
College Park, MD
Lot 1 adjacent to Campus Drive off Adelphi Road

Parking tips: Use either the Campus Drive entrance from U.S. Route 1, or the Stadium Drive entrance from Route 193. Follow police directions to parking.

Arrive early. Heavy traffic is expected to begin around 7:30 p.m. Late cars will be directed to park in outlying lots, which will offer free parking, but shuttle services will not be available. Disabled visitors are encouraged to arrive early as disabled parking is limited in Lot AA.

The best routes to exit campus will be the main Campus Drive gate onto Route 1, or Stadium Drive to Route 193.

Blast-in-the-Past: A Hands-On History Playground

Date and Time: Thursday–Saturday, July 6–Aug. 5, 10 am–3 pm.
Description: Montpelier's grounds will be transformed into a history playground! Have fun while you learn about life in 18th century Maryland. Be a farmer, a frontiersperson, a milliner, a town crier and much more. Come for an hour or stay for the day. Drop-in, no reservations required.

Cost: Montgomery and Prince George's Co. Resident \$2.50/day; Non-Resident \$3/day. 2 free adults per group. Saturdays are All-County Day, when all paying visitors pay the resident fee of \$2.50.

Self-guided tours available for additional fee. \$1 off house tour for adults attending Blast-in-the-Past.

Ages: 2 and up
Location: Montpelier Mansion
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301 377-7817, TTY: (301) 446-3302,

EARTH TALK ... Greener Booze: Why Stop Caring When It's Party Time?

Dear EarthTalk:

What's the latest in greener booze? Are there any good organic beers, wines or liquors out there?

—Mike Richardson,
Norwalk, OH

Perhaps no other industry has responded to the greening of consumer preferences quite like beverage producers. From wine to beer to spirits, greener choices made from local and organic ingredients and packaged in lighter-weight containers abound. Indeed, getting a buzz on has never felt so good.

Brewers' great contribution to the greening of the industry has been a renewed focus on localization. Back in the 1980s, there were less than 100 breweries across the U.S., most of them part of big multi-national corporations. But today Americans have upwards of 5,000 breweries at their beck and call, many which source ingredients from nearby farms and save money and greenhouse gas pollution by not shipping their products out of their local region.

Besides local sourcing and distribution, hundreds of brewers across the country are also going green by choosing organic barley and hops. Some labels to look for in sustainable beer include Peak Organic and Brooklyn Brewery, both based out of New York, and Colorado-based New Belgium.

For its part, the wine industry has made great strides in recent years by upping its production of organic wines, too. Frey Vineyards, Grgich Hills Estate, Porter Creek, Cain, Ernest Vineyards and Pacific Rim are just a few of the U.S. based winemakers embracing organically grown grapes.

Winemakers are also showing green leadership through product packaging, with many eschewing glass bottles in favor of cardboard boxes or plastic-reinforced Tetra Paks. Not only does the process of creating traditional wine bottles emit large amounts of greenhouse gases, the weight of the glass also adds markedly to transportation emissions—nearly half of the products' weight is in the bottles themselves.

Wine blogger Tyler Colman of DrVino.com estimates that boxed wine generates about half the greenhouse gas emissions per 750 mL as wine in glass bottles. That said, Tetra Paks aren't so easy to recycle and thus are more likely to be tossed into landfill-bound trash than their glass counterparts. But aficionados skeptical of wine in a box might want to taste test French Rabbit's Pinot Noir, created from organic ingredients and looking svelte in its Tetra Pak.

When it comes to sustainability, hard liquor may be the last to the party but is rallying hard to catch up. Mexico's Tequila Ocho, for instance, lets some of the agave plants on its Los Fres-



PHOTO COURTESY EARTH TALK

Mexico's Tequila Ocho lets some of the blue agave plants at its Los Fresnos ranch reach full flower—a process that can take up to eight years and makes the plants no longer able to produce tequila—for the sake of local endangered bat populations that depend on them to thrive.

nos ranch reach full flower—a process that can take up to eight years and makes the plants no longer able to produce tequila—for the sake of local endangered bat populations that depend on healthy, flowering agave plants to thrive.

Meanwhile, California's Square One not only uses organic grains in its vodka but sources a significant amount of the electricity needed in its production facilities from a local wind farm. Kentucky-based Maker's Mark uses locally sourced grains in its famous bourbon and converts production waste into energy to power its distillery. And Puerto Rico's DonQ rum composts its waste and uses run-off to irrigate its

fields while powering its still with excess steam from its treatment plant.

CONTACTS: Tetra Pak, www.tetrapak.com; French Rabbit, www.frenchrabbit.com; Frey Vineyards, www.freyvine.com; Dr. Vino, www.drvinowine.com; Tequila Ocho, www.ochotequila.com; Square One, www.squareoneorganicspirits.com; DonQ Rum, www.donq.com.

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Prince George's County LitterTrak Earns Best In Category National Achievement Award

Mobile Litter Apps Recognized for Helping to Keep Prince George's County Litter-Free

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Prince George's County has been recognized with a 2017 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for the launch of two mobile software applications (apps) designed to track and report tonnage of litter captured, removed and prevented in communities and local waterways. The national awards program honors innovative, effective County government programs that enhance services for residents. PGCLitterTrak (used by community groups and individual citizens) and LitterTrak (used by County officials) were selected as the overall best in the category of County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability.

NACo President Bryan Desloge said, "Counties overcome complex challenges, provide essential services and constantly do more with less. We applaud these Achievement Award-winning counties for out-

standing efforts to improve residents' quality of life."

"Litter is a nuisance in our community and has a direct effect on our quality of life in Prince George's County," says DoE Director Adam Ortiz. "These mobile apps assist in our fight for a litter-free County and receiving this national recognition confirms our commitment to crafting creative solutions that help keep our County clean."

PGCLitterTrak and LitterTrak were developed to assist the County in its Litter Reduction Programs and various Partnerships that include:

- Clean Sweep—a coordinated inter-agency led effort to clean up communities in the Anacostia River Watershed and TNI areas that will contribute to the achievement of the mandated trash reduction rate of 170,628 pounds per year in the Anacostia River Watershed.

- Clean Up Green Up—an annual initiative designed to keep communities cleaner and greener with neighborhood plantings and beautification ac-

tivities held twice a year, throughout the County.

- Comprehensive Community Cleanup—program designed to revitalize, enhance and help maintain unincorporated areas of the County by providing a concentrated focus of County cleanup and maintenance services to a community over a 2-week period.

- Volunteer Neighborhood Community Cleanup—a community-sponsored volunteer program geared toward small, medium and large-sized communities that includes neighborhood and stream cleanups. Interested communities are provided with technical assistance and materials such as trash bags, gloves, and roll-off containers when available.

- Storm Drain Stenciling—community program that helps prevent water pollution by stenciling inlets to neighborhood storm drains.

- Source reduction projects to reduce incidents of littering such as installation of trash and recycling receptacles.

- Trash capture devices that increase capacity to remove litter in waterways which can be maintained by volunteer groups.

- Stream level trash monitoring and land-based trash surveying to provide actual measures of trash load reduction and gauges impacts of implemented measures.

- Stream cleanup services that increase the County's capacity to remove litter from physically challenging waterways and bank areas.

NACo will recognize the award-winning Counties at its 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition July 21–24 in Franklin County, Ohio. Visit www.naco.org to view a complete list of winners.

PGCLitterTRAK app is available by registration through the PGCLitterTRAK user sign-up form. For more information on how to get involved in the fight for a Litter-Free Prince George's County, contact Tiaa Rutherford, Litter Reduction Program Manager, at (301) 883-6226.

Solar from A6

Talbot County Commissioner. "In certain fields where the quality is marginal, why not use those fields for solar?"

However, the state's Public Service Commission reviews and approves all solar projects that will generate two or more megawatts, and their authority supersedes that of the counties.

So is this the beginning of a solar gold rush on the Eastern Shore?

Some of the solar land leases being offered to area farmers make it seem that way. The leases usually run for about 25

years and their financial terms can vary widely, but offers in the \$1000/acre range are common, with either lump-sum payments up front or made annually or even quarterly.

With some farmers struggling to net \$100/acre growing corn or grain, saying no to solar will be hard.

For the time being anyway, most won't have to choose.

"I think there's this misconception (in Maryland) that utility-scale solar is going to continue at the rate we have seen, at 50 to 60 megawatts (developed) a year," said Sara Rafalson, director of policy and new markets

for Sol Systems, an energy finance company. "It will continue, but it won't be this big solar boom where all the state's farmland will be taken up," she added.

A good indicator of the demand for solar is the state's SREC, or solar renewable energy certificate, market. A single SREC is earned by generating 1,000 kilowatts or 1 megawatt, of solar electricity annually.

SRECs are important because Maryland's utility companies are required to have 2.5 percent of their electricity generated from solar. SRECs can be bought and sold to big utility companies that need to meet state regulations or

face fines. The electricity created is sold separately. SRECs generally serve as an inducement to build solar.

"A bunch of folks were developing projects (in 2015), which led to oversupply in the (SREC) market and a crash in 2016," said Yeatts.

As of May 25, the bid on SREC Trade, an aggregator, for a Maryland SREC is \$8. In spring 2015, they were in the \$150 range.

"A lot of (solar development) folks are turning their eyes to Virginia because the economics are more favorable than Maryland," Rafalson said.

The Prince George's Post

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