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Statement of the Bowie City Council Supporting Initiatives to Protect The Environment

By PRESS OFFICER
Bowie City Government

BOWIE, MD—While recent discussions about climate change and other environmental issues have prompted some public debate, the Bowie City Council affirms that they will continue on their award-winning path to sustainability.

The City of Bowie has a long history of engaging with residents to protect the environment and improve the sustainability of the community. As the City has grown in size and complexity over the years, so too have our efforts in this arena.

From being an early supporter of curbside recycling, to setting aside land for parks and trails, to receiving the prestigious Sustainability Champion award from the University of Maryland's Sustainable Maryland Certified Program in 2016, the City of Bowie continues to strive to improve its environmental stewardship.

Over the last several years, the City has adopted several far-reaching policies, such as:

- The 2003 Green Buildings Policy that makes energy efficiency a part of every new building project design and involving employees in identifying and promoting opportunities for conservation;

- The 2009 Climate Change Resolution that commits Bowie to being a leader in the energy arena and protects the local environment by reducing energy consumption;

- The 2015 Climate Action Plan that aims to reduce City greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from 2007 levels by 2020; and

- The 2016 Sustainability Plan that provides a far-reaching framework ensuring that Bowie remains a diverse and vibrant community committed to its citizens, economy, and natural environment.

While governments set policies to direct change, real transformation comes only when they lead by example and when they involve and engage the community in embracing new ways of doing things. With the help of the Bowie Green Team, the Environmental Advisory Committee, and the Employee Energy Efficiency Ambassadors, Bowie has adopted that approach and is working create a more sustainable community and work environment.

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

Small cities like Salisbury, Maryland, may hold the key to revitalizing the rural areas that surround them. But first they need to start keeping their youngest residents from fleeing.

Can Salisbury and Other Small Urban Enclaves Make Rural Cool Again?

By J.F. MEILS
Capital News Service

SALISBURY, MD—Salisbury Mayor Jake Day, 34, has a floor-to-ceiling erasable board dotted with Post-it notes on the longest wall of his office.

It's a jarring display of terrestrial organization for a millennial, but Day is hardly old school. He's got two masters

degrees, one from Carnegie Mellon in urban design and the other from Oxford in environmental policy. He is also an officer in the Maryland National Guard and a local boy whose father was recently named COO of Perdue Farms.

"There were moments when, as a 9-year-old living in Salisbury, I was thinking I really want to be mayor in this town," said Day.

So he's had plenty of time to think about how he'd change things in a city with a history of helter-skelter development and a stubborn crime rate.

"The biggest thing for us has been arts, entertainment and culture," Day explained. "Recognizing that those things can be more than an ancillary benefit, but a driver has been big for us."

Day is staring down a core problem in rural Maryland: People are dying faster than they're being replaced, and where they're not the numbers are trending that way. So retaining residents and attracting new ones is vital. Because creating jobs, enticing new industries

See RURAL Page A5

Practice Proper Pet Protection During the Summer Heat

Prince George's County Shares Hot Weather Tips to Help Keep Pets Safe and Alive in High Summer Temperatures

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Government

LARGO, MD—Excessive high temperatures can be dangerous not only to humans, but to your furry companions as well. With the hot, steamy days of summer upon us, you can help keep your pets safe, cool, healthy and happy during the high-heat of summer with a few helpful tips from the Prince George's County Animal Management Division (AMD).

- **Remember! It's against the law in the State of Maryland to leave pets in an unattended vehicle.** On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a car with the windows opened slightly can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature can reach 120 degrees. Overheating can kill an animal; NEVER leave your pet alone in a vehicle, even with the windows open or the air conditioning running.

- Consider giving your pet a summer haircut to a one-inch

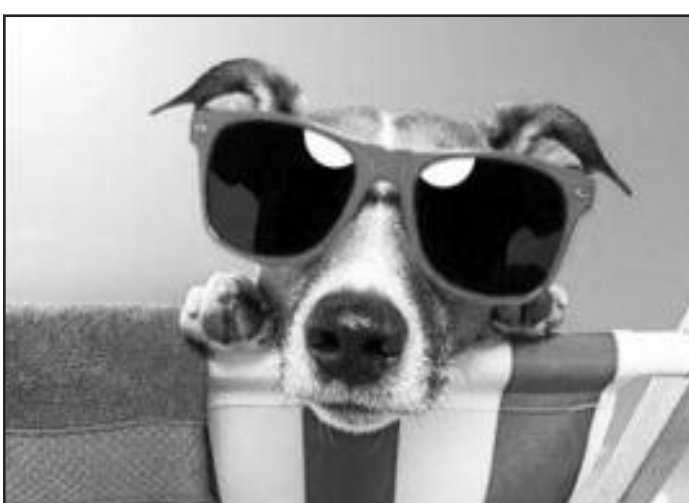


PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

length to help prevent overheating, but avoid shaving your dog to protect them from sunburn. Also, take them to the vet or local pet clinic for a summer checkup.

- Walk your dog in the early morning or evening. When the temperature is very high, hot asphalt can quickly burn the paw pads of dogs. If possible, walk your pet in the grass. If you're planning outdoor activities with your pet, remember to carry ex-

tra water and a container for them to drink from.

- Take special precautions with pets that are old, overweight or have health disorders. Snub-nosed dogs (Bulldogs, Pekingese, Boston Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Shih Tzus) or animals with flat faces (Pugs, Persian cats) have compromised res-

See PETS Page A5

Prince George's Community College to Host Third Annual Nursing Assistant Job Fair

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCC

LARGO, MD—Prince George's Community College will be hosting its third annual Nursing Assistant Job Fair on Saturday, July 8, 2017, from 10 am–1 pm at the Center for Health Studies on the Largo campus. All nursing assistants are invited to attend and inquire about new job opportunities and attend free caregiver workshops. Some of this year's workshops include: 1) Dementia: Understanding and Assisting Older Adults; 2) Caregiver: Activities, Tools and Resources to Engage Older Adults; and 3) How to Get Employed.

In addition, several employers from hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living and home health services will be on hand to discuss job opportunities at their respective facilities. Nursing assistants who attended the previous years' job fairs; were interviewed on the spot and in some instances walked away with jobs from employers who attended the job fair.

"The college is committed to ensuring that our students succeed and this job fair is just one of the ways we assist them in realizing their dreams," said Veronica J. Hammonds, program coordinator, Nursing Assistant programs. "Job fairs such as this one provide students with the chance to meet potential employers face to face and even walk away a job. But, more than that it allows students to see

See JOB FAIR Page A3

Woodridge Elementary Named Champion For Mental Health Awareness Month

By PRESS OFFICER
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Woodridge Elementary School has been named a School Champion of the Year for demonstrating exceptional mental health awareness efforts during the Mental Health Association of Maryland's (MHAMD) annual outreach campaign.

Woodridge is one of three schools statewide to receive the honor, which includes a congratulatory letter, certificate of recognition and book-marks for students.

MHAMD collaborates with the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) to host the campaign annually in May, with support from the Maryland Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene Behavioral Health Administration. With more than 400 community and school champions throughout Maryland, the campaign raises awareness of children's mental health through events, workshops and outreach.

For more information, please visit the website at www.childmentalhealthmatters.org.

INSIDE

Public Awareness Campaign For The Maryland Renters Tax Credit In PG County Announced

The goal of MCRC's newest public awareness efforts is to increase yearly applications to the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit by Maryland's low-income renters, mainly seniors and people who are permanently disabled.

Community, Page A3

Back to the Future: Civil Rights, Wade Henderson, and the Next Generation

Under his direction, Henderson grew the Leadership Conference's number of member organizations from 170 to 200, including its first Muslim and Sikh civil rights groups, and he led the coalition through the passage of every major civil rights law in the past 20 years ...

Commentary, Page A4

EDC Charges Up County "Wonder Women" at Inaugural Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon

The primary focus for Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon was to provide a platform for women to learn from others who are breaking the glass ceiling in male-dominated careers.

Business, Page A5

Movie Review: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

Weirdest of all is how so many farcical scenarios are set up and then resolved (or dropped) without a payoff or a punchline. Greg spills Cheetos into a jacuzzi and comes out with orange skin; his dad says, "Is your skin orange?"; that's the end of the bit.

Out on the Town, Page A6

Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways people are using games to help reduce their carbon footprints?

—Leah McNeil,
Colchester, CT

Features, Page A7

Towns and NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

William Beanes Recreation Center to host Nats' STEAM Camp

The County has a new place for kids to play basketball—the newly renovated William Beanes Recreation Center. The grand opening was June 17 at 5108 Dianna Drive, in Suitland.

The 9,100-square-foot expansion, which took two years to complete, added two retractable baskets and bleachers in the gym, a fitness/weight room and a multipurpose room that can divide into four separate rooms. There are also about 20 computers. And the Beanes Center is one of the few in the county with an outdoor patio.

Williams Beanes and Kentland centers are the only two that'll host a Washington Nationals' STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) Camp starting next month. The camp will explore how to incorporate science and mathematics by conducting projects and experiments through baseball.

"This is going to be a place for everybody," James McCrae, facility director at William Beanes, said before the center's grand opening. "I live near the neighborhood and people ask me every time, 'When is the community center going to open?' This is such as beautiful thing."

Headstones knocked down at St. Thomas' graveyard

I visited the cemetery at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Croom at least twice, for the burials of my dear next-door neighbors Ted and Lee Burke.

I'm sad to say that more than two dozen headstones were toppled between June 22 and June 24. Some of those vandalized date to the 1800s. As Steve Kensinger, senior warden of the church, said, "It's unfathomable that someone could come in and do this."

The cemetery at the historic church is beautiful, as is St. Thomas Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Founded in 1745, it is the second oldest, continuously operating church and cemetery

in Prince George's County. Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War are among the graves. World War II should also be listed; Ted Burke served in it.

People

Apostle Deborah and Reverend Floyd Durham are in the 4th of July spirit. They adorned their Suitland Road home with patriotic themes in time for the Morningside Parade to pass by.

Sydney Erin O'Rourke, daughter of former Skyline resident Sharon and Greg O'Rourke, has graduated from Glenelg High School in Howard County. Graduation was at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia. Sharon grew up across the street from me, and is the daughter of the late John and Pat Thompson.

Stan Holmes' granddaughter MaKyla Holmes-Williams just celebrated her birthday on the date she shares with her late great-grandfather William F. "Bill" Holmes (whom she never met). They were both born on June 28. MaKyla's 11 now, but in her youth she often called Grandpa Bill her twin. Stan thinks she's absolutely correct. Stan, by the way, is president of the Skyline Citizens Association.

James Barter of Westend Capital Group is a managing partner of this privately-held real estate firm, headquartered in Washington, and is leading redevelopment efforts of the Shops at Iverson Mall.

Coming up

The Prince George's County Family & Friends Day will be Aug. 27, 2017, 3-6 p.m. at the Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave., in Upper Marlboro. Please stay tuned for more details about this annual county-wide festival.

Changing landscape

If you plan to watch the eclipse on August 21, you're going to need special glasses to see it. You might be interested to know that libraries all over the country are giving out free eclipse-viewing glasses. Two million of them!

The Chinese restaurant (don't know the name), just behind the Social Security building on Al-lentown Road at Branch Avenue, is under renovation.

The Town of Upper Marlboro is expanding its historic Town Hall on the site that once was an open-roofed community pool. County officials broke ground on June 14. This will give the town more space for large events, storage and exhibits. Construction is due to be completed in January 2018.

Last week I had some interesting callers: two deer hung out in the back yard, took a look at me, shrugged and went on munching. And one night a mama raccoon ran through the yard with six babies racing behind her, trying to catch up.

33 years at Horizon, and she hoped to retire this year

Angela Logan-Thomas, 54, who recently graduated with a business degree from Strayer University, died April 30. She was born in Morristown, NJ and later moved to SE Washington and then to Camp Springs.

She had worked for Horizon Communications for 33 years. But now that she had her degree she planned to retire this year and get involved in politics.

She was a longtime parishioner of St. Philip's Parish.

Survivors include her husband of 30 years, Charles "Chris" Thomas; children, Chrisauna, Charles "Chris" Jr., Alicia, James and Aliyah Caylin Thomas; sisters, brothers and a host of other family and friends. Mass of Christian Burial was at Mount Calvary Catholic Church with burial at Maryland National Cemetery in Laurel.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Pat Richardson Conlon, July 3; Father Kevin Cusick, Charles "Tony" Haley, Sue Richards and Rev. Dr. Kelvin McCune, pastor of Suitland Road Baptist Church, July 7; Jimmy Gromen

See MORNINGSIDE Page A3

Neighborhoods

Donaldson Group and DRA Acquire 126-unit Apartment Building in Temple Hills

ROCKVILLE, MD—The Donaldson Group (TDG) of Rockville, MD and its equity partner, New York-based DRA Advisors LLC (DRA), have acquired Brinkley Manor Apartments, a 126-unit garden-style apartment community located in Temple Hills, Maryland. The acquisition price was approximately \$15.05 million, and the partnership plans to invest additional capital to renovate the property.

Robert LaChapelle and Matthew Forgione of CBRE Debt & Structured Finance assisted the DRA-TDG partnership in obtaining acquisition financing through Fannie Mae's Green Loan Program. The seller was represented by Michael Muldowney and Brian Margerum of CBRE's Baltimore, MD-based investment sales group.

Residents at Brinkley Manor enjoy a quaint, suburban neighborhood setting, but also have convenient access to nearby destinations, including National Harbor and downtown Washington, D.C., via the Capital Beltway (I-495) located just one mile from the property.

Brinkley Manor is comprised of 21 garden apartment buildings constructed in 1972. Its one-, two- and three-bedroom apartment homes range from 813 to 1,448 square feet in size, with each apartment containing individual washers and dryers. TDG's renovation plan will include replacing the current outdated utility system to improve service to the community's residents and cutting energy consumption dramatically. The new ownership also plans to upgrade buildings, common areas, property grounds, and renovate individual apartments.

"The acquisition of Brinkley Manor Apartments presents us with an outstanding opportunity to reposition a well-located apartment community in a strong rental market," said Carlton Einsel, President of The Donaldson Group. "We are extremely pleased to have executed our first transaction with our partners at DRA Advisors LLC and we continue to seek similar deals."

"This property has significant upside potential, and we look forward to creating value for both the residents and our partnership through our planned renovations," said John Majeski, Senior Vice President of The Donaldson Group. "This is the type of project that plays directly to The Donaldson Group's strengths."

The Donaldson Group is a full-service real estate management and investment firm offering comprehensive services and expertise in property and asset management; financial management and accounting; investment, underwriting, and acquisition analysis; and construction management and renovation services. Since 2003, TDG has advised clients on the acquisition of over 15,000 multifamily units valued in excess of \$1.5 billion, and has taken over management of over 25,000 units. During this same time period, TDG has advised clients in disposing of over \$1.25 billion in real property investments, comprising approximately

12,000 units, and has managed over \$350 million worth of renovation work. For more information, visit www.thedonaldsongroup.com.

DRA Advisors LLC is a New York-based registered investment advisor specializing in real estate investment management services for institutional and private investors. Since DRA was founded in 1986, the firm has acquired over \$28 billion in assets, including 62,000 residential units, 50 million square feet of industrial properties, 43 million square feet of office space, and 65 million square feet of retail space. For more information, visit www.draadvisors.com.

Maryland Acquires Lowest Cost in History for Electricity Rates for State Buildings and Facilities Will Save Taxpayers \$25 Million Dollars Over Next Four Years

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Hogan-Rutherford Administration today announced the Department of General Services' successful implementation of a reverse auction for energy purchases, which will save Maryland taxpayers \$25 million over the next four years through 2021. The commodities procurement will provide a significant portion of the state's electricity supply to state-owned facilities.

"By pooling the state's future electricity demand, Maryland has attracted the business interest of the nation's most competitive electricity suppliers," said Governor Larry Hogan. "This level of participation shows that Maryland is indeed Open for Business and that the energy industry is taking notice."

The new electricity supply contracts will provide the lowest cost for electricity for state buildings and facilities in all regions across Maryland. In addition, local municipalities and nonprofits were able to participate in the recent electricity pool. By partnering with the state, these organizations located in Garrett, Baltimore, Cecil, Worcester, and St. Mary's Counties will benefit from the new lower electricity rates.

"Our administration remains committed to reining in state spending" said Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford. "By using alternative ways to procure commodities and other services, the state receives the best value for every dollar we spend—which is exactly what Marylanders expect and deserve."

Maryland was one of the first states to use the reverse auction in 2004, under Lt. Governor Rutherford's leadership during his tenure as Secretary of General Services. These lower prices, along with ongoing investments in energy efficiency projects in state facilities, is all part of the administration's energy strategy to lead by example in both lowering the burden to taxpayers and helping to meet Maryland's environmental goals at the same time.

"This reverse auction allowed electricity suppliers to bid and counter-bid for a short period of time in a transparent, real-time platform," said Department of General Services Secretary Ellington Churchill. "Electricity suppliers bid until

the lowest electricity supply rates in the market were revealed, which greatly benefits Maryland taxpayers."

This unprecedented auction led to the state acquiring the lowest electricity supply rates in its history and locked the rates in for a longer period of time than industry predictions. The state received an electricity supply rate as low as 3.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for a four-year period. This rate was nearly 40 percent lower than the state's previous rate of 6.1 cents per kWh for the past three-year period.

Thomasina Rogers Elected New WSSC Commission Chair

LAUREL, MD—Thomasina Rogers is the new chair of WSSC's Board of Commissioners. Rogers, a commissioner representing Prince George's County since June 2016, was elected to the position during Wednesday's Commission meeting. Her term as chair lasts until June 2018.

Rogers succeeds Fausto Bayonet, who will continue on as a commissioner representing Montgomery County. T. Eloise Foster, also a commissioner from Montgomery County, was elected vice chair at the June 21 meeting.

In remarks at the meeting, Rogers stated, "These are exciting times for WSSC. With [General Manager] Carla Reid's leadership, a team of dedicated employees and all of us committed to improving customer service, we are on a solid path to world class. As chair, and on behalf of all the commissioners, thank you to all who make WSSC a great place to work, thrive and serve."

Rogers is the former chair of two Federal agencies: the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, to which she was first appointed in 1998, and the Administrative Conference of the United States. She also headed the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She received her undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University and her law degree from Columbia University School of Law.

When Foster was appointed as the Secretary of Budget & Management in 2000, she became the first African American woman in the nation to hold this statewide office. She returned to this role under then-Governor Martin O'Malley, serving from 2007-2015. She also served as Deputy Secretary of Budget & Management and Assistant Secretary of Budget & Fiscal Planning prior to that. Foster earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Howard University and her MBA from American University's Kogod School of Business.

Six commissioners govern WSSC, which has an annual \$1.4 billion operating and capital budget. Three commissioners are residents of Montgomery County and three are residents of Prince George's County. The commissioners are appointed to four-year terms by their respective county executives and are confirmed by their county councils.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

ANNUAL BULL ROAST

St. Philip's Church Annual Bull Roast will be Saturday, July 15, 2017, 12:00 Noon-Until. Come and enjoy a day of fun, food and line dancing fellowship.

Dinners: Chicken \$13.00, Fish \$13.00, Beef \$15.00, Rib \$16.00; Combo Dinner (any 2 meats)—Beef/Chicken/Ribs/Fish \$18.00. All dinners include green beans, corn on the cob, baked beans, sweet potatoes, potato salad and a roll.

Sandwiches: Chicken \$6.00, Fish \$7.00, Rib \$9.00, Beef \$8.00, Hot Dog \$1.25 (Hot Dog Combo with chips and drink \$2.50). Side Items: \$1.50—green beans, potato salad, baked beans, sweet potatoes and corn on the cob (2). Water and sodas cost \$1.00 and chips are \$.50. There will also be a bake sale.

Free admission for everyone. There will be fun activities for the kids: water slide, moon bounce, basketball, horse shoes and line dancing. The address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613-8426. Telephone number is 301-888-1536.

GOSPEL FEAST

Asbury United Methodist Church (Eastern Shore meets

Western Shore Gospel Feast will be Sunday July 16, 2017 at 3:00 PM. The program will feature The Gospel Inspirations (Brandywine), The Sons of Thunder and the Elsey Family Choir (Eastern Shore of Maryland) and many more attractions.

Tickets cost \$10.00. The program is sponsored by the Homecoming Committee. For more information, please contact the Church Office at 301-372-8891. The church address is 4004 Accokeek Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

JONAH

Visit Sight & Sound (Lancaster, PA) to see the play *Jonah* Friday, October 13, 2017. Matinee is 3:00 PM. Departure is at 8:00 AM from Burlington (Waldorf Shoppers World)—3286 Crain Hwy, Waldorf, Maryland 20601. The cost is \$160.00. Deposit Payment Plan: Initial \$50.00 deposit (non-refundable) is due July 27, 2017. The second deposit, \$50.00, is due August 27, 2017 and the final \$60.00 deposit is due September 27, 2017. Trip includes a catered breakfast by Waldorf Chick-fil-A, play, lunch and transportation. Interested guests please contact Kathy Adams at

301-254-7903 or Shirley Sewell at 240-350-2878.

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

Join us to watch Bowie State University take on Winston Salem State on September 9, 2017 (4:00 PM game). Bus departs from James Complex, Bowie State University, at 8:00 AM and returns at 1:00 AM. Adults \$60.00 and students \$25.00 with ID. Price includes transportation and game ticket only.

All payments are due by August 25, 2017. Please make checks payable to BSU Foundation. For bus seats contact Sonya Lee (240) 423-4103 or by e-mail Leeranail@verizon.net

2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Bowie State University National Alumni Association, Inc. Prince George's County Chapter 2017 Scholarship recipients are Natalie Aninakwa, Brian Cole, Shelby Baggott, Konota McKenney, Rebekah D. Washington, Sa'Miya Wooten, Nakiya Gegory and Joshua Harris. Congratulations students for your high achievements.

COMMUNITY

The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

Taking Steps to Minimize Memory Loss

Everybody forgets things at times. But as we age most of us may become aware that our memories are not quite as sharp as they once were. We may find it happening more often that we forget where we left our car keys or those darn reading glasses, or even why we just walked into the kitchen.

It's even more frightening these days as we have all become more aware of Alzheimer's disease, an illness currently affecting more than 5.5 million Americans and this nation's sixth leading cause of death.

While memory loss is often one of the first signs associated with Alzheimer's disease, the symptoms, which can vary from person to person, can include difficulty in word-finding, vision and spatial issues and impaired reasoning and judgment. But simply having trouble recalling things at times, especially as one ages, is not necessarily an indication of this serious illness.

There are many things that can affect our memory function. Getting older is a primary one. Some memory loss is a natural part of the aging process, according to experts. But other factors, many of which we can control, can also contribute to the problem.

A good starting point is to have a health check done. Certain drugs can affect our memory. Cholesterol, our blood pressure and some illnesses may also impact memory.

When those issues are addressed, it's time to take actions to help fight memory loss. Avoiding smoking and heavy alcohol use are important ones. Studies show smokers perform much worse than non-smokers on memory and brain skills tests.

It also helps to eat right. Studies have found that a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, but low in fat and cholesterol, appear to improve brain health. Similarly, foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids, like tuna and salmon, may help the brain.

Staying physically fit can also play a big role in improving memory. Physical exercise increases blood flow to the brain, improving brain health and function.

Exercising your brain also helps. Reading, writing, doing puzzles, playing games and using online "brain exercise" programs appear to stimulate brain cells and the connections between the cells.

Being proactive can help improve memory function, but if you still find you're forgetting more frequently, repeating yourself in conversations, or being confused by a familiar activity, talk to your doctor and make sure it's not a more serious problem.

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

Job Fair from A1

what their lives could be like in their profession."

Advance registration is required and information can be obtained by visiting the website <http://www.pgcc.edu/nursingassistantjobfair/>. Interested persons may also contact Veronica J. Hammonds, coordinator, Nursing Assistant programs at (301) 546-0040, or by email at hammonvj@pgcc.edu.

About Prince George's Community College

Named a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance designated by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (2015-2020), Prince George's Community College (PGCC) provides high-quality education and training for the

progressive and career-oriented residents of Prince George's County. From new high school graduates and career seekers, to more seasoned professionals and senior citizens looking to enhance their skillsets, PGCC is comprised of students who represent a wide range of ages, backgrounds, and goals. Serving more than 40,000 individuals annually, the college is the first choice for higher education for residents of Prince George's County. Collaborative partnerships, responsive degree and training programs, and a commitment to student success enables PGCC to address diverse education and workforce development demands. PGCC is fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education through 2025. For more information, visit the college website at www.pgcc.edu.

Morningside from A2

and Anthony Curcio-Bobbitt, July 8; Karlyn Davis, John Anthony III and my grandson Zachary Seidman, July 9; my daughter Elaine Seidman, July 10; former Morningside Councilman Kevin Kline and Nicole

Wade, Dee (Curcio) Brown and Dave Williams Jr., July 11; and Kenard Simms, July 13.

Happy 42nd anniversary to Dave and Carolyn Williams on July 11. And happy belated anniversary to Mike and Margo (Benden) Clark who celebrated their 47th on June 13.

Public Awareness Campaign For the Maryland Renters Tax Credit in PG County Announced

Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition Joined by Delegate Jimmy Tarlau, Housing Initiative Partnership, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative Team, and Others

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Lt. Governor

BLADENSBURG, MD—The nonprofit Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) was joined on June 9 by Delegate Jimmy Tarlau (D-47A) to announce bringing MCRC's statewide public awareness campaign, "Rent Worries Got You Down? The Maryland Renter's Tax Credit Program Can Help!" to Prince George's County renters. The campaign was discussed at Housing Initiative Partnership's Newton Green Senior Housing in Bladensburg. The goal of MCRC's newest public awareness efforts is to increase yearly applications to the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit by Maryland's low-income renters, mainly seniors and people who are permanently disabled. Senator Victor Ramirez, Delegate Jimmy Tarlau and Delegate Diana Fennell spoke at the press event, as did a renter who has taken advantage of the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit; Audrey Tillery, Resident Services Coordinator, Newton Green Senior Housing, Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. and Carmen Castro-Conroy, Manager/Certified Housing Counselor at Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. of Prince George's County.

Attendees were welcomed by Marceline White, Executive Director of the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, as well as Audrey Tillery, Resident Services Coordinator, Newton Green Senior Housing. Also in attendance were Tonya Y. Harrison, Council Member, Town of Brentwood and residents of Newton Green, as well as members of the Prince George's County's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI): TNI Manager Linda Turner and Program Managers Reggie Parks (Suitland/Coral Hills), and Tawanna Watkins (Kentland/Palmer Park). Low-income Maryland renters were urged to go to www.MarylandTaxCredit.com to see if they are eligible for help with their rent or reach out to Housing Initiative Partnership at 301-699-3835.

Why is the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition sponsoring a public awareness campaign?

As the only statewide coalition that advances and protects the interests of consumers through education, advocacy and training programs, MCRC works to ensure fairness and safety in the marketplace. Many older adult renters living on low fixed incomes across the State of Maryland face financial chal-

lenges. Informing these renters that the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit is available could be the difference between paying the rent and buying food or medications. In 2016, MCRC worked with Delegate Jimmy Tarlau (D-47A) to pass legislation in Annapolis to raise the cap on this tax credit from \$750 to \$1000 per eligible renter yearly.

Why is this Campaign important?

Few people eligible for the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit even know it exists! The plan is designed to be similar in principle to the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program, another "forgotten" tax credit that's also been around for 30 years. Low-income renters whose total assets do not exceed \$200,000 and whose dwelling is their principal residence may qualify to receive as much as \$1000 per year (or \$83.33 per month). Many seniors over 60 years of age or people who are permanently disabled may qualify.

How will the public awareness campaign work?

Interviews and news stories in print, online, TV and radio are being pursued and shared via social media. Grassroots outreach and training will be conducted at senior centers, libraries, community and neighborhood associations, houses of worship, and other organizations in Prince George's County and elsewhere in Maryland.

Who are the renters in Maryland?

Maryland median monthly rent: The median monthly gross residential rent in Maryland was \$1,242 in 2014 according to the Census ACS survey. The median rent most accurately depicts rental rates.

Maryland real gross rent trends: At \$1,242, real median gross rent in Maryland was at its highest level in 2014 since the Census ACS survey began in 2005.

Maryland rent as a percentage of income: For Maryland, the percentage of income the median household would use to pay rent at the median monthly gross rate was 20.15% in 2014 according to the ACS. This is the highest fraction of median household income going to rent since the series originated in 2005, when it was 17.36%.

Who are Prince George's County renters?

- 38% of county residents are renters (higher than the state average of 32%),
- 113,049 people live in renter-occupied apartments.

*Source: 2014 City-Data.com

High Cost of Living in the County: The cost of living index in the county is 32% higher than the US average.

*Source: City-Data.com March 2016

Prince George's County Housing Cost Burden:

- 52% of county renters spent 30% or more of household income on housing

*Source: 2012 US Census Bureau
NOTE: 30% or higher is considered a financial burden

- Median Gross Rent: \$1294 (2011—2015)

*Source: 2015 U.S. Census Bureau

Women Head of Households in Poverty: While 10% of all county residents were in poverty, 15.1% of female household families were below the poverty level in the county.

*Source: 2012 Poverty Rates in Prince George's County—US Census Bureau

Why do female heads-of-household matter?

Low-income female-headed households are disproportionately affected because they need more bedrooms than single renters or couples without children.

Which Prince George's neighborhoods are most rent-burdened?

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey

- University Park (92%)
- Hillandale (78%)
- District Heights (74%)
- Carmody Hills (70%)
- Kettering (70%)

Homeownership out of reach: Being rent-burdened is a barrier to both homeownership and financial stability. When you're paying 30% of your income on rent, it's virtually impossible to save toward a down-payment for a house or to save for a financial emergency.

How many Seniors live in the County?

Persons 65+ are 11.7% of the population—and growing (up from 9.4% in 2010)

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2015

Seniors with Disabilities: 32% of those 65+ reported a disability.

*Source: US Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

Who qualifies for the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit?

Many seniors qualify: Many of the renters who are eligible for this tax credit are seniors, but they don't know about this program. You must be over 60 years old or permanently disabled to qualify or the surviving spouse of someone who qualified.

Age exceptions: If you are under 60 years old and have at least one dependent under 18 years of age living with you and do not participate in a federal or state housing subsidy program. For example, a possibly eligible family of 2 must have total income of under \$16,317.

How is this tax credit calculated? Credits are calculated according to the renter's total income, meaning all combined gross household income before deductions. This includes income from all sources, whether or not they're taxable for federal and state income tax purposes. This also includes Social Security payments as well as all other retirement benefits.

How can renters find out if they're eligible for this tax credit?

They can go to www.MarylandTaxCredit.com to see if they are eligible for help with their rent or reach out to Housing Initiative Partnership at 301-699-3835.

When can renters apply for this program?

Renters have until September 1 of the year in which the credit is sought to apply, but renters can apply as early as February 1 each calendar year.

Where can renters find the form to apply?

Go to www.MarylandTaxCredit.com

What if a renter needs help filling out the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit form?

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, as well as Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP Homes), and some neighborhood associations can help. Eligible Prince George's County renters can go online at www.MarylandTaxCredit.com or call Housing Initiative Partnership in Hyattsville at 301-699-3835 to make an appointment to sit down with a specialist who can help the renter fill out the correct form.

In addition to information regarding the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit geared for renters, the new website also includes information about another "forgotten" tax credit, one that could help Maryland low-income homeowners—the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit.

"Rents have been rising throughout the state and wages haven't kept pace. The Maryland Renter's Tax Credit is an important resource for renters and helps families who are struggling to pay their rent and save

See **RENTERS** Page A6

Prince George's County Council to Hold Zoning Rewrite Town Hall Meeting July 17

By PRESS OFFICER
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council, in partnership with the Prince George's County Planning Department, encourages County residents to attend a Zoning Rewrite Town Hall Meeting on Monday, July 17, 2017, from 7:00–9:00 p.m., at the County Administration Building, Council Hearing Room, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The County Council and Prince George's County Planning Department, are conducting a comprehensive update of the County's 50-year-old Zoning Ordinance to streamline zoning laws and create a user-friendly document supporting the County's vision for smart growth, economic development and improved quality of life for residents.

Council Chair Derrick L. Davis (D)—District 6 says citizen involvement in the Zoning Rewrite process is critical.

"Updating the County's zoning policies is among the most important undertakings of the Council in its role as the County's land use authority. Residents deserve a leaner, clearer zoning process to be better informed about development and to play a more significant role in shaping the future of our County. I encourage all County residents and stakeholders to attend this Zoning Rewrite Town Hall meeting and share their thoughts and ideas concerning the Zoning Rewrite and its various modules."

Presenters for the Council's Zoning Rewrite Town Hall Meeting are Clarion Associates' Directors Don Elliott and Craig Richardson, Chief of County-wide Planning, Derick Berlage; Zoning Rewrite Project Manager, Chad Williams; and Zoning Rewrite Outreach Specialist Britney Drakeford will also be on hand to answer audience questions and participate during the discussion portion of the Town Hall meeting.

To watch live, please visit: <http://pgcouncil.us/townhall>



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COMMENTARY

Cong. Steny H. Hoyer
House Democratic Minority Whip



Hoyer Statement on Report Highlighting Impact of TrumpCare on Children With Disabilities in Maryland

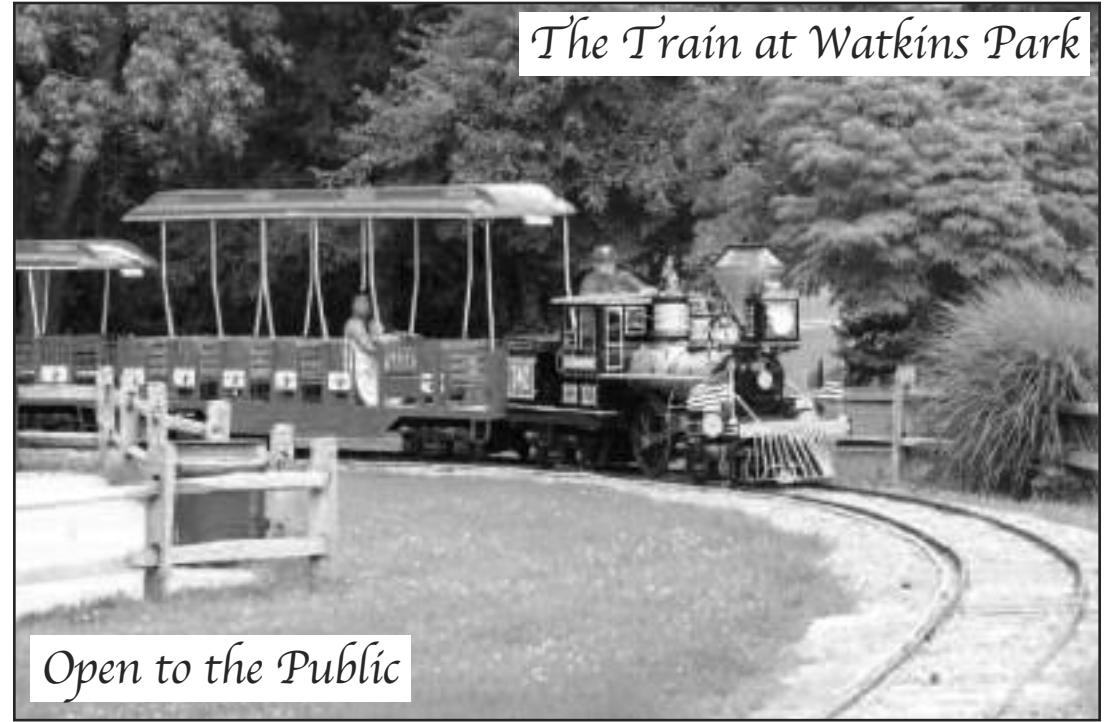
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) released the following statement today after Ranking Member Elijah Cummings and Democrats on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released a report highlighting the severe impact the Senate TrumpCare bill would have on children with disabilities in Maryland:

“It’s no secret that TrumpCare would be devastating for thousands of Maryland families, but this new report highlights the extreme and lasting effects cuts to Medicaid would have on the most vulnerable in our communities—children. The Senate TrumpCare bill would slash Medicaid and threaten access to quality care for hundreds of thousands of children in Maryland.”

“Of the 211,400 children in our state with special health care needs, 32.1% utilize Medi-

caid and other public insurance programs. Through programs such as Medicaid, these children receive comprehensive, high-quality care that addresses their individual needs. Gutting Medicaid would threaten funding for long-term care facilities, children’s hospitals, and schools. In short, TrumpCare have long-lasting consequences for children with severe disabilities and other special health care needs.”

“I thank Ranking Member Cummings and Democrats on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee for compiling this important report. I urge my colleagues across the aisle to abandon their harmful TrumpCare bill, and instead work with Democrats to improve access to quality, affordable health care for children throughout Maryland and across the country.”



The Train at Watkins Park

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: PG PARKS & RECREATION

THE MINATURE TRAIN AND ANTIQUE CAROUSEL AT WATKINS PARK
Watkins Regional Park features an authentic, hand-carved, hand-painted, 80-year-old carousel. Featured on the Carousel are 45 animals with a rare combination of kangaroo, jackass, goat and seahorse. Do not miss the train as it passes through the lovely, wooded surroundings. The carousel and train are open Memorial Day–Labor Day, Tues–Sun, 10–7 p.m. Located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD, 301-218-6761. (\$)

Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Back to the Future: Civil Rights, Wade Henderson, and the Next Generation

“A final victory is an accumulation of many short-term encounters. To lightly dismiss a success because it does not usher in a complete order of justice is to fail to comprehend the process of full victory. It underestimates the value of confrontation and dissolves the confidence born of partial victory by which new efforts are powered.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
American Civil Rights Activist,
Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? June 1, 1967

As he prepared to step down as President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, it is likely Wade Henderson pondered the same question that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., did 50 years earlier as he sat alone in a secluded rental house in Ocho Rios, Jamaica—the question that would become the title of his final book: *Where do we go from here.*

Both men are part of the long, unfinished narrative of our nation’s struggle for equality for all its citizens. And at critical points in our history, both reached a period in their work as activists and advocates that called for contemplation of the future of our country and its continuing fight for civil and human rights.

In his book, Dr. King reflected on economic and social reform that would benefit all Americans, and specifically looked at the state of racial equality for African Americans at the very infancy of the civil rights movement following the passage of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* and the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*. He also reflected on Black nationalism, which appeared to be the next phase in the struggle of African Americans to attain basic civil rights—considering the effectiveness of the ideology, its tactics, and its ability to shape, mark and transform the movement for civil rights.

At the age of 15, Henderson attended the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom where Dr. King famously delivered his “I Have a Dream Speech.” Fortunately, Henderson’s passion for social justice did not stay on the mall of the Lincoln Memorial. Before taking the helm of the Leadership Conference for nearly 21 years, Henderson

was the Washington Bureau director of the NAACP, directing the civil rights organization’s government affairs and national legislative program and he worked as the associate director of the Washington office of the ACLU.

Under his direction, Henderson grew the Leadership Conference’s number of member organizations from 170 to 200, including its first Muslim and Sikh civil rights groups, and he led the coalition through the passage of every major civil rights law in the past 20 years, including reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Fair Sentencing Act. And like Dr. King, Henderson recognized that a “generational change” was taking hold in the civil and human rights movement, including the rise of Black Lives Matter and newer forms of activism. Rather than resist that change, Henderson embraced this newest phase, deciding that his work at with the coalition had reached its highest level and concluded that, “it’s at that point that I think it is best to step aside and to promote constructive change.”

Today, while progress has been made, we find ourselves fighting for much of what Dr. King fought during his time, and we face the rollback of many hard-fought-for reforms and legislation, but to his credit, Henderson built a well-earned legacy and simultaneously forged a path for the Leadership Conference and the next generation of advocates to lead and succeed. The coalition will now be directed by Vanita Gupta, the first woman and first child of immigrants to head the organization. A long-time civil rights litigator and former head of the Obama administration’s Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, Gupta is confident in her belief that, “this organization is perfectly situated to address the current assault on civil rights that we are seeing today.”

As a member of the Leadership Conference, the National Urban League firmly believes the coalition has been entrusted to capable and intelligent hands and we look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the Leadership Conference on the frontlines as we all work together to protect our progress.

Prayers for a More Just Nation

Might it be that this land with all of its richness, with all of its opportunity for true greatness, its opportunity to present itself before the world as what a nation ought to be, might not be sowing the seeds of its very destruction in abandonment of its children?

—Dr. Gardner Taylor,
Pastor Emeritus, Concord Baptist Church, 1996 sermon at the Children’s Defense Fund’s Haley Farm

Our nation has lost its way as Congress stealthily debates dismantling Medicaid and the health safety net for the neediest children and adults. And as we await the Congressional Budget Office’s cost and impact report and the final outlines of the Senate health care proposal the only thing I can think of at this moment is to pray for our leaders to rediscover some semblance of common sense and moral decency and protect the 37 million children on Medicaid and the millions of disabled adults and others for whom it is an indispensable lifeline. I hope enough of us will let our voices be heard loudly and clearly in the Congress, the White House and in Statehouses: babies’ health care should not be capped and cut to give more tax breaks to billionaires, poor and disabled children and the elderly should not be hurt to give powerful corporations greater profits, and healthy births to mothers should not be jeopardized to subsidize tax cuts for millionaires.

A Prayer for Children®
By Ina J. Hughs

We pray for children who put chocolate fingers everywhere, who like to be tickled, who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants, who sneak Popsicles before supper, who erase holes in math workbooks, who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who’ve never squeaked across the floor in new sneakers, who never “counted potatoes,” who are born in places we wouldn’t be caught dead, who never go to the circus, who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money, who cover themselves with Band-aids and sing off key, who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink, who slurp their soup.

And we pray for those who never get dessert, who watch their parents watch them die, who have no safe blanket to drag behind, who can’t find any bread to clean up, who don’t have any rooms to clean up, whose pictures aren’t on anybody’s dresser, whose monsters are real.

We pray for children who spend all their allowance before Tuesday, who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food, who like ghost stories, who shove dirty clothes under their bed and never rinse out the tub, who get visits from the tooth fairy,

who don’t like to be kissed in front of the carpool, who squirm in church and scream in the phone, whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smile can make us cry.

And we pray for those whose nightmares come in the daytime, who will eat anything, who have never seen a dentist, who aren’t spoiled by anybody, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep, who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried, and for those who must. For those we never give up on, and for those who don’t get a second chance.

For those we smother, and for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer. O God, forgive and transform our rich nation where small babies die of cold quite legally. O God, forgive and transform our rich nation where small

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George’s Post

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The Prince George’s Post

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BUSINESS

Practical Money Skills

By Nathaniel Sillin

How to Purposefully and Successfully Transition to A Single Income

Many parents face the same difficult question when raising a child. Should one of you stay at home while the other works? It's not a question to take lightly. The decision can have emotional and financial consequences and may have a long-term impact on the stay-at-home parent's career opportunities. It's also a question that doesn't have a single correct answer.



Your upbringing, personality, career and the family's financial situation can all play into your decision. Your opinion could also differ from your partner's and may change over time. Perhaps you both worked after having your first child and now that there will be two or more children it makes more sense for one of you to stay at home.

Whatever your impetus, if you decide to switch from two incomes to one it will undoubtedly be challenging. Purposefully approaching and planning for the change could help you succeed.

Get a general sense of the numbers. Understandably, you're likely juggling a lot of priorities at the moment. However, now more than ever, having a clear picture of your family's finances can be important. Thinking about both short-term and long-term scenarios will help you understand the effect of moving to one income and give you numbers to back up your assumptions.

For this task, you don't need to track every single penny or dollar you make and spend (although detailed tracking helps manage your finances and budgeting software and apps can make it relatively easy to do so if you want). Try to get an approximate sense of your household's cash flow and the non-essential expenses you could cut if need be.

The good news is that saving on daycare (over \$25,000 annually in some states according to Childcare Aware of America) and work-related expenses, such as transportation and meals, can help offset the lost income.

However, you'll also need to budget for new child-related expenses. Some families downsize their home, sell a vehicle or eat out less often to make their one-income vision a reality.

Take baby steps before the baby arrives. For those who are just thinking about starting a family or are currently pregnant, acting as if you only have one income while both of you continue to work can help give you a leg up.

For example, the second income could go towards an emergency fund that can help you weather a setback after making the transition. You can also use the money to pay down high-interest debt, which can free up some cash flow by lowering your interest payments.

Discuss your new family roles. Having a stay-at-home parent can be as much of an emotional decision as it is a financial one. If you haven't already, set aside time to discuss how you view each other's roles in the family. There may be new expectations for responsibilities inside and outside the home.

Bringing finances back into the picture, discuss how you'll divide the family budget. Will every purchase be a mutual decision? Or, perhaps you'll both have a personal allowance that you can spend how you please and there'll be a household account for shared expenses.

Plan for the future. Now may also be a good time to discuss your expectations for the future. When and if a stay-at-home parent plans to return to the workplace for example. And if it makes sense for them to work or go back to school part-time while also taking care of the home.

Much like the big decision, there isn't a single correct answer to questions about family roles or the future and no one can answer these questions for you. Talk over the options together and realize that you need to try out several ideas before you find the arrangement that works best for your relationship and growing family.

Bottom line: Take a deep breath and embrace the upcoming changes. Switching to a single income can be challenging, but so is having two incomes and a newborn. Planning ahead and working together towards a common goal and vision for your family can help ensure a successful transition.

Pets from A1

piratory systems and are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant effectively. These pets, along with overweight animals and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.

• Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun. If you notice signs of overheating in your pets—excessive panting, diffi-

culty breathing, increased heart rate—get help from your veterinarian immediately.

• Don't forget about your livestock companions. Make sure you provide them with plenty of water as livestock animals, including horses and donkeys, can consume 10 to 20 gallons of water per day.

Additional resources and information on keeping your pet healthy and safe in hot weather is available through the Prince George's County Animal Management Division at (301) 780-7200 or www.princegeorges-spets4us.com.

EDC Charges Up County "Wonder Women" at Inaugural Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon

By LORI C. VALENTINE
PGCEDC

OXON HILL, MD—Under the glitz and glamour of Prince George's County's iconic MGM National Harbor, more than 300 business women came out to attend the 1st Annual Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon, hosted by the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Under the theme of "Yes! You Can Have It All," this highly anticipated networking event brought out the best and the brightest in the Washington Metropolitan area to be inspired and charged up by powerhouse women from across the region who shared tips on how to have it all. EDC President and CEO Jim Coleman was excited to welcome event co-chairs Muriel Garr, Senior Vice President of SunTrust Bank and Monique Anderson Walker, Principal Broker with Fleur De Lis, LLC, as well as luncheon attendees as the Economic Development Corporation dedicated this event to inspiring everyday business women while honoring five phenomenal women for outstanding accomplishments, contributions and dedication to Prince George's County.

"We are extremely proud to be able to provide a platform where successful business women can share the secrets of success that have made them the dynamic, powerful warriors that they are today," said Coleman. "Prince George's County is fortunate to boast that five out of nine of its Councilmembers are powerhouse women. Part of the inspiration that brought the EDC to celebrate women making things happen is my very own dear mother, a driven, hardworking woman



PHOTO COURTESY LORI C. VALENTINE

Left to right: Julie Lenzer (Honoree); Dr. Debra Mahone (Honoree); Sharon Lockwood (Panelist); Muriel Garr (Co-Chair); Jim Coleman, President and CEO, PGCEDC; Monique Anderson Walker (Co-Chair); Sara Bahethi (Honoree); Tammi Thomas (Panelist); Marva Jo Camp, Esq., Vice Chair, PGCEDC Board; Sylvia Syphax, PGCEDC Board; Shawn Wright (Panelist); Dr. Gloria Mayfield Banks (Keynote Speaker); Lisa Liu (Honoree)

who was the biggest inspiration in my life. Our panelists and honorees are fantastic role models for all women. Today was an amazing day in Prince George's County."

The primary focus for Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon was to provide a platform for women to learn from others who are breaking the glass ceiling in male-dominated careers. *Great Day Washington* (WUSA9) host Markette Sheppard served as the Mistress of Ceremonies and moderated the "Yes! You Can Have it All" panel discussion on creating a culture of success in any business sector.

"I am so honored to take part in such a phenomenal event," said Sheppard. "Prince George's County is where I started my TV career, so I'm always excited to come back to the community and give back. It was very encouraging to see women inspiring other women in my community."

County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III was among the dignitaries in attendance and, along with daughter Quinci, accepted an award honoring the First Lady of Prince George's County, Christa Beverly Baker as a true "Wonder Woman." Also in attendance was the County's Bowie High School Quartet who kicked off the program with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.

The panel discussion participants provided vivid testimonials on how they overcame their deepest fears, how complacency is not a friend to those who are looking to the next best thing, and how failure doesn't mean defeat; it just means that there is a different path for you. Panelists included: Tammi Thomas, Vice President of Marketing, Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO); Shawn M. Wright, Partner, Blank Rome LLP; Sharon Lockwood, Hotel General Manager, Gaylord National Resort and Convention

Center; Gaylia Campbell, Vice President of Quality and Mission Success, Lockheed Martin Corporation; and Carla Reid, General Manager and CEO, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Attendees were also encouraged to always move forward, take the time to learn the skills needed to get ready for their next role and to take the time to say something nice to three women every week.

Dr. Gloria Mayfield Banks, motivational success strategist, international speaker and sales trainer captivated the audience with her keynote address. Dr. Mayfield Banks told the ladies that everybody's journey is unique, but that their ability to make good decisions, to sacrifice for long term success and to use kindness as their strength can move them from being number three to number one.

See WOMEN Page A6

Rural from A1

and rebuilding infrastructure matters little if there's no one around to fill those jobs, drive on those new roads or enjoy those renovated downtowns.

And cities like Salisbury, Frederick and Cumberland—small urban anchors in Maryland's rural areas—could be where the revitalization begins. Or where it's already underway.

A matter of life and death

Garrett, Allegany, Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester counties all had more deaths than births in 2015, according to Maryland's Vital Statistics Report. Leading the way on the Eastern Shore was Kent, which had a third fewer births than deaths. In Western Maryland it was Allegany, where the disparity was 27 percent.

In Wicomico County, where Salisbury is located, the numbers are rosier. In 2015, births beat deaths by 36 percent. However, in 2010 that number was 50 percent. The same trend is there for Frederick County, where births outpaced death two to one in 2010, but slowed to five for every three in 2015.

Population problems in rural areas tend to get framed in economic terms. The argument goes that young people won't stay if there are no jobs, but the jobs won't come if there are no young people to fill them. But the jobs are there.

According to Maryland's Workforce Exchange, there were

more than 600 open job listings in Wicomico County, the majority of which were in Salisbury. The numbers are similar in Frederick and Allegany, with more than 500 open job listings in both counties as of late April.

"The problem is that we're just not adding people at the same rate that we're adding jobs," Day said.

Part of the challenge includes boosting the quality, pay and benefits of available jobs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, there has been a pronounced economic shift in Salisbury over the last 10 years from producing things to delivering services—and with it, more jobs that tend to pay less and come with fewer benefits.

In order to sell employment that might not stack up salary-wise to urban areas, mayors like Day and Randy McClement in the city of Frederick are increasingly turning to what they can offer instead: quality of life.

"The thing we've been able to do is make Frederick a destination," said McClement, who's been mayor there since 2009. "We've done that with a hip feel. Millennials are looking for a livable, walkable city. By delivering that, we're attracting the younger generation."

The city of Frederick, basically the model for small to mid-size urban redevelopment in Maryland, has the luxury of being perched at the top of I-270 corridor, in commuting distance to job-rich Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County. Salis-



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

Salisbury, Maryland Mayor Jake Day in his office. Day is attempting to transform Salisbury into a place that appeals to both locals and visitors by emphasizing the arts.

bury is more remote, and the people who live near it more reliant on its services.

When asked what Salisbury's 33,000-odd residents needs most, Day points first to an intangible.

"The thing we struggle to overcome more than anything else is a change to our community self-esteem," he said. "We look to ourselves in a poorer light than any metric would suggest that we should."

Day is referring in part to Salisbury's crime problem. Ac-

cording to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the city's violent crime rate per 100,000 people in 2015 was almost double the state average, though it has fallen in recent years.

"We've had some dark times and those things linger," said Day. "It's easy to latch onto them as your identity and it's a lot tougher to get people to believe that things aren't so bad."

See RURAL Page A7

OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul

Diary of a Wimpy Kid:
The Long Haul
Grade: D+
Rated PG, a little barf
and poop
1 hr., 31 min

Having seen two of the four *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* movies and disliked them both to a great degree, I have diagnosed their problem: they are live-action movies about human beings in the real world when they should be cartoons about talking animals who have all suffered brain injuries.

The latest one, called *The Long Haul* and adapted from Jeff Kinney's book by Kinney and director David Bowers (whose background is in animation), finds 12-year-old Greg Heffley (Jason Drucker) on a road trip with his dorky parents (Tom Everett Scott and Alicia Silverstone), moronic older brother Rodrick (Charlie Wright), and extraneous toddler brother. The Heffleys are headed to Meemaw's 90th birthday celebration a few states over, but Greg has an alternative plan to sneak off to a gaming expo nearby and meet a doughy loudmouth who's YouTube-famous for playing video games (which is a thing).

The story, such as it is, consists of one improbably contrived mini-crisis after another, usually predicated on something false, as if conceived by 11-year-olds with no adults on hand to explain why that wouldn't work. For example,



In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul*, based on the record-breaking book series, a family road trip to attend Meemaw's 90th birthday party goes hilariously off course—thanks to Greg's newest scheme to (finally!) become famous.

Greg discovers at a motel one morning that he crept into the wrong room last night and slept with the wrong family. ("No, honey, see, motel room doors lock automatically when they close. You couldn't accidentally walk into the wrong one.") While stopping at a country fair, Greg and the toddler win a baby pig as a raffle prize, even though they don't want it. ("Now, you don't really think the fair could force children to take a pet without their parents' permission, do you?")

The gags also tend to rely on a defiance of the laws of physics,

as when a boat being pulled by a car launches off its trailer and lands in a distant swimming pool. (By the way, the Heffleys' plans don't actually include boating. They brought the boat along solely for extra storage, because they couldn't fit all their stuff in the minivan. The fact that Dad doesn't even comment on, much less complain bitterly about, the disastrous effect that pulling a boat FOR NO \$&@*#% REASON will have on his gas mileage is evidence enough of the movie's failure.)

Weirdest of all is how so many farcical scenarios are set

up and then resolved (or dropped) without a payoff or a punchline. Greg spills Cheetos into a jacuzzi and comes out with orange skin; his dad says, "Is your skin orange?"; that's the end of the bit. There's an ongoing rivalry with another road-tripping family with whom the Heffleys keep crossing paths, but the rivalry isn't based on anything; the writers just thought the Heffleys should have an opponent. Basically, every character is a dummy, and the film relies on the audience being too young to realize it. It's not wimpy, just lazy.

Renters from A3

money," said Marceline White, Executive Director, Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition.

"This public awareness campaign is critical. We pass a lot of good legislation and we find that only a small percentage of our residents eligible take advantage. We have to do a better job of letting people know the benefits and credits they are entitled to," comments Delegate Jimmy Tarlau (D-47A).

"Affordable housing, especially in the rental market, is a top priority and challenge throughout the State of Maryland and the National Capital region," said Prince George's

County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III. "I want to thank the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition for their advocacy, engagement, and promotion of the Maryland Renter's Tax Credit program. It is sad that too many of our seniors and disabled community, especially those on fixed and low incomes, have to make tough choices between paying their rent, buying food, and obtaining needed medicines. This tax credit provides much needed help and assistance. It is critical that all Prince Georgians that qualify for this tax credit apply for this assistance."

"Inquilinos en Maryland que pagan alquileres altos, no pueden dejar de pasar este programa,

averigüe si califica para recibir esta ayuda económica," declaró Carmen Castro-Conroy, Manager/Certified Housing Counselor, Housing Initiative Partnership.

"Renters in Maryland paying high rent, cannot miss this program, find out if you are eligible to receive this financial incentive," said Carmen Castro-Conroy, Manager/Certified Housing Counselor, Housing Initiative Partnership.

About the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC):

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) is a statewide nonprofit organization that protects and advances fair-

ness and justice for Maryland consumers through research, education, and advocacy. Each year, MCRC issues various reports with advice on best practices on different consumer issues from predatory car sales practices to how to improve your home to the need for affordable auto insurance, among others. MCRC: The Voice for Maryland Consumers. For more information, contact Marceline White, Executive Director, MCRC at Marceline@marylandconsumers.org or 410-624-8980.

Find MCRC on the web at www.marylandconsumers.org, on Facebook at [facebook.com/mdconsumers](https://www.facebook.com/mdconsumers) and on Twitter at twitter.com/mdconsumers

Women from A5

"Today was truly one of the most inspirational, educational and motivational experiences that I have encountered," said Mayfield Banks. "As I think about how excellence means so many different things to different people, I was delighted to walk into this room filled with women who get it; that excellence is required to succeed. The EDC gave a gift to Prince George's County with this Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon, just as Prince George's County has given a gift in the opportunity to give so many powerful women the opportunity to succeed. It is okay to compete because iron sharpens iron."

In addition to the panel discussion, the luncheon concluded by honoring five phenomenal "Wonder Women" who have

made remarkable contributions in Prince George's County. The Excellence in Partnership Award was given to Angela Franco, former President and CEO of the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for her advocacy and relationship building between the Hispanic business community and Prince George's County. The Excellence in Leadership Award was given to Julie Lenzer, Associate Vice President of Innovation and Economic Development at the University of Maryland for her collaboration and promotion of startup ventures in College Park and at other colleges and universities around the region.

The award for Excellence in Community Service was given to Lisa Liu, the Founder and Manager of Long River Realty for her service as the Asian Business Advisor to the Prince

George's County EDC and her cooperation in creating mutually beneficial partnerships between the County and the local Asian business community. The fifth award was given to Sara Bahethi, the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer of Science Systems and Applications, Inc. (SSAI) for Excellence in Entrepreneurship. Through her leadership, SSAI, founded in 1977 with a small contract from NASA is now a multimillion dollar science and technology company with more than 800 employees worldwide. The Excellence in Education Award was given to Dr. Debra Mahone, Director of State and Federal Programs for the Prince George's County Public School System for her role in school reform and leadership development.

"I am honored to have received the Excellence in Educa-

tion Award today at the inaugural Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon," said Dr. Mahone. "It is a misnomer that it is impossible for women to have a career, family and full personal life. It is important that all women understand that it is not all our responsibility to carry the load; we have a network of resources, like the ones in this room, which we can utilize to help us. Today's event was an opportunity to bring that fact to the forefront again."

Last month's Women's Excellence and Leadership Luncheon, the first annual event highlighting, empowering and inspiring business women in Prince George's County was graciously sponsored by CareFirst and many others. For more information about business development, contact Dr. Pradeep Ganguly at 301-583-4650 or pganguly@co.pg.md.us.

A Little This, A Little That

Work in Concert With Nature To Manage Garden Pests and Mosquitoes in the Landscape

By Melinda Myers



A garden filled with flowers, birds, bees and butterflies is a sight to behold. These winged beauties add color, sound and motion to our gardens. Plus, they help maximize a garden's productivity by pollinating plants and managing plant-damaging pests.

But what about those unwanted visitors to the garden? The aphids, mites and cabbage worms that feed upon our plants or the mosquitoes that feed upon us. There are ways to have a beautiful garden and at the same time enjoy the outdoors when we work with nature to manage our landscape.

Add a birdbath, a few birdhouses and plants for the birds. They'll repay you by eating many of the insects that feed upon your plants. Include seed-bearing plants like coneflowers, Rudbeckias and cosmos as well as berry plants like Juneberry, dogwood and firethorn. Add an evergreen and a few trees for shelter and nesting, if space allows.

Include a hummingbird feeder and a few of their favorite flowers like columbine, salvia, penstemon, and phlox. Then watch as these fast flyers feed upon aphids, mites and mosquitoes in between sips of nectar.

While watching the birds, bees and butterflies, examine your plants for garden pests. Catching insects early may mean the difference between a successful harvest and disappointment. Before reaching for the pesticides and destroying their food source, attract the good guys and manage unwanted pests with a few of these eco-friendly strategies.

Tolerate a bit of damage and wait for the birds, lady beetles, praying mantis and other beneficial insects to move in and eat the bad bugs in the garden. Use barriers like row covers to keep cabbage worms off your cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and Brussels Sprouts. Sink shallow containers filled with beer into the soil around hostas and some of the other favorite plants of slugs and snails. These pests are attracted to the fermenting yeast, crawl inside and die.

If the bad guys persist, step up your eco-friendly control. Knock small populations of aphids and mites off plants with a strong blast of water. Apply insecticidal soap or Summit Year-Round Spray Oil if nature needs a helping hand. These organic insecticides are effective at managing pests, while gentle on the good guys when used properly.

Keep mosquito populations to a minimum. Drain water from toys, buckets or any object that can hold water and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Change the water in birdbaths several times a week. Toss a Mosquito Dunk (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and water features. This organic insecticide only kills the larvae of mosquitoes, black flies and fungus gnats. It won't harm bees, butterflies, birds, pets and people.

Evaluate your success and make needed adjustments. Write a note in next year's calendar to watch for the return of these pests. You'll be ready to step in and lend nature a hand if needed.

As you begin to work in harmony with nature you will find more birds, bees and butterflies visiting your garden. Together you can grow a beautiful and productive garden for all to enjoy.

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

July 6 — July 12, 2017

Concert in the Park! Shirleta Settles

Date and time: Thursday July 6, 2017, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm
Description: Bring a blanket, or a lawn chair, and enjoy a concert on the Green at beautiful Watkins Regional Park.

Family and friends will enjoy a variety of music under the setting sun. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Subject to change due to inclement weather.

Cost: FREE
Ages: All
Location: Watkins Regional Park
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY: 301-699-2544

Youth Baseball Clinic

Date and time: Thursday, July 6, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm
Description: Calling all boys and girls ages 7 to 15!! You are invited to attend a baseball clinic conducted by local high school coaches from around the county.

Visit pgparks.com to register online, or call 301-446-6800. The first 50 registered participants will receive 2 tickets to a future Washington Nationals game.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 7 to 15
Location: Prince George's Stadium
4101 Northeast Crain Highway, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY: 301-446-6802

MNCPPC Youth Track and Field All Comers Event

Date and time: July 7, 2017, 5:30 pm–8:00 pm
Description: All Comers Track Meet to include: 100m; 200m; 400m; 1500m 4x100 Relay; and Shot Put.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 6–14
Location: Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD
Contact: 301-446-6800; TTY: 301-699-2544

Painting and Pancakes

Date and time: July 8, 2017, 10:00 am–12:00 pm
Description: Fun, artistic bonding experience for parent and child using paint as the medium while having a yummy pancake breakfast.

Cost: Resident \$10; Non-resident \$12
Ages: 10 and older (Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult)
Location: Beltsville Community Center
3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD
Contact: 301-937-6613; TTY: 301-699-2544

Pre-Ballet & Tap: Dance! Dance!! Dance!

Date and time: July 8, 2017, 10:15 am–11:15 am
Description: Get your children dancing early learning and gaining techniques to help them become well-rounded!!

This course is an introduction to basic ballet positions as a warm-up to tap dance steps. Ballet and tap shoes needed.
Cost: Resident \$40; Non-resident \$52
Ages: 3–5
Location: Kentland Community Center
2413 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover, MD 20785
Contact: 301-386-2278; TTY: 301-699-2544

Wine in the Garden

Date and time: July 8, 2017, 5:00 pm–8:30 pm
Description: Summertime and Wine!! Spend the evening with us in the garden of the Historic Snow Hill Manor and enjoy great wine from several local vineyards and some smooth jazz from the sounds of saxophonist Jason Woods and flutist Arch A.T. Thompson.

Cost: Resident \$25; Non-resident \$32.50
Ages: 21 and older
Location: Snow Hill Manor
13301 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD
Contact: 301-249-2004; TTY: 301-699-2544

Teen Theater Spectacular

Date and time: July 9, 2017, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm
Description: Enjoy a family-friendly gathering of musical theater entertainment for all ages. The Teen Performance Ensemble presents *Unplug and Play*, and Prince George's Children's Theater presents *As Told By Nzingha*, two fun and educational plays performed by Prince George's County's finest teen actors.

Cost: Resident \$5; Non-resident \$5 (Children 5 and under are free.)
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, MD
Contact: 301-322-8905; TTY: 301-699-2544

Fairwood Summer Series Presents the Red Sessions Band

Date and time: July 9, 2017, 7:30 pm
Description: Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy food trucks and a free performance by Redfootz Presents the Red Sessions!

Cost: FREE
Ages: All ages are welcome
Location: Fairwood Community Park
12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-446-3232; TTY: 301-699-2544

Health and Wellness: Line Dancing

Date and time: July 12, 2017, 8:30 am–9:30 am
Description: Learn all of the latest line dances suitable for beginners and seasoned line dancers. A great way to exercise, socialize and energize yourself.

Cost: FREE
Ages: 13 and older
Location: Fairwood Community Park
12390 Fairwood Parkway, Bowie, MD
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY: 301-699-2544

EARTH TALK ... Gamify Me: Using Games To Reduce Carbon Footprints

Dear EarthTalk:

What are some ways people are using games to help reduce their carbon footprints?

—Leah McNeil,
Colchester, CT

Environmental advocates and organizations are increasingly employing gamification—defined by Merriam-Webster as “the process of adding games or game-like elements to something ... so as to encourage participation”—to get people to learn about environmental problems and take action to reduce their carbon footprints and overall impact.

To wit, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Ecoresearch.net and the DecareboNet research project have partnered on a “game” called Climate Challenge that gets everyday people to pit their predictions about climate change and its effects against the opinions of experts around the world in an effort to see if the “wisdom of the crowd” can come up with answers faster than the experts alone.

Players are encouraged to research answers to questions about things like annual Arctic Sea Ice minimum coverage or the monthly average global surface temperature before submitting their answers. According to Climate Challenge creators, it's not cheating to research to find the best answers; indeed, it's the goal.

Players can come back every month for new questions, and see how they are doing compared to experts, friends, and even the collective “crowd”—and can win prizes by guessing closest to the actual value for a given question each month.

Another game focused on educating people about climate change is EduCycle, from Finnish game designer Neste. The free augmented reality (AR) app encourages players to design a city's transportation, buildings and farms while cutting greenhouse gas emissions to levels specified under the 2015 Paris climate accord. “By simulating the carbon cycle in real life,” Neste maintains, “the game teaches kids and adults about the effects of global warming.”

Save Ohno is a creative take on gamification for the sake of the climate, courtesy of concerned college student Dylan Husted. The main character in the free online game is Ohno, who represents the player's great granddaughter and is impacted by climate change in the future thanks to our actions and behaviors today. On the game's SaveOhno.org website, players can see Ohno's town get destroyed by extreme weather. But when players take positive action in the real world, the conditions in Ohno's online (future) town improve accordingly.

Players can improve Ohno's world by following tasks suggested within the game, and can



CREDIT: EARTH TALK

Dylan Husted won the Judge's Choice Award at Babson College's Climate CoLab contest and went onto to launch the game as a start-up devoted to helping people fight climate change.

also plug in real world campaigns and activism they are involved with to improve Ohno's town. “An example ‘campaign’ could be a petition to get your local school to invest in renewables,” says Husted.

Meanwhile, World Climate Simulation is a role-playing exercise whereby groups can take part in mock United Nations climate negotiations and learn what it's like to work with others to craft global environmental policy. The game uses an interactive computer model that allows participants to find out how their proposed policies impact global climate in real-time. All the tools and materials for the World Climate Simulation are available

for free and multiple languages are supported.

CONTACTS: Climate Challenge, www.ecoresearch.net/climate-challenge; EduCycle, www.neste.com/preorderthefuture; Save Ohno, www.saveohno.org; World Climate Simulation, www.climateinteractive.org/programs/world-climate.

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Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com.

Rural from A5

To help put the past behind, Day wants to remake pretty much the entire city. And, thanks to a partnership he initiated between Salisbury and the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Preservation and Planning, he has a blueprint to do it.

It focuses on the city's urban core, dividing it into seven neighborhoods, and includes everything from streetscape redesign to newly constructed modern buildings and bridges along the city's riverwalk on either side of the Wicomico River, which snakes west to east through Salisbury's center.

Day is hyperfocused on the city's physical appearance, particularly its branding and signage, but also its benches, planters and

trash cans, which are not uniform at present and clearly bother the mayor's design sense.

Salisbury's master plan has a proposed price tag of about \$640 million over 20 years, nearly 75 percent of which is meant to come from private sector investment. The plan is aggressive and maybe unrealistic, but also visionary. And perhaps no surprise from a mayor with an undergraduate degree in architecture and a masters in urban planning.

Day is also pursuing smaller, less costly efforts at rebranding Salisbury, including being a finalist to host the National Folk Festival for three years, a 175,000-person event that takes place over a long fall weekend each year. Prior hosts include Nashville and Richmond, with

Greensboro, NC, as the event's current location.

Finally, one of the simpler efforts Day and his team are doing is something called 3rd Fridays, where the city organizes arts and crafts vendors and live music in the city's historic quarter.

“We had to focus on our own market first so we stopped worrying about the beaches and Baltimore and Washington for a minute and tried to figure out how to get local people to show up,” Day said.

Initial funding for 3rd Fridays the first year was around \$20,000. In 2016, it was \$280,000.

Given the size and scope of his efforts, it's fair to question Day's ability to keep all of them on track, including management of Salisbury's 435 city employees.

Bowie from A1

Successful programs include:

- A LEED Silver certified Parks and Grounds Facility built in 2008 and a LEED Gold certified City Hall that opened in 2011;
- A 4-megawatt (MW) solar array on City owned property, which will be one of the largest municipal solar arrays in Maryland and will provide approximately 61% of the City's electrical

consumption from renewable energy. It will result in cost avoidance to the City of over \$7 million during the 20-year life of this project;

- Providing free large recycling carts to every Bowie household to encourage recycling and keep approximately 10,000 tons of solid waste out of landfills annually, saving the city almost \$600,000 in landfill fees each year;

- Subsidizing the cost of composting bins to encourage residents to compost;
- Promoting the use of rain barrels;
- Sponsoring tree rebate and targeted tree planting programs;
- Offering senior housing “green” rehabilitation grants;
- Purchasing electric motorcycles for the Police Department and hybrid vehicles for the City fleet; and
- Promoting solar power by sponsoring solar co-ops and

installing photovoltaic cells at several city facilities.

City of Bowie Mayor G. Frederick Robinson sums up all of these programs and many others that the City sponsors by saying, “not only are they innovative and cost effective, they are simply the right thing to do. We are firmly committed to a more sustainable Bowie and will continue to support this path for today's residents and for those who will call Bowie home in the future.”

EASY WAYS TO USE LESS PLASTIC

Plastic is one of the most prominent pollutants on land and in water. To reduce plastic pollution, here are some easy things you can try at home or work to use plastic less:

- Drink out of glasses at home or use a stainless water bottle at work;
- Keep a real (metal or wooden) spoon and fork at your desk;
- Use real or biodegradable plates;
- Save glass jars for food storage instead of using plastic containers; and
- Use a cloth bag when shopping.

Prince George's County Second Harvest is an affiliate of the Department of the Environment, Resource Management, and Office of Capital Services to promote cost savings and sustainability in our everyday behavior.