

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY Since 1932

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Come One,  
Come All to the ...



## Prince George's County Fair!

September 7–10, 2017 • The Show Place Arena

Celebrating Its 175th Year, the First and Longest Running County Fair in Maryland Opens to the Public September 7th

Enjoy fun for the whole family at the annual Prince George's County Fair! The Fair will feature livestock, craft, and agriculture competitions; animal shows and petting zoo; Carnival rides, games, live music and entertainment; local vendors and exhibitors as well as a wide selection of Fair food favorites. It's sure to be great fun!

### 2017 Schedule Fair Schedule:

September 7–10, 2017, The Show Place Arena, Upper Marlboro, MD

Days/Hours:

Thursday and Friday, 5pm–10pm

Saturday, 11am–10pm

Sunday, 11am–6pm

Visit [www.countyfair.org](http://www.countyfair.org) for more details. See you at the Fair!

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC.



## PG County Elementary School Students Show Growth in PARCC State Assessments

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students in third through fifth grades showed the most growth on the state's Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests in English and Mathematics. English Language Arts (ELA) scores were stronger overall in PGCPS and throughout the state.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released system- and school-level

results today for the third year of the PARCC exams.

"It is encouraging to see our youngest learners, who have been taught to higher standards the longest, showing the most growth," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer. "Our teachers and students continue to become familiar with the rigorous demands of the PARCC assessments as we prepare all students to enter college and the workplace. It is our priority to continue engaging par-

See PARCC Page A3

## Hoyer Announces SAFER Funding for Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Steny Hoyer

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On August 10, 2017, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-05) announced that a \$699,000 grant has been awarded to the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program. The award funds will be used to support the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters at departments throughout Prince George's County.

"I'm pleased to announce this grant that will benefit the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department and other volunteer fire departments in Prince George's County," said Congressman Hoyer. "The men and women who make up the volunteer fire departments put their lives on the line each day to serve their communities. Ensuring our firefighters have the support and funding they need to do their jobs remains a top priority for me. This grant

See HYATTSVILLE Page A3



PHOTO COURTESY MANNEQART  
"Vortex Rider" by Stacey Levy

## ManneqART Announces 2017 Competition Winners

By PRESS OFFICER  
ManneqART, Inc.

LAUREL, MD—ManneqART, an international arts and education non-profit, has announced the winners of its 2017 National Sculptural Artworks Competition, including Best Overall and Best in each of four theme categories. 54 artworks were submitted this year by 48 artists from around the U.S.

From now until mid-November, ManneqART sculptures will be on display in multiple locations throughout the region. Awards and a live floor show of the artworks on models will be featured at the November 5 ManneqART Masquerade and Annual Awards Gala at Ten Oaks Ballroom in Clarksville.

See MANNEQART Page A3

## Cardin Addresses NAACP National Convention, Underscores Need for Unity in Ongoing Push To Advance Civil and Human Rights

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Senator Ben Cardin

BALTIMORE, MD—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin addressed the 108th NAACP Annual Convention, calling on its members to remain unified and unwavering in the ongoing struggle to advance civil and human rights nationwide. Noting that the current political climate is not one inclined to embrace progress on key social issues, Senator Cardin spotlighted the critical role of the NAACP as a driver for change. Specifically, Senator Cardin asked NAACP members to continue to work in support of the immediate passage of two pieces of legislation he has authored, the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act.

"Taken together, these two pieces of legislation can begin to heal the fractured relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. They can be the beginning of a renewed push to

fully deliver all Americans the civil rights they deserve," said Senator Cardin. "Make no mistake: We are fighting for the soul of America ... and we must always be in this fight together so that all people can share in the American dream."

On a panel with fellow elected officials that have championed progressive change that included fellow U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) and Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), along with Congressman Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Senator Cardin also spoke to the irreplaceable role that the NAACP plays in communities and policy debates across the country.

"We need the NAACP now like never before. Your agenda is America's agenda. And the stakes could not be higher," said Senator Cardin. "We're not going to get a lot of help from the executive branch of government. We don't have an Attorney General who is going to fight for the core values of di-

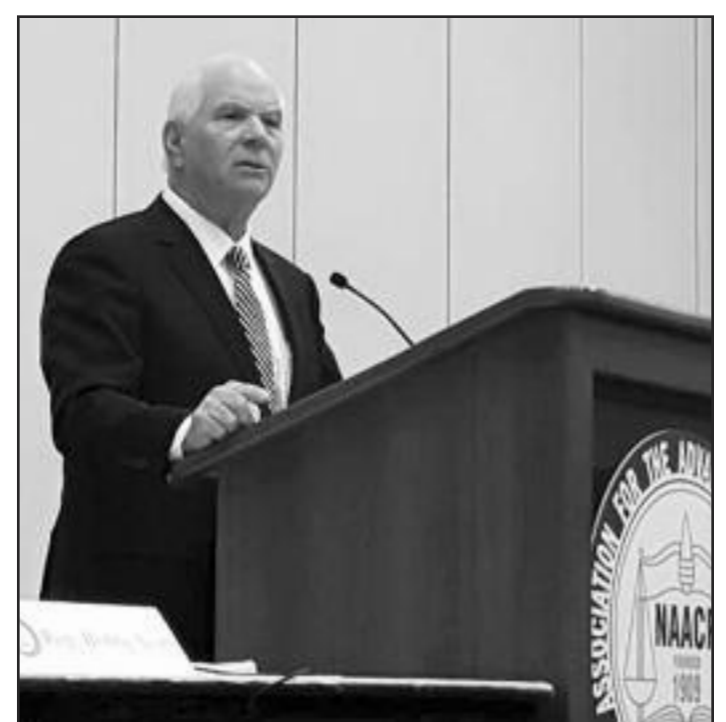


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF BEN CARDIN

Senator Ben Cardin calls discriminatory profiling by law enforcement outrageous, ineffective and deadly; urges passage of his End Racial and Religious Profiling Act and Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act as immediate remedies.

versity and inclusion. So we must be in this together, fighting for our shared values of diversity, inclusion and progress."

### INSIDE

#### Governor Larry Hogan Signs Executive Order to Create New State Development Plan

The executive order requires the new plan to be forward-thinking, responsive to local governments, and a flexible 21st-century blueprint to improve the quality of life for Marylanders, while promoting responsible growth and protecting the state's resources.

Community, Page A3

#### Dick Gregory Pioneered Using Comedy as a Weapon Against Racism

As an outspoken and often defiant political activist, Gregory often lost jobs because of the stands he took. But he always said, "If you're willing to give your life for a cause, what's a few dollars?"

Commentary, Page A4

#### Western Maryland Fracking Fight Reveals Divergent Economic Visions

On paper, Allegany has a fairly diverse economic portfolio. In addition to two higher education facilities and a large healthcare operator, Rocky Gap Casino Resort is expected to contribute more than \$1.8 million to county coffers in 2017.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *Dunkirk*

Whether on land, sea, or in the air, there is peril to be found at every moment. On the beach, we follow soldier boys named Tommy (Fionn Whitehead) and Gibson (Aneurin Barnard) as they scramble from one hiding place to the next (under the pier, inside an abandoned trawler, etc.).

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Any tips for how to green up my Halloween this year?

—Jason Falcone,  
Bern, NC

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Former Assistant State's Attorney Ed O'Connell dies at 74

Edmond Brendan O'Connell, 74, an attorney in Upper Marlboro and counsel to the Prince George's County Board of License Commissioners, died Aug. 3. He was a longtime resident of Manchester Estates in Camp Springs.

Ed was born in Washington, son of Denis and Elizabeth O'Connell. He worked (and hitchhiked) to put himself through Gonzaga High School and Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and School of Law. During his Gonzaga years, he first met Theresa Interdonato. They married in 1968.

Ed was an Assistant State's Attorney before entering private practice, and had an early law office on Allentown Road in Camp Springs. He served on the Board of Advisors at Southern Maryland Hospital and was active in the Prince George's County Democratic Party. His volunteer activities included coaching his sons' sports teams and leading their Scout troops at St. Philip's Church. He enjoyed cooking, reading mysteries and histories, music and baseball. He loved to garden and to travel.

Ed is survived by his wife of 49 years, Theresa; sons Denis (Shannon) and Paul; grandchildren Edmond and Sophia; sisters Eileen Douglass and Joan O'Connell. In the homily, Denis—also an attorney—spoke of his dad's humor, and lawyerly advice, "After seven minutes you lose the jury."

### People

Valerie McDonald, formerly of Skyline, and Emanuel Cooper III are engaged to be married at Camelot by Martin's, in Upper Marlboro, on Oct. 15. They met at American University when both were working on master's degrees. Last August Emanuel proposed to Valerie at Times Square in New York.

Valerie is the daughter of Freda and Michael McDonald, my neighbors on Skyline Drive. Emanuel is the son of Carol Dyson and Emanuel Cooper Jr. of Kansas City, MO.

Shirley Holmes, of Skyline, was celebrated for her 85 amazing years with a surprise birthday party at the Morningside Firehouse on Aug. 27.

Mary Dean, with her daughter Tina Hodge, traveled to Bardolph, Illinois, in August, to move her 92-year-old sister, Alma Richardson, to Morningside. Alma now makes her home on Allies Road with Mary, her last surviving sibling. Welcome to Morningside, Alma!

### Coming up

- The Prince George's County Fair, in Upper Marlboro, Sept. 7-10. Info: 301-404-5566, or [www.countyfair.org](http://www.countyfair.org).

- Anne Arundel County Fair, in Crownsville, Sept. 13-17. Info: [aacountyfair.org](http://aacountyfair.org).

- Joint Base Andrews Air Show, Sept. 16-17. Free. Info: [www.andrewsairshow.org](http://www.andrewsairshow.org).

- Capital Challenge Horse Show, Prince George's Equestrian Centre in Upper Marlboro, Sept. 29-Oct. 8. Info: [capitalchallenge.org](http://capitalchallenge.org).

### Changing landscape

There'll be a public meeting Sept. 14 regarding construction on the MD 4/Suitland Parkway Interchange, set to begin with pavement markings, work zone configurations, setting of concrete barriers, daytime and nighttime lane shifts. The meeting will be 6 to 8 p.m. at Forestville High School, 7001 Beltz Drive in District Heights. Info: 410-545-8813 or [sjohnson@sha.state.md.us](mailto:sjohnson@sha.state.md.us).

Aldi's, in Camp Springs, held a Grand Reopening on August 25, following extensive renovation. They advertise a "fresh new look" and "save up to 50% on groceries." And now they honor major credit cards.

Groundbreaking for the Metro Purple Line was held Aug. 28, with Gov. Larry Hogan and U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao among the VIP shovel-wielders. The 16-mile light-rail line will run from New Carrollton to Bethesda.

### Morningside Memories

In 1944 Suitland Parkway was completed. The Morningside Volunteer Fire Department organized; its Ladies Auxiliary, the following year.

In 1949 Morningside incorporated and the first election was held, June Stocklinski, the first mayor.

In 1952 the Women's Civic Group formed and issued the first Town Directory in 1953.

In 1955, Suitland Road was first paved.

In 1956 Morningside Elementary School opened.

### May they rest in peace

Dr. John A. Droter, 83, one of *Dentistry's Today's* Top Clinicians in Dental Continuing Education, and a Ft. Washington resident, died July 25. A native of McKees Rock, PA, he attended the University of Pittsburgh, graduating first in his School of Dentistry, and the University of Maryland Dental School. He served in the Air Force and then established a practice in Mitchellville, diagnosing facial pain (TMJ). Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Hildegard; children, Dr. John R., Dr. Joseph E. and Jim Droter, and Linda Bailey; and four grandchildren. Services were at St. Columba and burial at Arlington. From Post obit: "He embraced every opportunity to fish, play poker, golf, play guitar, pick hard crabs and ski with family and friends."

Shirley Jeannette Barker-Benincasa, 86, longtime resident of Camp Springs, died Aug. 2. Survivors include her husband, Dr. Vincent Benincasa, DDS; children, Emilia, Natalie, and Joseph; sister, Audrey Thurman; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mass of Christmas Burial was at St. John's in Clinton, with burial at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum.

Leslie Floyd "Butch" Roland, 75, of Waldorf, a 1960 graduate of Oxon Hill High, died July 31. He was a Supervisor at D.C. Water & Sewer Authority (Blue Plains) for 45 years, retiring in 2005. His wife of 48 years, Joyce, preceded him in death. Survivors include children, Laurie Ann, Gregory and Jeffrey; sister Roberta Powell; and two grandchildren.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Mike Dawes, Sept. 9; Charlie Deegan, twins Robert Andrew Woods and John Dexter Woods and Nan Brown, Sept. 10; Carol Lee, Sept. 11; Anthony Thomas and Hank Busky, Sept. 12; Patricia Epperly, Sept. 13; and Kenny Clark, Sept. 14.

Happy 58th anniversary to Les and Kathy Hedrick on Sept. 13; and to Sal and Kathy (Blankenship) Biberaj on their 14th anniversary, Sept. 14.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### 141st HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Baden Parish will be celebrating their 141st Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Morning worship service will be held at 9:30 AM. They are honored to have Reverend Kermit C.C. Moore as their speaker of the hour accompanied with Asbury United Methodist Church Men's Choir at their evening service at 3:00 PM. Family and friends are invited to attend their services. Lunch will be served from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The church address is 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613.

### ROUTE 30—THE BUS

Prince George's County brings bus service onto Hospital Campus (MedStar/SMHC). The bus Route 30, provides community bus service to Camp Springs and Clinton from 6:00 AM to 7:24 PM Monday through Friday every 50-55 minutes. There is no service on Saturdays, Sundays or major holidays. Phone 301-324-BUSS if you need more information.

### BELLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for our Annual Crab Feast Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 3:00 PM-6:00 PM. All you can eat crab feast featuring: juicy crabs, baked chicken, sloppy joes, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, green beans, desserts, and cold beverages. Adults \$40/ kids (6-18) \$20.00. Children under 5 are free. Tickets on sale until September 15 (No sales at door).

The church is located at 6016 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Maryland 20746. Rev. Crystal Davis Jones, Pastor. Church office number is 301-899-7521.

### CLINTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fall Revival, sponsored by the Evangelism Ministry, the theme is "Getting Back On Track" will begin Friday, September 22, 2017 at 7:30 PM. Pastor Michael Carington from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Reisterstown, Maryland will be the speaker. Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 5:00 PM, Prayer and Praise Service with Derrick Johnson as the Praise Leader and the Thorpe

Singers will render some selections. Sunday September 24, 2017 International Sunday, Minister Pearl Chase, CLM, Asbury United Methodist Church, Accokeek, Maryland is the speaker at the 8:00 AM Service. Pastor Robert Carter, Calvary United Methodist Church, Waldorf, Maryland is the speaker at the 10:30 AM Service. Pot luck dinner to follow.

The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Rev. Dorothea Stroman is the Pastor. Church office number is 301-868-1281.

### PTSO 8TH ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR

Prince George's County Council Member Mel Franklin, Prince George's County Council, District 9, is proud to co-sponsor PTSO 8th Annual College Fair September 20, 2017 from 3:30 PM-6:30 PM at Surrattsville High School. The address is 6101 Garden Drive, Clinton, Maryland 20735. For more information, contact the office of Council Member Mel Franklin at (301) 952-3820.

## Neighborhoods

### Be Safe, Be Smart and Know What's Below BGE Reminds Customers to Call 811 Before Digging

BALTIMORE, MD—BGE would like to remind all customers and contractors to call 811 to have utility-owned underground lines marked before digging. Nationwide, every six minutes someone damages an underground utility line because of digging without first calling 811, according to the Common Ground Alliance, the national association that promotes the 811 phone number and safe digging practices. Incidents of damage to BGE's natural gas system have been reduced by 30 percent since 2006. BGE is among the leading natural gas utilities for reduced damages.

Striking an underground electric or natural gas line can cause serious injury, damages and service interruptions. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects where a call to 811 should be one of the first steps. Customers and contractors should call 811 before clearing blocked sewer lines to determine if any utility lines are nearby as well.

BGE has nearly 16,000 circuit miles of underground electric lines—more than 60 percent of the electric distribution system. Additionally, there are nearly 14,000 miles of BGE natural gas distribution and service lines throughout central Maryland. Aside from BGE's lines, there are underground communications cables, water and sewer lines, and other utilities.

When calling 811, customers and contractors are connected to Miss Utility, the local one-call center, which notifies BGE and other utilities of the intent to dig at a location. The utilities' professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. Once lines are located, customers and contractors doing work also must understand the markings and look for evidence of unmarked lines, such as water and sewer lines on private property. Sewer cleanouts and water valve covers are examples of equipment that can indicate the presence of underground lines. Once lines are marked, customers and contractors must proceed carefully. Hand dig with caution and never use mechanized excavation equipment within 18 inches of marked utilities.

BGE joins the Exelon family of utilities in recognizing National Call Before You Dig Day and is a member of the Common Ground Alliance to share best practices to promote safe excavation and decrease instances of damage to underground lines. The company also provides customers and local contractors with important information about safety around overhead and underground utility lines through mailings, customer newsletters, social media and print advertising.

To learn more, visit [www.bge.com/811](http://www.bge.com/811). To access training videos and other free materials, visit BGE's Damage Prevention and Safety Training site at <http://www.bge.com/SafetyCommunity/Safety/Page>

s/DamagePreventionSafety-Training.aspx.

### Governor Appoints Top Leader at Melwood to Maryland Community Health Resources Commission

Scott Gibson, Vice President of Human Resources, Advocates For People With Differing Abilities as Maryland Looks to Close Health Care Gap

UPPER MARLBORO, MD (August 2, 2017)—Cari DeSantis, president & CEO at Melwood, announced the appointment of Scott Gibson, its Vice President of Human Resources, to the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. Governor Larry Hogan (R-Md.) appointed Gibson to the commission effective on July 1. Gibson was officially sworn in on July 21 in Annapolis, MD. The Commission was created in 2005 to expand accessible health care in underserved communities. The programs created through the Commission have served more than 330,000 people around the state.

Since joining Melwood in 2013, Gibson has expanded his role in HR to providing leadership for Melwood's Vocational Support Services program, which provides career-related accommodations and supports to 650 people with differing abilities. He has proven to be a strong advocate for individuals with differing abilities. In 2016, Gibson was among the leaders calling on the General Assembly to end the practice of paying workers with disabilities less than the minimum wage.

"We are honored to have one of our team members serve on such a critical Commission," said DeSantis. "This appointment provides Scott with the ability to reach beyond the Melwood walls to those vulnerable communities to discuss expanding access to public health care."

This appointment is a natural progression for Gibson, who has spent his career in public service. Some of his positions included, Director of Human Resources of Harford County, MD, Deputy Director of the Maryland Racing Commission, and Vice Chairman and Trustee of Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding. Among others, Gibson also served on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Public Employers Labor Relations Association and National Public Employers Labor Relations Association, where he chaired the Legislative/Legal Advocacy Committee.

"I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve on the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission," said Gibson, who throughout his career, has worked to identify some less obvious correlations between human resources and human services. "Access to health care, even the most basic health care, is critical to the well-being of our communities; it is even more critical for our neighbors with differing abilities. I look forward to helping Maryland leverage resources to close this gap."

Gibson earned his Master of Government Administration

from the University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Arts from Mount Saint Mary's College, where he has served on the adjunct faculty.

### About Melwood

Melwood is a 501(c)(3) organization that advocates for and empowers individuals of differing abilities to transform their own lives through unique opportunities to work and play in the community. Melwood provides employment, job training, life skill improvement, supportive and recreational services for more than 2000 people with differing abilities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region and serves as an international model for social entrepreneurship that has been duplicated around the world. Specialties include: Social Services, Total Facilities Management Services, Landscaping and Groundskeeping, Custodial, Recycling, Customized Job Training, Electronics Recycling, Green Cleaning Products, and Veterans Services. For more information, visit [www.melwood.org](http://www.melwood.org).

### AMC Academy 8 Now Featuring Recliners!

Leawood, KS—The most comfortable place to watch a movie in Greenbelt, Maryland is now AMC Academy 8. The theatre has recently undergone a complete transformation, enhancing every part of the movie-going experience. AMC Academy 8 now features AMC Signature recliner seating, all new sight and sound presentation technology and enhanced food and drink items.

Moviegoers at AMC Academy 8 can enjoy the full AMC amazing experience, including:

- Plush, power recliners in every auditorium
- Online ticketing, reserved seating and ticketless entry
- An expanded menu of treats for every taste bud, including Coca-Cola Freestyle®
- All new speakers, sound systems and movie screens throughout the theatre

At AMC, every seat is the best seat in the house. In addition to AMC's Signature plush, power recliner seating, every auditorium features stadium seating or platform risers, which provide a stadium-style seating feel. AMC Academy 8 also features reserved seating, providing moviegoers with the confidence that they'll have their selected seats ready when they arrive at the theatre, as well as ticketless entry, which allows guests to skip the box office entirely through access to their ticket on their mobile device.

The enhanced food and beverage menu includes select AMC Feature Fare items such as Pretzel Bites, Stone-Fired Flat Bread Pizza and Gluten-Free Snacks, with the full menu arriving in early 2018. In addition, moviegoers can enjoy Coca-Cola Freestyle machines, which offer more than 120 drink options.

For information about the renovations of AMC Academy 8, or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.amctheatres.com/movie-theatres/washington-dc/amc-academy-8> About AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc.



**BACK TO SCHOOL!**

Wishing our local students the best of luck as they start their 2017-2018 school year!

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Recognizing an Abusive Relationship

It's an unfortunate situation, and one that happens all too frequently, that people get trapped in an unhealthy and abusive relationship. And while it sometimes is the man who is being abused, in over 90 percent of reported cases it is the woman who is being victimized.

Abusive relationships aren't always about physical abuse. It also includes sexual and emotional abuse. And while it's pretty clear that if someone hits, pushes, slaps or shakes the other person that abuse is taking place, abuse in other forms is just as real, often more damaging, and actually more frequent than physical abuse. Signs of such abuse include:

- forcing sex when it's not wanted
- name calling and constant put-downs
- frequently checking up on what the person is doing
- maintaining total control over money
- making threats to kill you if you leave, threatening the children, threatening pets
- keeping you isolated from your family and friends.

Experts report that these forms of sexual and emotional abuse are more common than physical abuse, and can even be much more damaging as they destroy the victim's self-esteem.

While correcting or leaving such a relationship can be difficult, and even sometimes dangerous, there is help available. Today, battered women's shelters are available in many communities. Staffed by caring volunteers and professionals, such shelters work hard to help victims find safety and peace in their lives. Shelters provide temporary housing, meals, clothing, and safety. Many shelters also provide medical care, childcare, counseling, job training, and transitional housing.

Fortunately, today there is a much wider recognition of the abuse problem. A starting point for many victims of abuse is a phone call to the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. They can offer confidential information, support and resources for victims of abuse. They also offer assistance for someone who recognizes that his or her behaviors may be harmful to a partner.

No one should stay in an abusive relationship. If you're in such a relationship, call the Hotline or contact a shelter if there is one in your town. If you know of a friend or relative who may be the victim of an abusive relationship, let her or him know that you're there to listen and be supportive without being judgmental. Let them know there are options and encourage them to get help before their situation becomes worse.

*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*

### ManneqART from A1

The 2017 overall "ManneqART MASTER Award" winner is Stacy Levy of Owings Mills, MD. She wins a \$3,000 prize for her amazing artwork entitled "Vortex Rider."

#### The 2017 ManneqART theme award winners are:

- Eco Award—\$1,000 "Fleur D'Art"** by Karen Brand of Halethorpe, MD and Gerri Hanus of Laurel, MD
- Aviation Award—\$1,000 "Blue Bird of Happiness"** by Sharon Garry of Catonsville, MD
- Ocean Award—\$1,000 "The Agony and the Ecxta-Sea"** by Doreen Reynolds of Highland, MD
- Energy Award—\$1,000 "Spectator"** by Liz Ayerle of Philadelphia, PA

In addition to the ManneqART theme awards, the following special awards were announced:

- Sandy Spring Museum "Inner Light" Award—\$2,000 "Glaciur Angelies"** by Maddy Halbach and Lynne Spector of Glenwood, MD
- Innolect Corp "Growing Leaders" Award—\$500 Dual Citizenship** by Adrianna Morgan of Silver Spring, MD
- The Queen's Ink Award—\$500 "Imagined Africa"** by Judith Bird of Port Townsend, WA

Artists of all ages and skill levels were invited to create unique artworks. This year's Emerging Artist Award winners are:

- College Level—Imagine Artwear Award for Excellence in Fiber Arts—\$500 "The Mummy"** by Myra Briley, Texas Women's University, Denton, TX
- High School Level—\$300 "Evolving Nest"** by Amanda O'Shaughnessy, Reservoir HS, Fulton, MD
- Middle School Level—\$200 "Terror of the Triangle"** by Blake Savoy, Oakland Mills MS, Columbia, MD

ManneqART is based in Howard County, MD. Now in its fifth year, the ManneqART mission is "to inspire creativity and reward excellence in the field of wearable art" through the annual competition, exhibits, workshops and other events. "We work with artists of all ages and skill levels to encourage people to get involved in this lesser known form of art. Once you see these works on a live model, fully made up by a professional hair and makeup artist, you realize that art doesn't have to hang on the wall to be credible and absolutely fantastic," explained Lee Andersen, founder and president of ManneqART. More information about ManneqART and upcoming events is available at [www.manneqart.org](http://www.manneqart.org). Photos of all the entries in the 2017 Competition can be seen at the ManneqART website gallery. The ManneqART Museum has recently opened and features nearly 50 artworks on display and a unique event space for birthday parties, weddings and other special events.

## Governor Larry Hogan Signs Executive Order to Create New State Development Plan

*Highlights Partnership Between State Government and Counties, Need for Local Input in Planning Process*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Larry Hogan today delivered the closing address of the annual Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. During his address, the governor announced his signing of Executive Order 01.01.2017.18, which directs state officials to create a new State Development Plan (SDP) that promotes smart growth initiatives, while being significantly more responsive to the needs of local jurisdictions than previous plans.

"As I have traveled across Maryland, local elected officials have repeatedly asked for a plan that better reflects the needs of our state," Governor Hogan said. "One that will improve coordination between state agencies and local governments, support thoughtful growth and infrastructure planning, stimulate economic development and revitalization in existing and planned communities, and will conserve and enhance the state's natural and cultural resources."

"This new process will be transparent and collaborative with the primary goal of creating a better framework for a better Maryland. And this time, the state will work closely with citizens, counties, and local jurisdictions. Most importantly, we will finally put local planning authority back into the hands of local governments—where it belongs."

The governor's executive order

derects the Maryland Department of Planning, in collaboration with the Smart Growth Subcabinet and the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, to create a new State Development Plan. Maryland has been required to have a state development plan since the 1950s, however the most recent plan was adopted more than five years ago.

The executive order requires the new plan to be forward-thinking, responsive to local governments, and a flexible 21st-century blueprint to improve the quality of life for Marylanders, while promoting responsible growth and protecting the state's resources. The group tasked with developing the plan will work closely with citizens, cities and towns, local jurisdictions, and regional stakeholders to ensure that concerns and input of local governments are not only received, but also incorporated in any final plan.

"As we work together on this new development plan, local jurisdictions can expect state government to be responsive to their needs, while working with them as a partner to improve quality of life, preserve our natural and cultural resources, and to promote economic development that supports their long-term planning goals," said Department of Planning Secretary Wendi Peters.

During his address, the governor outlined the many ways that the administration has worked with local leaders throughout the state, including fighting the heroin and opioid epidemic, instituting common sense regulatory reform, protect-

ing Maryland's natural resources, and defeating the Road Kill Bill this past legislative session.

In March, Maryland became the first state in the nation to declare an official State of Emergency in response to the evolving heroin and opioid epidemic. This enables the state to better coordinate with local agencies in order to respond to this crisis and provide prevention, treatment, and enforcement services. In addition, the governor committed an additional \$50 million in new funding to help turn the tide in this deadly fight and save lives of Marylanders across the state.

Last year, based on feedback from Maryland jurisdictions and constituents, Governor Hogan announced that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) would revisit a 2012 mandate to require Best Available Technology (BAT) septic systems outside counties' Critical Areas, a regulation that created a cost-prohibitive burden on Maryland homeowners and businesses. MDE eliminated the requirements outside the Critical Areas, ensuring that environmental safeguards remain in place, while reducing an unnecessary regulatory burden.

Since 2015, the administration has worked tirelessly to protect the state's greatest natural asset, the Chesapeake Bay, by investing more than \$3 billion toward Bay restoration efforts, the most ever in state history. In addition, the administration has invested \$145 million in the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, \$325 million

in the Bay Restoration Fund, and defeating another \$350 million in Program Open Space and other land preservation programs.

The Hogan administration is working with local leaders across the state to rebuild Maryland's transportation infrastructure. Working with stakeholders in local jurisdictions, the administration succeeded in repealing the Road Kill Bill, which jeopardized nearly all of the most important transportation projects in every county in the state.

The administration is now moving forward on nearly all of the top priority transportation projects in every jurisdiction and has invested a total of \$14.8 billion in the Consolidated Transportation Plan. There are nearly 1,000 transportation projects totaling \$9 billion currently under construction across the state, and the Department of Transportation has resurfaced nearly one-third of the entire state highway system.

The governor also reaffirmed his commitment to fully restoring Highway User Revenues, transportation funding that is critical to many counties and that had been severely reduced under the previous administration.

"To all of Maryland's county leaders, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service to our state, and for your dedication to your communities," said Governor Hogan. "The Maryland Association of Counties has been an incredible partner for our administration, and we will continue to do everything we can to foster and strengthen that partnership."

### PARCC from A1

ents and supporting students in meeting state standards."

PGCPS has worked to boost achievement on the state assessments through regular, school-level "PARCC Nights" for families where teachers explain and work through sample exam questions. Schools will continue hosting "PARCC Nights" this year to offer resources and support. In addition, the PGCPS Family Institute, launched last year, will seek to increase participation and collaboration between families, schools and the larger community in further support of student achievement.

Overall, 25.9 percent of students in third through fifth grades

met or exceeded expectations on the English Language Arts exam, a 2.5 percentage point increase over 2016 results. Results on the mathematics test showed a half-percentage point increase over last year to 20.7 percent.

Passing rates remained constant in English and Mathematics for sixth through eighth-grade students: 29.7 percent in English this year compared to 29.0 percent in 2016; and 13.0 percent in Mathematics compared to 13.5 percent in 2016.

Nearly all student demographic groups in elementary and middle grades experienced growth. Students in third through fifth-grades improved in both ELA (2.5 percent) and Mathematics (0.5 percent). Growth on

the third through fifth-grade ELA exam was highest among Asian students with an 8.8 percentage point-increase from the previous year. ELA performance among African American students grew 3.1 percentage points since 2016, the second-highest increase system-wide. Improvements were seen in math among students of two or more races (4.2 percent), Asian students (1.8 percent) and African American students (1.0 percent). Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) eligible students improved in both ELA (1.4 percent) and Mathematics (0.2 percent).

In sixth through eighth grades, ELA passing rates improved slightly for White students (52.8 percent, up 1.1 per-

cent), Asian students (59.6 percent, a 0.8 percent increase) and multiracial students (40.5 percent, up 0.4 percent). Passing rates for white students (34.7 percent) on the Mathematics exam increased one percentage point. Results for Asian students were unchanged at 38.3 percent meeting or exceeding proficiency targets.

PARCC performance at the high school level improved among students taking the Algebra II exam. In 2017, the percentage of Algebra II students who met or exceeded expectations increased 1.7 percentage points from the previous year.

Complete PARCC results are available online at [MdReportCard.org](http://MdReportCard.org).

### Hyattsville from A1

will provide recruitment support and marketing programs for volunteer fire departments throughout Prince George's County."

"This Grant will be used to recruit new firefighter/EMT's, retain the experienced volunteers we have now and to improve the application process of new recruits," said Prince George's County Fire Chief Benjamin M. Barksdale. "We appreciate the efforts of our elected officials in securing this Grant that will enhance our combined fire/EMS resource service delivery to our residents."

"With the support of this SAFER grant, we will now have the tools and funding to put into motion our plans for specific strategic marketing, much-needed technology upgrades, and successful recruitment and retention events and training," said Jay Tucker, Chairman, Prince George's County Fire Commission. "We look forward to this resulting in the largest positive impact that the Prince George's County Volunteer Fire

Service has seen in decades."

"The Hyattsville VFD is excited to host this incredible grant opportunity which will provide for much needed technology, infrastructure and marketing support to the volunteer fire and rescue service across Prince George's County," said Thomas Falcone, President, Hyattsville VFD.

As co-chair of the Congressional Fire Caucus, Congressman Hoyer took a lead role in helping to establish the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program and the SAFER Program, and each year he leads a letter with Members of Congress to the Appropriations Committee to ensure adequate funding is appropriated for the program. Over \$15 million has been awarded to Fifth District fire departments since the program was established. For more information, please visit the website at <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>.

To learn more about volunteer fire departments in Prince George's County, visit <http://www.pgvolunteers.org/>.

## Prince George's County Council Accepting Applications For Public Policy Fellowship

*Application Deadline is September 15, 2017*

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Council

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—The Prince George's County Council is currently accepting applications from graduate students interested in a Public Policy Fellowship with Prince George's County's Legislative Branch.

The Prince George's County Council Public Policy Fellowship, which begins in October 2017 and ends in June 2018, provides graduate students with an introduction to the operations, policies and programs of local government, and a level of involvement that engages their special areas of expertise for the benefit of Prince George's County citizens. Specific areas of concentration include public administration, public policy, finance, law, communications, land-use and the environment.

Those interested in applying for the Council's Public Policy Fellowship should visit <http://pgccouncil.us/324/Public-Policy-Fellowship>. Deadline for submission of application materials is **Friday, September 15, 2017**. Notification of selection is expected by September 31. No phone inquiries please.

# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland



### Van Hollen: Sanctions, Diplomacy, Leadership Key to Lessening North Korea Threat

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen joined MSNBC's *Morning Joe* to discuss tensions with North Korea and his bipartisan North Korea sanctions legislation, the BRINK Act. Below is a transcript of the interview, and the video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gjsbx1RtFw&feature=youtu.be>.

**WILLIE GEIST, MSNBC:** Joining us now from Washington, a member of the Senate Appropriations and Banking Committees, Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland. Senator, good to see you. Let's pick up right where we just left off, talking about North Korea, the President's rhetoric. And not just the President, by the way. Yesterday, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis speaking in strong terms about what could happen to North Korea if it continues in the direction of the pursuit of nuclear weapons. What's your reaction just to the dialogue of the last 24-48 hours?

**U.S. SENATOR CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-MD):** I think the overheated rhetoric and statements from President Trump have aggravated the situation. They play into the hands of the North Korean leader. This is Kim Jong Un's game, as your guest just said. This is something the North Koreans have done for 15 years. And when President Trump engages in the same kind of rhetoric, he actually elevates the North Korean leader and diminishes the United States.

So we should focus on diplomacy, backed up by very strong economic sanctions. One thing on the sanctions—we have had them in place for a long time, but they have not been adequately enforced. And the Chinese, especially, have looked the other way while Chinese banks and firms have dealt with North Korea.

So Senator Toomey and I have introduced bipartisan legislation, modeled after the Iran sanctions legislation, that would really ratchet up the pressure.

**SAM STEIN, MSNBC:** Senator, Sam Stein here. This obviously does fall in the purview of the executive. But there are some legislative vehicles

that Congress can consider. You talked about one with respect to sanctions. I know Senator Markey has a bill that would essentially prohibit first strike unless an act of Congress came before that.

What do you expect lawmakers to do once they get off of August recess, come back and let's say this North Korea issue is still lingering? Are there going to be hearings? Are you going to get momentum behind one of these bills? How will your chamber respond?

**VAN HOLLEN:** Well, I'm absolutely confident we will have hearings in the Banking Committee. There will probably be hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. And I expect us to take up legislation.

Congress did pass some Korea sanctions legislation as part of the Russia sanctions and the sanctions on Iran. But many of us believe we need to go much further in terms of the Iran sanctions model.

Back then, we remember, the U.N. passed sanctions on Iran. They didn't really bite. They didn't really have any teeth until the United States passed what are called secondary sanctions, where we say to countries like China or others, you have a choice. Either you do business with North Korea, or you do business with the United States. But you can't do both. So that is what got people's attention with the Iran sanctions. That's what we need to do now.

**MIKE BARNICLE, MSNBC:** Senator, you mentioned, with regard to North Korea, the need for China to play a larger role in helping to get us to some form of negotiation. And despite the great piece of chocolate cake at Mar-a-Lago, it appears the Chinese are not playing the role that we want them to play. And it raises the question in some circles, a legitimate question. People we rely on, countries we rely on throughout the world—Pakistan, supposedly our ally. Not really. Saudi Arabia, supposedly our ally. Not really.

What is going on with the role of the United

See **DIPLOMACY** Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Dick Gregory Pioneered Using Comedy as A Weapon Against Racism

*"His comedy, one of the many weapons in his arsenal, was one way that he fought for justice. Dick Gregory has passed away at a time when America is reverting to the country he fought so desperately to change. It makes the need more urgent for more people to hold up the mirror to society as he did, to hit us with the funniest, most infuriating look at the bitter truth of injustice."*

—Comedian Ron Wood, Jr.

In the days following the sickening neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, the nation grappled with the best way to confront hostile demonstrations of white supremacy.

Eyes turned to Wunsiedel, Germany, where neo-Nazis had long been attracted to the gravesite of Hitler deputy Rudolph Hess. In 2014, the townspeople took to mocking the demonstrators with silly slogans and rainbow confetti, raising money for anti-racism causes. But the tactic of using humor to confront racism was pioneered decades earlier, by a man I was privileged to call my friend: Dick Gregory, who died last week at the age of 84.

Many of his sharpest, funniest observations were mentioned in the obituaries and tributes that followed his passing. The one I've seen most frequently was his response to a waitress telling him "We don't serve colored people in here." "That's okay," he would say, "I don't eat colored people. Just bring me a whole fried chicken." What most obituaries omitted was the line that followed: "About that time, three cousins came in. You know the ones I mean Ku, Klux and Klan. They said, 'Boy, we're giving

you fair warning. Anything you do to that chicken, we're gonna do to you.' So I put down my knife and fork, I picked up that chicken and I kissed it. Then I said, 'Line up, boys!'"

And therein lies the power of using humor to diffuse racism. When racists are spoiling for a fight, nothing takes the wind out of their sails more effectively than exposing them as fools.

Even as he mocked the threat of open violence, he also tweaked the subtle bigotry that often poses as tolerance. "In the South," he said, "they don't mind how close I get, as long as I don't get too big. In the North, they don't mind how big I get, as long as I don't get too close."

As an outspoken and often defiant political activist, Gregory often lost jobs because of the stands he took. But he always said, "If you're willing to give your life for a cause, what's a few dollars?"

These days, taking a stand for social justice or lending support to a political candidate can be as easy as hitting the "send" button on a cellphone. But in 1994, during my first campaign for New Orleans Mayor, Gregory joined me in the trenches, walking for miles through city neighborhoods, knocking on doors and visiting community centers. I will always be grateful for his friendship and support.

"I chose to be an agitator," he said. "The next time you put your underwear in the washing machine, take the agitator out, and all you're going to end up with are some dirty, wet drawers."

As we mourn his loss, I think of what he would have said about his own death: "You got to die of something because if you die of nothing, they won't pay your insurance."

## National Voting Rights Museum



Open to the Public

### NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MUSEUM

Located at 6 US Highway 80 East, in the Historic District of Selma, Alabama at the foot of the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge, the scene of "Bloody Sunday," the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is the cornerstone of the contemporary struggle for voting rights and human dignity. The National Voting Rights Museum and Institute is the only such Institution of its kind in the world. Photography and video exhibits, documents, personal notes and artifacts from the struggle are housed in its archives. The Museum and Institute offers the United States of America and the world the unique opportunity to learn from the lessons of the past and to secure our rights for the future. It is a place where past and present struggles and future possibilities can be viewed, studied, felt, remembered and appreciated. Museum hours are Monday–Thursday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Friday, Saturday, Sunday: By Appointment Only.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### Welcome to America

I recently had the privilege of meeting five outstanding high school students the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio's Beat the Odds® program was honoring for overcoming tremendous adversity, demonstrating academic excellence and giving back to their communities. One of these inspiring young people was Sara Abou Rashed.

Sara has witnessed unimaginable violence. At age 13, Sara experienced shock and horror as a bomb exploded near her school in Syria, shattering classroom windows and throwing the entire school into chaos. Despite daily dangers, she pushed through her fears and continued to attend school long after many other students had given up. As the war in Syria crept closer to her family, Sara was left no choice but to leave her home. She moved to Columbus, Ohio with her mother and grandmother. Sara knew almost no English but worked long hours and sought help from her teachers to learn the language of her new home.

While making America home, Sara learned that her father had lost his life shortly after trying to escape the violence in Syria by fleeing to Egypt. But she did not give up. By the end of her freshman year, she was on the honor roll in her Columbus school and had a firm grasp of the English language. In fact, Sara joined the poetry team and blossomed into an accomplished poet. She hopes to become a politician and inspire others to work with her to better our world.

At a moment when Americans are struggling again with who we are, who we want to be and how we teach and reinforce core values like inclusivity, civility, nonviolence and tolerance, please listen to the powerful voice of this brave young poet saying, in her own words, *I, too, sing America*.

**Welcome to America**  
by Sara Abou Rashed

*Bring us your oppressed, your exhausted bodies, your hungry, unheard crowds and we shall set them free*

"I'd like to welcome you to the one and only,

the greatest America."  
Says the lady  
in the white shirt behind a desk.  
"Now honey, please fill out all these papers,  
and don't forget to send us your story,  
why you came here, your hopes and expectations.  
We wish you a happy life."

...  
16 springs I've witnessed,  
not one  
was blooming, there,  
behind the shores of  
the Mediterranean,  
everything is a martyr, there—  
we don't dare  
live lest we die,  
even roses grow stripped  
of colors.

Though, the scarred walls  
there memorize  
our names, though the  
tarred roads  
there know our stories.  
But here,  
to every ally, to every town,  
I must introduce myself:  
No, no, I am sorry, I am not  
who you think I am.  
No, I am not who they say  
I am.

See,  
I am as much of a human  
as you are;

I brush my teeth, I sleep,  
I cry when hurt and  
bleed when injured,  
I walk the land you walk,  
I breathe the same air  
you breathe, your  
American dream  
is my dream, I am afraid of  
what you're afraid of.  
Please, don't stop me on streets  
to ask what Jihad is,  
don't mistake me for one of  
them, don't stare at me  
like an alien,  
like a one-eyed, four-legged,  
green monster of  
your nightmares.  
I am a woman of faith,  
a citizen not a suspect.  
I carry a breaking heart within,  
I hold mics not guns—  
my story refuses to be told in  
bullets and word limits.  
And no, I don't celebrate the  
death of children,  
I don't wish to destroy homes  
and churches.  
Trust me, I know what loss  
smells like:  
the way fear and revolution  
play tug of war  
on doorsteps, uproot loved  
ones from

See **WATCH**, Page A8

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty—DRC's, Working and Waiting; Restricted Application

by RUSSELL GLOOR,

AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor,  
Association of Mature American Citizens

**Dear Rusty:** My wife is 66 and not collecting S.S. She wants to wait until age 70 to collect the larger benefit, but I know she could collect now and her payments will grow if she continues to work until age 70 because there were at least 4 years that she had no income and several years where her income was only \$2k-\$3k. In the next 5 years she will earn around \$25K per year. My question is, what will be the difference in benefits at age 70 if she just waits to collect versus if she collects now and continues to contribute to S.S.? Our birth dates are 12/1950 (wife) and 05/1953. I am not yet collecting benefits. **Signed: Trying to Maximize our Benefits**

**Dear Trying:** The first thing to keep in mind is that for each year of your wife's working career her earnings are adjusted for inflation before her benefit calculation is done. So, for example, \$3,000 earned in 1971 would, for purposes of computing her benefit, be adjusted to about \$21,450 in today's dollars. The same is true for earnings in each of the years up to when your wife turned 60 years old, but only to the maximum taxable earnings for each year. So your wife's benefit would only increase as a result of her working now if she earned more than any of the inflation-adjusted earnings for one or more of the years in the 35 years used to calculate her benefit. However, replacing any years in which she had zero earnings would improve her benefit a small amount.

Since your wife has reached her Social Security "full retirement age" of 66, she's entitled to 100% of what's called her "primary insurance amount," or PIA. For each year she waits beyond age 66 she'll earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) to the tune of 8% per year, up to age 70. So if her PIA is \$1,000 at age 66, she would instead receive \$1,320 if she retires at age 70. Considering that any adjustment to her PIA from working would actually be very small due to the 35 year averaging and earnings indexing, the guaranteed 8% per year benefit increase would appear to be a prudent path. However, there's another strategy you may want to consider.

Since both of you were 62 years of age prior to January 1, 2016, you have available to you a strategy known as the "Restricted Application." This "loophole" was closed by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for all except those born prior to 1954. Using this strategy, one spouse can begin receiving benefits and the other spouse can, once they reach their full retirement age, file a "Restricted Application for Spousal Benefits Only" and allow their own personal benefit to earn Delayed Retirement Credits up to age 70. This would typically be used to enable a lower-earning spouse to begin benefits while the higher-earning spouse's benefit grew to its maximum of 132% of PIA. Using this strategy, your wife could start her benefits now, and you could file the restricted application and collect spousal benefits from her work record while letting your own grow at 8% per year until you are 70. You would then switch to your own larger retirement benefits. At that point your wife could switch to spousal benefits from your record if higher than her own, and both of you will have collected benefits on her record during the years in between.

A final note: An important consideration is the potential increased survivor's benefit your wife would be entitled to as your widow, since she would get 100% of your benefit rather than the lower amount she would otherwise receive on her own work record (or as your spouse). Note too that all of this is predicated upon you maintaining good health and adequate financial resources to be able to delay applying for Social Security benefits until age 70.

*The information presented in this article is intended for general information purposes only. The opinions and interpretations expressed are the viewpoints of the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory staff, trained and accredited under the National Social Security Advisors program of the National Social Security Association, LLC (NSSA). NSSA, the AMAC Foundation, and the Foundation's Social Security Advisors are not affiliated with or endorsed by the United States Government, the Social Security Administration, or any other state government. Furthermore, the AMAC Foundation and its staff do not provide legal or accounting services. The Foundation welcomes questions from readers regarding Social Security issues. To submit a request, contact the Foundation at info@amacfoundation.org.*

## Diplomacy from A4

States and the world? I realize it's a big question. But what is going on here?

**VAN HOLLEN:** Well, I think you're right. I think our influence is being diminished. We have seen the Pew polls from overseas that show that people's sense of the U.S. leadership is at an all-time low. And that makes it hard to translate our policies into successful influence overseas.

So I think when it comes to North Korea, it's really important that we dial back the rhetoric, that we reach out to our allies. China was, at first, the best bud of the president. As you mentioned, he met at Mar-a-Lago. He tweeted out, best buds. Then weeks later, he said he was very disappointed in China.

The only answer here is steady, firm leadership. And we do need to ratchet up the pressure through the secondary sanctions. I do think that lots of Chinese banks and firms are continuing to deal with North Korea. We need to put an end to that through these sanctions.

**GEIST:** All right. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Democratic of Maryland. Senator, thanks for your time this morning. We appreciate it.

**VAN HOLLEN:** Thank you.

**The Prince George's Post**  
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## Western Maryland Fracking Fight Reveals Divergent Economic Visions

By J.F. MEILS  
Capital News Service

CUMBERLAND, MD—Allegheny and Garrett, the state's two westernmost counties, tend to be lumped together as "Mountain Maryland," their problems similar, their prospects equally muddled.

But the two counties' economic issues—and their approaches to solving them—differ starkly.

In Allegheny, many problems stem from the legacy of past reliance on "whales," big employers with large numbers of good-paying jobs that lay waste to communities when they leave. In Garrett, a place that has always relied on natural resources to power its economy, the question is not whether to keep doing that, but how.

What both counties have in common is urgency. If they don't rebuild their economies in ways that generate more living-wage jobs soon, their youngest residents will continue to flee, making it that much harder to attract the very companies that could keep them close to home.

### Small is beautiful

Kelly Springfield Tires, Selney's Nylon, Pittsburgh Plate Glass—all were economic go-liaths in Allegheny County last century. And all left or downsized massively, wreaking havoc on an area whose economic lifeblood has long pumped through two ventricles: big manufacturers and coal.

The decline of both is still being felt.

According to 2015 U.S. Census estimates, Allegheny has a median household income of just over \$40,000, with 20 percent of its 70,000 residents living in poverty, making it the second-poorest county in Maryland, behind only Somerset on the Eastern Shore.

"We decided we weren't going to be looking for large-employment companies anymore because when they move out, it's a huge hit," said County Commissioner William Valentine, R-Allegheny.

The idea, according to Valentine, is to target companies that will hire, or grow to, about 200-300 employees.

"It's a better fit for rural," he added.

## What to Do If You See A Suspicious Credit Card Transaction

(NAPSI)—You scan your monthly credit card bill, only to find a suspicious transaction. Don't panic. Fortunately, credit card companies largely shoulder the financial burden of unauthorized credit card charges. By law, you're only on the hook for \$50, and it's unlikely you'll even be dinged for that much.

Now it's time to take action through these four steps.

### Let Your Issuer Know, And Fast

If you find a peculiar transaction, call your credit card issuer right away to report it—that's if your issuer didn't alert you first. Your issuer will ask you to verify the most recent transactions to make sure no other suspicious activity was recorded.

Your issuer will close your current credit card and issue another one with a new number within days. If your account has any authorized users on it, the issuer may send them new cards, too. Confirm that the new card is linked to the payment history of the old card account, so they appear as one on

Part of the strategy to attract businesses is construction of ready-made work space in the county's industrial parks, lowering the expense, time and regulatory hassle of setting up in a new location. However, of Allegheny's seven commercial parks, only five are full or mostly so. And the county's newest structure, a 40,000-square-foot shell building in Barton Business Park finished in 2016, sits empty.

In a strange twist, there's no dearth of jobs in Allegheny. A recent search of all available jobs in the county on Maryland's Workforce Exchange website returned more than 750 open positions.

So how does a place with 7 percent unemployment where one in five residents lives in poverty have hundreds of unfilled jobs?

The short answer: Most of the area's new jobs don't pay as much as the old ones because they tend to be in the service sector. And many don't come with benefits, making them less attractive to job seekers.

According to the Maryland Department of Commerce, Allegheny's top five employers are Western Maryland Health System, the area's two universities, Hunter Douglas and CSX Transportation—all of which are employers that tend to offer jobs with living wages and benefits.

Among the next 10 largest employers are Rocky Gap Casino Resort, Walmart, Giant supermarkets and McDonald's—companies that typically offer seasonal or part-time jobs with lower wages and limited benefits.

On paper, Allegheny has a fairly diverse economic portfolio. In addition to two higher education facilities and a large healthcare operator, Rocky Gap Casino Resort is expected to contribute more than \$1.8 million to county coffers in 2017. That's a 57 percent increase in the county's gaming revenues from 2014, the casino's first full year of operation.

Allegheny is also home to two state prisons, the North Branch and Western Correctional Institutions. While contentious in the county, the prisons are an undeniable source of employment, providing more than 1,000 jobs according to the Maryland Department of Public Safety and

your credit history. Update any recurring bills with the new card number.

### Stay Vigilant

When you place a fraud alert on your credit report, you'll get a free report as well. This doesn't count toward your annual free credit report under federal law. Check your credit report for any unauthorized accounts and for the accuracy of your personal information. If anything looks funny, report it to the credit bureaus. File a police report if you find an account that you didn't open. Often, companies that experienced data breaches will offer free credit monitoring to victims. Use it.

### Be Proactive

In the future, use best practices with your credit card. Opt for two-factor authentication when available while shopping online to make it more difficult for scammers to take over your accounts. Consistently update your online passwords

PHOTO COURTESY NAPSI  
**You can protect your finances and your reputation if you act fast when you encounter credit card fraud.**



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY J.F. MEILS  
**Maryland's Northern Branch and Western prisons sit in a beautiful valley where one of Allegheny County's former Selney's nylon factory, once lived.**

Correctional Services.

They're also financed by the state to the tune of \$120 million, a portion of which ends up in the hands of local businesses that support peripheral prison operations and cater to correctional employees.

And though prisons might not be the side Allegheny wants to show visitors, its biggest single tourist draw is a music festival that takes place right next to its correctional complex, at the county fairgrounds.

DelFest, an annual four-day bluegrass music festival that happens each Memorial Day at the county fairgrounds, draws 30,000 people and includes marquee acts like the Trey Anastasio Band, which headlined this year's event for the second year in a row.

"DelFest has been a godsend for economic development," said Barbara Buehl, director of tourism for Allegheny County, who couldn't put a dollar figure on what the festival brings to the county, but called it "significant."

Another hopeful source of revenue for Allegheny is medical marijuana. The county already has agreements in place for a newly licensed dispensary and producer, according to Valentine. The county is also in discussions with Grow West MD, a medical marijuana grower that ran into resistance when it tried to set up shop next door in Garrett County.

Valentine doesn't anticipate many jobs from the three potential medical marijuana operators coming to the county, maybe 50 positions combined. But ancillary businesses including records storage, equipment supply and shipping could mean another 200 or so jobs in an industry that seems likely to grow with time.

The final piece in Allegheny's economic puzzle and, tellingly, the one that usually comes up last in discussions about the county's future, is coal.

According to the 2013 report by the Maryland Bureau of Mines, the most recent avail-

able, Allegheny produced about 930,000 tons of coal and employed 227 people. In 1907, when coal production peaked in Allegheny, more than 5,700 people were employed in the local coal industry, which produced 4.5 million tons that year.

"Coal is not as important, that's a fact," said Sen. George Edwards, R-Garrett, Allegheny, Washington. "But it's still an important part from the standpoint that it does employ people and it does pay good wages and benefits and contributes to the economy."

But less and less going back decades. It's proceeding more slowly, but coal in Western Maryland is going the way of the area's whales, a boom whose bust will probably still be felt years from now.

### The one-percent war

Garrett, Maryland's westernmost county, gets almost all its TV from Pittsburgh or West Virginia. It is beautiful and remote and people there treasure it for both those qualities. But Maryland's expiring moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, brought out the ugly in Garrett.

"I can say unequivocally this is the most controversial issue we've ever dealt with," said County Commissioner Paul Edwards, R-Garrett, who is the son of Sen. George Edwards, before Gov. Larry Hogan announced his support for a statewide fracking ban on March 17.

But while Hogan settled the fracking debate for now, the schism it opened between the county's farmers and the Deep Creek tourism industry is not closing anytime soon.

According to a September 2016 OpinionWorks survey commissioned by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, 56 percent of Garrett County residents were in favor of a fracking ban with 28 percent opposed and 15 percent unsure.

See **FRACKING** Page A7

to protect your financial information from data breaches. Always check the security credentials of online retailers before making a purchase with your credit card.

### Be On The Lookout

Regularly and carefully check your recent transaction history for any fraudulent charges. A fraudster only needs your card number to make purchases, so fraud can happen even if your card is in your wallet. Signing up for alerts—either via e-mail or text message—is another way you and your issuer can flag any odd transactions in real time.

For more information on credit card fraud, and other personal finance advice, visit [www.ValuePenguin.com](http://www.ValuePenguin.com).



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review

## Dunkirk

Dunkirk  
Grade: B+  
Rated PG-13,  
intense war situations and  
some violent imagery, though  
nothing too graphic.  
1 hr., 46 min

With *Dunkirk*, writer-director Christopher Nolan, most famous for his Batman trilogy but even better at mind-benders like *Memento* and *Inception*, applies his cerebral skillset to another familiar genre: the World War II movie. Rather than turn the true story into a puzzle, Nolan keeps the plot simple and delivers an intense, carefully calibrated mini-epic about surviving war. But he puts his own spin on it, too, breaking the story into three separate overlapping narratives. It is every inch a Christopher Nolan War Movie.

The situation, as you no doubt recall from history class or from falling asleep watching The History Channel, is this. It's late May 1940, and nearly 400,000 British and French troops are trapped by the Germans on the beaches of Dunkirk, France, waiting to be evacuated. But the massive ships that can carry many soldiers are too heavy to get close to shore (or too heavy to leave again once they do, I suppose), so the anxious troops must wait several days for a flotilla of smaller boats, in the meantime almost defenseless against the German dive-bombers that come around now and then to shoot them like fish in a barrel.

Onscreen titles tell us the film's structure. Part 1, set on the beach (or the "mole," referring to the stone piers that form the harbor), occupies a week of time. Part 2, set on the sea and following the efforts of a British civilian named Dawson (Mark Rylance) to sail his yacht across the English Channel to assist in



ROTTENTOMATOES

Acclaimed auteur Christopher Nolan directs this World War II thriller about the evacuation of Allied troops from the French city of Dunkirk before Nazi forces can take hold. Tom Hardy, Kenneth Branagh and Mark Rylance co-star, with longtime Nolan collaborator Hans Zimmer providing the score.

the evacuation, takes place on the last day of that week. Part 3, with Royal Air Force pilot Farrier (Tom Hardy) coming in to provide cover, spans an hour of that last day. So it's only the last bit of the story where all three converge, but Nolan, with his God-like view of time, alternates between sections as if they were happening simultaneously. The benefit of this is that it lets the people in Parts 2 and 3 be major characters in the film, not just saviors who arrive in the last few minutes.

Whether on land, sea, or in the air, there is peril to be found at every moment. On the beach, we follow soldier boys named Tommy (Fionn Whitehead) and Gibson (Aneurin Barnard) as they scramble from one hiding place to the next (under the pier, inside an abandoned trawler, etc.). Representing the mass of troops, these and a few other young men (including one played by Harry Styles) are in a near-constant state of panic,

which Nolan goes by having the Germans strafe the beach periodically in ominous, terror-inducing strikes.

Out in the Channel, Dawson, his teenage son Peter (Tom Glynn-Carney), and Peter's friend George (Barry Keoghan) pick up a shellshocked British soldier (Cillian Murphy) whose vessel was sunk by a U-boat and who is now strongly opposed to the idea of going BACK to Dunkirk. In the air, Farrier fights German planes while seeing his fellow fliers picked off one by one. In all three scenarios, there is a high incidence of being rescued from metaphorical frying pans only to be dropped into metaphorical (and in one case literal) fires. By telling all three parts at once, Nolan keeps the story from building to a climax in the customary way. Instead, the movie feels like one slow, sustained climax, urged onward by Hans Zimmer's tick-tock musical score, with nothing to

indicate how much further we have to go. It often feels like a bad dream that could end momentarily or last forever.

For as expansive as the visuals often are (gorgeously shot by cinematographer Hoyte Van Hoytema), Nolan is more measured when it comes to the emotional beats. That's where *Dunkirk* sneaks up on you. Despite barely knowing any characters' names or seeing much to distinguish them from one another, we're moved by their plight and stirred by their eventual rescue. There are officers, of course (including Kenneth Branagh), but most of the 400,000 are practically kids who have done their best, lost the battle, and now just want to go home. For them, surviving is a victory in itself. The film isn't as viscerally harrowing as some war movies, but thanks to Nolan's precision and the work of editor Lee Smith, it packs the punch of something far more graphic.

## Fall Lawn Care Tip

### One Simple Step Can Improve the Health and Vigor of Your Lawn

By Melinda Myers

Do just one thing this fall and you can improve the health and vigor of your lawn. Fall fertilization helps lawns recover from the stresses of summer and provides needed nutrients to grow deeper roots and a denser stand of grass. And that means fewer weeds and a healthier lawn that's more resistant to drought, insects and diseases.

Fertilize around Labor Day as the temperatures begin to cool and lawns start spreading outward instead of growing upward. Continue to leave clippings on the lawn. They return nutrients, moisture and organic matter to the soil. Consider it free fertilizer applied every time you mow the lawn.

One fall application will give low maintenance lawns the nutrient boost they need. You'll have a healthier lawn with minimal care.

Increase the quality and improve the lawn's ability to withstand and recover from wear and tear with a second application. Apply fertilizer in late fall between Halloween and Thanksgiving, but before the ground freezes. Those growing warm season grasses should make the last application in early October at least one month prior to the first killing frost.

No need to purchase a winterizing fertilizer. Most soils have high to excessive levels of phosphorous and potassium. Have a soil test first if you suspect your lawn is deficient in these nutrients. You'll save money and harm to the environment by using the right product.

Consider using a slow release, organic nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite ([milorganite.com](http://milorganite.com)) that helps improve the soil, while providing needed nutrients. Research discovered that as the microorganisms work on releasing the nutrients from its pellets they also make some of the phosphorous, which promotes root development, as well as potassium, which promotes hardiness and disease resistance, that is bound to the soil available to the grass plants.

Continue to mow high as long as the grass continues to grow. You can gradually reduce the mowing height for winter if desired.

Once you see the improvement in your lawn, you may be inspired to adopt the holiday fertilization schedule. Adding one or two additional fertilizer applications can greatly increase your lawn's health, vigor, wear resistance and ability to tolerate drought and pests.

Those growing warm season grasses can begin fertilizing around Easter once the grass begins growing. Make additional applications around Memorial Day and the recommended fall date. Those growing cool season grasses should wait until Memorial Day to start fertilizing in addition to the two fall applications. Add a mid-summer application of slow release fertilizer for irrigated lawns.

Fall fertilization is the first step in growing a healthy lawn next year. Do this one thing this fall and you will decrease your lawn care challenges and workload next year.



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

## Cat Show Coming to MD Fairgrounds Sept. 23-24th!

The Maryland State Fairgrounds will play host to more than 40 breeds and 250 cats who will be competing for numerous ribbons and awards at the Freestate Feline Fanciers CFA Cat Show. The event, scheduled for September 23rd and 24th, is being held at the fairgrounds on 2200 York Rd, Lutherville-Timonium, MD, 21093. The Freestate Feline Fanciers is a Maryland non-profit group that supports cat rescues, and feline education and welfare in the community.

In addition to the Cat Show judging rings, the event offers a variety of activities for the entire family. Spectators can enjoy watching

the feline agility competition. See rescue cats and kittens for adoption. Vendor items available—cat toys, beds, and towers; people jewelry, other items, and gifts. And for those wanting more in-depth information about the different breeds of cats, there are helpful volunteers and breeders to answer questions.

The show is open to the public on Saturday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, and on Sunday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Tickets for the CFA Freestate Felines Fanciers Cat Show are available at the door: Adults: \$8, Seniors (65+) and Children under 12 years: \$6, Family of four \$25.

# SPAY-A-DAY

FREE Spay/Neuter Surgeries

"for pets of County residents in low-income communities"

For more information and to find out whether you qualify, contact: Catherine Hernandez at (301) 780-7252

[www.princegeorgespets4us.com](http://www.princegeorgespets4us.com)

\*funded by a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture

## ATTENTION GOLFERS! Christmas in April Needs You!!

Help Us Celebrate 29 Years in the County!

Andrews Air Force Base  
September 25, 2017 all day, The Courses at AAFB

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

**Golfers and sponsors are needed!**

Please call 301 868-0937 to register for the tournament. Fees include a buffet, cart, tee and green fees, prizes, refreshments on the course, and more. Your participation will enable Christmas in April to repair the hearts and homes of 80 needy families in 2018. Please call soon as space is limited.

## Calendar of Events

September 7—September 13, 2017

### Prince George's County Fair

Date and time: Thursday, September 7—Friday, September 8, 2017, 5:00 pm–10:00 pm; Saturday, September 9, 11:00 am–10:00 pm; and Sunday, September 10, 11:00 am–6:00 pm

Description: Prince George's County Fair complete with live-stock, crafts, music, contests, rides, and much more! Fun for the entire family!

Cost: Admission, 12 and younger \$5, 55 and up \$5, 13 and older \$5.  
Thursday is Seniors Night—free for 55 and better.  
Jolly Ticket Prices (rides): \$1.50 Single tickets, \$25 Book of 30, \$55 Book of 50

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

### Weed Warrior Workday

Date and time: Saturday, September 9, 2017, 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
Description: The City's Green Team needs volunteers to help remove English ivy from Whitemarsh Park. As an invasive, non-native plant, English ivy spreads quickly and is very destructive to native ecosystems. This is an outdoor activity that requires cutting the ivy vines at eye-level and foot-level, then pulling them back about two feet from the base of the tree to bag them. To participate, please register by contacting Ashleigh Armentrout (aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org, 301-809-3044).

Cost: FREE

Ages: 14 and older (14–18 require an adult waiver)

Location: Whitemarsh Park, 6300 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD  
Contact: 301-809-3044, email: aarmentrout@cityofbowie.org

### Waterfront Art Festival

Date and time: Saturday, September 9, 2017, 12:00 pm–6:00 pm  
Description: Whether you're an avid practitioner of the Arts or have an inkling of interest, then this festival is something you don't want to miss! Amid the scenic atmosphere of this urban waterfront park, enjoy an afternoon of art and imagination.

The festival will showcase the talent and work of local artists, from painting to sculptures, glasswork to jewelry, photography and more! Demonstrations and workshops will delight and inspire, including a kid's creative space. We will also have food trucks, live music and performances, and river boat tours! Don't miss the fun!!

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park

4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD

Contact: 301-779-0371; TTY 301-699-2544

### Grandparents' Day Tours

Date and time: Sunday, September 10, 2017, 12:15 pm–3:15 pm  
Description: What do ice cream, hot dogs, and grandparents all have in common? They're all great American treasures! Show appreciation to your grandparents and treat them to a FREE tour on their special day!

Cost: One FREE tour per paid admission

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Riversdale House Museum

4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD

Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### Maryland Horse and Pony Show

Date and time: Wednesday, September 13, 2017, through Sunday, September 17, 2017, 8:00 am–8:00 pm  
Description: The Maryland Horse and Pony Show is a classic for competitors on the East Coast, averaging 500 entries each year. The show is focused on creating a welcoming show environment while offering high levels of competition. This is one of the last shows before Capital Challenge and Washington International Horse Show.

Cost: Free for spectators!

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: The Show Place Arena

14900 Pennsylvania Avenue, Upper Marlboro, MD

Contact: 301-952-7900; TTY 301-699-2544

### Xtreme Teens:

#### 10 Things Every Young Woman Should Know

Date and time: Wednesdays, Sept. 13 to Nov. 29, 2017, 6:30–9 pm  
Description: Do you know a young woman who could benefit from learning valuable skills that will make her a well-rounded individual?

Don't miss out on this 12-week program that is strategically designed to teach our young women, ages 14 to 18, basic life skills as they transition into adulthood.

The following exciting session topics will be covered:

- 09/13—Introduction (Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend).
- 09/20—How to Navigate Social Media
- 09/27—How to Stay Healthy/Have Healthy Friendships
- 10/04—How to Maintain a Car
- 10/11—How to be a Leader
- 10/18—How to Make a Difference
- 10/25—How to Prepare for the Workforce
- 11/01—How to Interact with Law Enforcement
- 11/08—Teen Choice - STEAM
- 11/15—How to Handle Finances
- 11/22—Hot to Cook a Meal
- 11/29—Closing Session (Evaluation Session: Parents and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend).

Attending all 12 sessions is not mandatory, but is strongly encouraged. Don't miss out on these educational and empowering sessions. Family and parents are permitted to stay at each session.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 14–18

Location: Bowie Community Center

3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD 20715

Contact: 301-464-1738; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Greening Halloween With Costume Swaps and Healthy Snacks

Dear EarthTalk:

Any tips for how to green up my Halloween this year?

—Jason Falcone,  
Bern, NC

Halloween may be fun, but ... this most ghoulish of holidays is also cause for lots of waste, given the preponderance of one-time use costumes that end up in a box or in the trash come November 1. And sustainability proponents also decry Halloween for promoting unhealthy eating habits, as obesity and diabetes rates among American kids continue to skyrocket. So what's a green Halloween reveler to do?

Back in 2006, a Bellevue, Washington mom named Corey Colwell-Lipson wondered the same thing. Fearing the worst, she took her two-year-old trick-or-treating anyway and was delighted to find a few of the houses in her neighborhood handing out non-candy treats like bubbles and stickers. "I was so thrilled that someone thought outside the candy-box that, while shouting, 'Thank You!' at the top of my lungs, I made a note to myself to remember to trick-or-treat at these homes the following year," she recalls. "But after winding through several streets in the dark, I had already forgotten which homes were candy-free."

"Wouldn't it be great if there were a sign you could place on

your door or window that notified trick-or-treaters that their upcoming treat would be healthy?" Colwell-Lipson wondered. "This way, parents could seek out those homes and turn trick-or-treating into a scavenger hunt—a hunt for treasures rather than treats." Thus the idea for Green Halloween was born.

These days, some 10 years later, Halloween is greener across the country thanks to Colwell-Lipson's pioneering efforts. In 2012, Green America, the non-profit membership organization with the mission of harnessing economic power to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society, put its muscle behind Green Halloween and expanded the program nationwide.

With Halloween right around the corner, there's no time like the present to get started. Host a costume swap in your neighborhood or at your kid's school, or both. This way everyone can save money and reduce the waste associated with buying new costumes off-the-shelf at the store. Spread the word far and wide so others can join the costume swap and spread the good green Halloween cheer.

Another easy way to green Halloween is by swapping out the KitKats and Tootsie Rolls with healthier alternatives. LaraBars, Stretch Island Fruit Strips, Glee Gum, Bitsy's Brainfood, Cascadian Farm Bars and Surf Sweets are a few of the many healthier alternatives to look for at your local Whole



CREDIT: CASCADIAN FARMS, FLICKRCC

**Green Halloween encourages parents to organize costume swaps and give out healthy snacks or treasures instead of candy this year at Halloween.**

Foods that still will keep you in the good graces of neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

Green America has also teamed up with dozens of zoos and aquariums as well as different community partners across the country to host sustainability-oriented community-wide Green Halloween celebrations. Activities will vary at these events, but participants can look forward to responsible trick-or-treating, face painting and other ways to make it a memorable yet sustainable All Hallow's Eve.

But you don't have to rely on anyone else to make your Halloween green. Green America's free online *Volunteer Coordinator's Guide* lays the groundwork for doing it yourself. Happy Halloween!

CONTACTS: Green America, [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org); Green Halloween, [www.greenhalloween.org](http://www.greenhalloween.org); Surf Sweets, [www.surfsweets.com](http://www.surfsweets.com); Stretch Island Fruit Co., [www.stretchislandfruit.com](http://www.stretchislandfruit.com); Larabar, [www.larabar.com](http://www.larabar.com); Glee Gum, [www.gleegum.com](http://www.gleegum.com); Bitsy's Brainfood, [www.bitsysbrainfood.com](http://www.bitsysbrainfood.com); Cascadian Farm, [www.cascadianfarm.com](http://www.cascadianfarm.com).

CONTACTS:

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[earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### Fracking from A5

Hogan, whose 2014 election was made possible in part by rural voters, was formerly in favor of fracking, saying in an October 2016 meeting with the *Baltimore Sun's* editorial board that the state was sitting on a "goldmine" of natural gas in Western Maryland.

By passing a ban in Maryland, "We're just deciding to do hydraulic fracturing in other states," said Billy Bishoff, president of Garrett County's Farm Bureau and an outspoken supporter of fracking.

Farmers like Bishoff are feeling the squeeze from the rise in property prices around Deep Creek Lake, a major economic engine for the county. Fracking could help farmers produce income to keep up with rising property taxes, he said, driven by the rise in property prices.

"I came to the conclusion that I was going to be the last generation to farm my family's land because Deep Creek (Lake) was driving up prices to such a point that farming there would no longer be practical for another generation," Bishoff said.

The homes around Deep Creek Lake, most of them weekend places, contribute about 55 percent of all Garrett property taxes, according to Scott Weeks, the director of financial services

for the county.

The "lake people," as they're sometimes called, also don't use many county resources, including schools, which makes them particularly valuable to Garrett's budget, currently about \$75 million for 2017. And while second-home owners were not very engaged in the recent fracking battle, the businesses that depend on them were.

"This county needs something more than tourism," said Steve Green, owner of High Mountain Sports, whose store is on Deep Creek Lake. "But if you bring in fracking, it's going to destroy or significantly disable tourism, so you're worse off than when you started."

Some argue that relative size of Garrett's tourist industry is not quite equal to its outsized influence in the county.

"Leisure and hospitality represent the second-biggest percentage of our labor force, but the sixth-biggest income producer," said Alex McCoy, head of economic development for Garrett County. "That's because the average weekly wage for (tourism) is low."

For those who organized locally against fracking, including Engage Mountain Maryland and Citizen Shale, the issue was much more than economic.

"The real problem was that

our local government considered fracking an option," said Mark Stutzman, president and co-founder of Engage Mountain Maryland. "They didn't have the wherewithal, the logic, to look at the issue from a fact-based perspective to say this does not work for our area. What we have here is already working."

Stutzman's sentiment was not shared by many of Garrett's politicians.

Sen. Edwards, who has represented Western Maryland in Annapolis as a delegate or senator for 34 years, was for fracking, as were just about all the county commissioners from Garrett and Allegany.

"We're not gonna try to do something that knowingly damages the environment where we live," Edwards said, before Hogan's announcement.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, all of Garrett sits on the gas-rich Marcellus shale. Despite being on the "fairway" in extraction terms, the amount of natural gas that could be pulled from the entirety of Western Maryland is thought to be just over 1 percent of the total gas locked in the Marcellus, per the U.S. Geological Survey.

The amount is still significant, about 629 billion cubic feet of "recoverable" natural gas in

Garrett alone, according to a 2010 assessment by U.S. Energy Information Administration. That translates to about \$88 billion, at current rates.

"Natural resource development is common for a lot of people who grew up here, whether that's coal, timber or farming," said Shawn Bender, a vice president at Beitzel Corp., an industrial construction and services firm that is the second biggest employer in Garrett, according to the Maryland Department of Commerce.

Besides tourism and harvesting the area's resources, Garrett doesn't have a lot of options. Like Allegany, it fell victim to "whales," the most recent of which was Bausch + Lomb, which closed its plant in Oakland, the county seat, in 1996, laying off about 600 people and sucking the economic air out of the county for years to come.

Last year's hotel/motel tax revenue was an all-time high of \$2.4 million, which speaks to the continued strength of the area's appeal. But how much more can tourism grow? And will that suddenly mean better-paying jobs than normally come with tourism?

Until that happens or Garrett develops new sources of economic growth, the area's resources will likely continue to be pursued as they always have.

Just not by way of fracking.

# FOOD TOO GOOD TO WASTE

More than one-third of all food produced globally is waste or spoiled and it is estimated that Americans throw away up to 40% of the food they buy. Here are some ways to help you reduce food waste.

- Shop smart by buying less and using more of the food you purchase
- Eat leftovers the next day for lunch or use in a new recipe
- Avoid clutter in your fridge, pantry and freezer
- Donate unexpired canned or boxed food
- Try composting your food scraps

Prince George's County's Second Harvest is an initiative of the Department of the Environment, Recreation, Safety, and Office of Economic Development to promote food savings and sustainability in the community.