

# The Prince George's Post



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## Rushern L. Baker, III Announces Prince George's County Sites For Amazon HQ2

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County and Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) are proposing three high quality options in Prince George's County, Maryland as potential HQ2 locations for Amazon—near the College Park, Greenbelt and New Carrollton Metro stations. Each of these sites specifically addresses the requirements of the Amazon RFP.

Specifically, these sites will: be cost-effective; provide competitive capital and operating cost models; provide access to a skilled, educated labor force; provide immediate access to the State's flagship university, which ranks among the highest in the nation in terms of technology, science, engineering and management; meet all mass transportation, highway, and airport proximity needs; have the shortest time to operation; and address their cultural and community needs, and guarantee a high quality of life. To see a Power-Point on the County's proposed sites, please click here.

"Over the past six years, Prince George's County has successfully attracted nearly \$10 billion in economic develop-

ment including the \$1.4 billion dollar MGM National Harbor Resort, the new Regional Medical Center in Largo, the Purple Line, and multiple business re-tentions and expansions. In addition, we have made headlines by having two sites as finalists for a new consolidated FBI Headquarters," said County Executive Baker. "All of this economic development activity has resulted in us leading the State of Maryland in job creation over the last three reporting quarters. It is clear that the entire National Capital Region as well as the State of Maryland is very competitive in this regards. In addition to Prince George's County having great sites with enough space and land at our Metro stations, we are home to institutions of higher learning such as the University of Maryland and Bowie State University. We also have a highly educated and diverse workforce that will help Amazon grow and prosper. Companies like 2U, Inc. and Kaiser Permanente realize that Prince George's County is the place to be. We are 'Primed' and ready to bring a company like Amazon to the National Capital Region and I am very excited about this opportunity."

See AMAZON Page A8



Norberto Martinez, volunteer head of the Langley Park Civic Association.

CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY J.F. MEILS

## Maryland's Langley Park Tests Yet Another Relationship With Prince George's County

By J.F. MEILS  
Capital News Service

LANGLEY PARK, MD—For decades, Prince George's County had been criticized for neglecting Langley Park, a transient, low-income Latino neighborhood on its far north-west border.

That impression began to change in 2012, when Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker III included

the community in his signature "Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative," which promised to deliver more government to places that needed it most.

And for the next four-plus years, Langley Park, an unincorporated area within Prince George's, had the eyes and ears of the county as never before.

So community leaders were surprised when Baker announced last year that the county would no longer be di-

rectly involved in the Langley Park initiative. Starting this year, the county instead would work through the newly formed Langley Park Civic Association, an approach that has some worried that the county is pulling back on its engagement with the area.

No one was more surprised than the volunteer head of that nascent association, Norberto Martinez. He had been summoned to the meeting where

Baker made his announcement, but had no idea that his organization was about to be handed the reins.

"I was there because they invited me, but I wasn't sure that meant we were graduating. I found out later," said Martinez, to whom Baker presented a glass trophy with a key in it at the event.

See LANGLEY PARK Page A3

## Prince George's County Photographer Wins 2017 Photo Contest

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDDNR

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has announced the winners of the 2017 Natural Resources Photo Contest, with the grand prize going to Nikunj Patel of Laurel for his stunning photo of an American Wigeon spreading its wings in wintry blue waters.

This year's grand prize package includes \$500, a 2018 Maryland State Park and Trail Passport, a five-year subscription to Maryland Natural Resource magazine and five copies of the 2018 calendar with the winning image displayed on the cover.

"Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who submitted a photo to our annual contest," Natural Resource Secretary Mark Belton said. "Once again we've received an amazing display of the everyday natural wonders found in Maryland."

About 1,500 photos were submitted by 295 photographers in this year's contest. In addition to the overall grand prize win-



PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; SOURCE, FLICKR

Grand Prize winner, American Wigeon by Nikunj Patel of Laurel, Maryland.

ner, the judges selected first through third place winners in four seasonal categories—winter, spring, summer and fall.

Still to be determined is the "Fan Favorite," which will be chosen by popular opinion on the department's Facebook page. Fans of the photo contest are encouraged to "Like" and "Share" their pick between now and Sept. 30.

The first place winners will receive a park passport, a two-year magazine subscription and five copies of the 2018 calendar. Second place winners will re-

ceive a one-year magazine subscription and five copies of the calendar. Third place and fan-favorite winners will receive a complimentary copy of the calendar. Every winner and the fan favorite will have their images published in the calendar.

Here are the winners of the 2017 Maryland Natural Resources Photo Contest:

**Grand Prize:**  
American Wigeon  
by Nikunj Patel of Laurel

See CONTEST Page A5

## Bowie State University Teams Up with Comcast To Offer 'Xfinity On Campus' for its Students

Students Who Live on Campus Can Now Watch Live TV, On Demand & Recorded Programming

By PRESS OFFICER  
Comcast

BOWIE, MD—On September 6, Comcast announced that it would be bringing its Xfinity On Campus service to Bowie State University, allowing students to watch live TV, On Demand and recorded content on their IP-enabled devices, including laptops, tablets, smartphones and, new this year, Roku players. The service is included with room and board for students living in on-campus housing.

Xfinity On Campus offers approximately 80 live channels including every major broadcast network, as well as channels like AMC, Bravo, Comedy Central, ESPN, FX and MTV through Comcast's Xfinity Stream app and portal. The service also includes access to thousands of current season TV shows and hit movies via Xfinity On Demand. While off campus, students can use the Xfinity Stream app to login and access TV Everywhere programming that's part of their subscription.

"Bringing Xfinity on Campus to Bowie State University is a true game-changer for students," said Mary McLaughlin, Senior Vice President of Comcast's Beltway Region. "We know that this young generation of viewers consumes content while on the move, at their convenience, and across multiple devices. Xfinity on Campus meets this need, and serves as a nice value add for students residing on campus."

See XFINITY Page A6

## Prince George's County Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By PRESS OFFICER  
PG County Government

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—This week, Prince George's County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, marked the start of National Hispanic Heritage Month by proclaiming it as Prince George's County Hispanic Heritage Month. Observed from September 15 to

October 15, it is a time to recognize the contributions, history, and cultures of Latinos in the United States and the contributions of people of Hispanic ancestry. Prince George County is home to more than 150,000 residents of Hispanic origin - representing 16.9% of the County's total population.

"This year's Hispanic Heritage Month observance arrives

at an important time as our nation's highest leaders from the White House to the U.S. Congress to the Supreme Court are making decisions that impact our Latino residents, families and every community in Prince George's County," said County Executive Baker. "Unfortu-

See HERITAGE Page A3

### INSIDE

#### MDHCD Announces Emergency Solutions Grant Awards

In Fiscal Year 2017, over 6,200 Marylanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness were assisted with services through the Emergency Solutions Grants program. The awards are expected to leverage over \$3.4 million in additional funding

Community, Page A3

#### Reinstate DACA and Protect Dreamers

With this kind of support, it's hard to understand why 800,000 hard-working, law-abiding contributing members of society are in danger of being wrenched from the only country they've ever known. Many do not even speak the language of the countries of their birth.

Commentary, Page A4

#### Maryland Trade Mission to South Korea Attracts New Companies to the State

Throughout the week, the Maryland delegation met with multiple executives representing the tourism industry, as well as prospective business investors from large multinational corporations and small businesses.

Business, Page A5

#### Movie Review: *the Big Sick*

Nanjiani and Kazan have good romantic and comedic chemistry, but she's absent from much of the film. More crucial is the interaction between him, Hunter, and Ray Romano, who plays Emily's father (and is fantastic, by the way, a reality-based version of his sitcom persona).

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

What is so-called green patent sharing and how does it work?

—Bill Gilmore,  
Albuquerque, NM

Features, Page A7



# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Great info, lively discussion at Skyline Citizens meeting

SCA's quarterly meeting, at the Firehouse, was replete with information about the things that we often ask about, are concerned about, want something done about. I thank President Stan Holmes for getting these people to the meeting:

- Paulette Jones and Vernon Stinnett of the Department of Public Works & Transportation (DPW&T).

- Bruce Taylor from Environmental Resources,

- Franz R. Exumé and two of his workers from Grayhound Trash Removal, and

- Major Brian Reilly, Acting Cpt. Smith, Sgt. Nelson and Cpl. Miller all from Police District VI.

DPW&T not only gave us invaluable information but also gave out blue carrying bags with handbook, pens, coupons and more.

For a little history: Skyline Citizens Association was founded in 1970, with Dolores Steinhilber as its first president. Current officers are: Stanley Holmes, president; Kenia Spivey, 1st vice president; Dennis Loufik, 2nd vice president; Ashby Harmon, treasurer; Alice G. Ward, corresponding secretary; Betty Cottrell, recording secretary; and Suzanne Kenney, administrative secretary. I have edited the Skyline Newsletter for 47 years.

Since the closing of Skyline School, and with the generosity of the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department, the Association now meets at the Morningside Firehouse on the third Wednesday of February, May, September and November. Sometimes—like this time—the community meeting is especially valuable.

### He met his wife in 5th grade

Eugene "Jack" Chaplin, Jr., 81, of Skyline, an electrician and Army veteran, died Sept. 12. He was born in Newberry, SC, son of Emanuel and Janie Chaplin. He graduated from Gallman High School in 1955, continued his studies at Voorhees College in Denmark, SC, served in the U. S. Army and, after discharge, became an electrician.

Back in 5th grade, at age 10, Jack met Juanita Lark, the girl

who would become the woman he married in 1963. They moved from South Carolina to Washington, settled in Skyline, and were active in the community.

Jack is survived by his wife of 54 years, Juanita; four children, Tony Means, Emanuel III, Sandy and John Chaplin; ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; a sister, Pauline Dishman; and lots more family. Services were at Community U.M. Church in N.E. Washington. Stanley Holmes, President of the Skyline Citizens Association, gave a beautiful eulogy.

"He especially enjoyed a good card game," the obituary mentions. Jack was "the stoic quiet type, if he had something to say, you had to listen!"

### Coming up

Maryland homeowners who have concerns about their mortgages or foreclosure can get free legal advice at Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Rd., on Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the Pro Bono Resource Center at 443-703-3052 to register.

Prince George's County 2017-2018 Snow Summits will be held at three locations around the County—Palmer Park Community Center, Oct. 16, 7:30-9 p.m.; Laurel Beltsville Senior Center, Oct. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.; and Harmony Hall Regional Center, Oct. 23, 7-8:30 p.m. The sessions offer answers to your snow-related questions and show how to prepare for the snow season ahead. The flyer states, "Everyone is encouraged to attend." (There will probably be handouts.) Info: 301-883-5600.

Councilman Obie Patterson hosts his annual Prayer Breakfast on Dec. 2 at the Harborside Hotel. Watch for more information.

### Eats

The Annual Crab Feast at Bells UMC will be Saturday, Sept. 30, 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets may no longer be available but, you can call 301-899-7521 and find out.

The Annual Dante Ross Spaghetti Dinner will be Saturday, Oct. 14, 6 p.m., at St. Philip's Church. This dinner helps raise funds for student scholarships. It honors the late Dante Ross (who lived around

the corner from me). He was one of the first to be ordained a Permanent Deacon by the Archdiocese of Washington. Dante was assigned as deacon at St. Philip's. He was also the first president of St. Philip's Home & School Association.

### People

First Lady Melania Trump visited a youth center at Joint Base Andrews on Sept. 17 in a show of support for military families.

Ruth Sanford, who has lived in Morningside since the 1950s, has moved to a retirement home. If anyone has information, please contact me. Ruth has been a friend and a frequent contributor to this column.

### Changing landscape

Toys R Us, crippled by competition and debt, has filed for bankruptcy. When we moved here in 1958, Children's Supermarket (its first name) was at 5th & K (N.E., I think). It offered all the best toys at discount prices (but you had to do your own bagging). We had a big, young family and were delighted to spend money there. So, this is sad news, but not unexpected. Times—and toys—have changed.

### Do you know what month this is?

National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15. It's a time to recognize the contributions, history, and cultures of Latinos in the United States and the contributions of people of Hispanic ancestry. Prince George County is home to more than 150,000 residents of Hispanic origin—representing 16.9 % of the County's total population.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to my brother Tom Mudd and Janice Diggs, Sept. 29; Peggy Nanney and Jessica (Williams) Proctor, Sept. 30; Jasmine Wade, Nola Thomas and my grandson Sam Mudd, Oct. 2; John Ihrig, Oct. 3; Marlene Titus, Oct. 4; Sue Gilmore and Muriel Ireson, Oct. 5.

Happy anniversary to Marvin and Lee Burkhart, their 72 (!) on Sept. 29; Larry and Jean Beardmore, their 59th on Oct 4; and Bill and Terry Ratliff, their 35th on Oct. 4.

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### FAREWELL RECEPTION

Eldon and Barbara Baldwin were honored at a bid farewell reception Sunday, September 10, 2017 at the Family Life Center 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland for their time given to Unity Ministries. They were also honored for their time given to volunteer in mission trips and Christmas in April Program. Thank you for your dedicated services over the years. Good luck in all your future endeavors and retirement.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University will be celebrating their 2017 homecoming from October 22-29, 2017. Homecoming game is October 28, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Come and cheer on your BSU Bulldogs as they face off against Lincoln University Lions. Location is Bulldogs Stadium.

Cost for tickets for game are General: \$20, BSU faculty/staff with ID: \$15, senior with ID: \$15 and Non-BSU student with school ID: \$15. Parking (general parking): \$15, premier parking: \$25, oversized vehicle: \$20, tailgating: \$100, RV tailgating: \$150.

### BADEN COMMUNITY DAY

Everyone is invited to join us for Baden Community Day, September 30, 2017 from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. Age group is for Elementary (5-12 years). Celebrate Baden Day at the Baden Branch Library. There will be a book/bake sale, Sneaks the Cat, Entertainment and many more activities. The Library will be open. The address is 13603 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is (301) 888-1152. TTY Tel No. (301) 808-2061.

### PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY UPDATE

Councilman Mel Franklin shared up-dated information with Brandywine-North Keys Civic Association members. He stated that "the Council received the budget for Prince George's County and \$5 million was designated for the spine road." He also stated that "the \$5 million is from the Brandywine Road Club. Construction of the spine road will make traveling to Brandywine Crossing more convenient for the residents of Brandywine." Mr. Franklin also indicated that construction for the Southern

Area Aquatic Recreation is on track for opening of the facility by the end of 2018."

### MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Circle your calendar. The Clinton United Methodist Men's Day Celebration is Sunday, October 15, 2017 at both services (8:00 AM and 10:30 AM). There will be an afternoon service at 3:00 PM with dinner served following the service. Choirs from many local churches have been invited to sing.

The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland. Pastor is Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman. Office telephone number is 301-868-1281. E-mail: cumcmd@verizon.net. Webb: <http://cumcmd.org/>.

### TEEN ZONE

Hang out with other teens Friday, September 29, 2017 from 2:30 PM-5:30 PM. Age Group Teen (13-18 years) event Type Teen Zone. The address is Bowie Branch at 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715. Telephone number is 301-262-7000. TTY Tel No. 301-808-2061.

## Neighborhoods

### \$500 BGE 'Bright Ideas' Teachers' Grants Available for In-Classroom Innovation Projects

Applications for inaugural program due by Oct. 31, 2017

BALTIMORE, MD—Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is now accepting applications for the 2017 inaugural Bright Ideas Teachers' Grants program. All kindergarten through 12th-grade in-classroom teachers within the BGE service area that focus on innovation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) the environment or energy efficiency are eligible to apply at [www.bge.com/giving](http://www.bge.com/giving). Applications must be received by Oct. 31, 2017.

Eligible teachers can receive a grant of up to \$500 for in-classroom use to fund qualifying projects. 20 grant winners throughout BGE's service area will be announced in November.

"At BGE, we recognize that the future of our company and even as a society greatly depends on the educated youth of tomorrow," said Valencia McClure, vice president of governmental and external affairs and corporate relations for BGE. "This new grant program helps teachers introduce vital lesson plans and innovative tools into the classroom to help our future generation realize their full potential."

BGE provides \$1 million annually for education programs across its central Maryland service area through its charitable contributions programs. The company has also provided nearly \$300,000 to winners of BGE's energy safety programs for children: The Wires Down Video Challenge for electric safety and Captain Mercaptan Natural Gas Safety Contest.

BGE supports many education-related programs to include:

- Captain Mercaptan Natural Gas Safety Contest—winners receive up to \$10,000
- Wires Down Video Challenge electric safety contest—winners receive up to \$10,000
- BGE Scholars Program—scholarships for college students in BGE's service area
- Construction of therapeutic playground at the Kennedy Krieger School's Fairmount Campus—\$250,000 BGE grant
- National Association of Women in Construction—students received hands-on exposure to gas and electric construction work at BGE's training center
- Gas and electric safety curriculum
- Grants to non-profit organizations

Since its founding in 1816, BGE has partnered with Maryland communities to enhance our neighborhoods. Through the use of shareholder dollars, BGE supports programs that deliver measurable and sustainable impact in the areas of energy efficiency, the environment, education, economic and community development, and emergency response and safety.

For more information on the Bright Ideas Teachers'

Grants program, Please visit the BGE website at <http://www.bge.com/Safety-Community/Community/Pages/EducationGrant.aspx>.

### Maryland Marketing Partnership Launches 'Open for Business' Marketing Campaign

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The State of Maryland, through the Maryland Marketing Partnership, has launched a new economic development marketing campaign that positions the state as the ideal place to start, locate, and grow a business. The "Open for Business" campaign debuted this week with ad placements throughout BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, the busiest airport in the region.

"Our administration has made economic development and job creation a top priority, and we have been delivering on our promise to turn Maryland's economy around from day one," said Governor Larry Hogan. "We have created over 127,000 jobs, and the unemployment rate is now at its lowest level in a decade. Maryland's gathering economic momentum is an incredible and compelling story. This exciting campaign gives us the opportunity to share our successes with the broad business community and attract even more companies and jobs to our state. Maryland is Open for Business—and it's going to stay that way."

"Since the start of this administration, Governor Hogan has been committed to making Maryland the most business-friendly state in the country," said Secretary of Commerce Mike Gill, who serves as chairman of the partnership. "The 'Open for Business' campaign packages Maryland's tremendous assets to drive new jobs and economic growth right here."

In addition to placements like the one at BWI, the marketing campaign will feature a mix of digital, print, and radio advertising. The ads are being placed both within Maryland and outside the state in key markets and industries targeted for business development such as cybersecurity, life sciences, financial services, and advanced manufacturing.

"Over the course of this branding process, it was clear that we needed a strong statement aimed at business decision-makers to tell them that it's a new day in Maryland. 'Open for Business' does just that," said Tom Sadowski, vice chancellor of economic development for the University System of Maryland, and vice chairman of the partnership.

Rockville-based advertising agency HZDG developed the creative execution, featuring the words "open for business" emerging from images common in certain industries. For example, networking wires spell out "open for business" in an ad for cybersecurity and information technology audiences, and "open for business" appears within a series of genetic code, representing biohealth and life sciences.

The Maryland Marketing Partnership was created

through legislation reorganizing the Maryland Department of Commerce that was passed by the legislature during the 2015 session and was signed into law by Governor Hogan. The public-private organization is overseen by a 17-member board of directors with diverse expertise in business, economic development, and marketing. To date, the organization has recruited 18 private businesses as partners, which have committed funds and resources to support the marketing effort.

The BWI placement will continue through the beginning of December and has the potential to reach many of the 25 million passengers that use the airport each year.

### WSSC Replaces 4.5 Miles of Water Mains in Prince George's County

LAUREL, MD (September 13, 2017)—Work is underway to replace 4.5 miles of old water mains with new zinc-coated ductile iron pipes in two Prince George's County neighborhoods. The new pipes are expected to last approximately 100 years and highlight WSSC's continued commitment to replace aging infrastructure improving reliability and service to customers.

Work includes:

#### Greenwood Water Main Replacement—\$1 Million

Replacing approximately one mile of water main in the Glenn Dale neighborhood near Hillmeade Road and Augusta Drive. Construction began in early September and is expected to be complete in spring 2018, weather permitting.

#### Locksley Road Water Main Replacement—\$3.5 Million

Replacing 3.5 miles of water main, 1.5 miles of water service connections and 100 feet of sewer service connections in the Fort Washington neighborhood near Fort Foote Road. Construction began in late August and is expected to be complete in fall 2018, weather permitting.

Water main replacement projects involve heavy equipment, digging, noise, lane closures and parking restrictions. Work will take place weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Customers will experience a brief interruption in service when the new main is activated. WSSC will notify customers prior to this brief interruption. Final restoration of sidewalks, roadways and landscaping is weather dependent and occurs within 90 days following completion of the pipe work.

During these water main replacement projects, WSSC collaborates with county agencies to minimize disruptions. All projects include signs with WSSC contact information. Customers are encouraged to contact the listed project managers for project-specific questions. To view the short video WSSC created to help inform customers about what to expect during water main replacement work, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXzWmFPSY7g&feature=youtu.be>.



# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Getting School Mornings Under Control

In too many homes, the average school day morning can best be described as chaos. Parents shouting, homework missing, favorite clothes suddenly hiding and a hundred other calamities that add stress to the morning and too often mean rushing to make school on time.

While there's no way to guarantee that bedlam will suddenly turn into calm, peaceful, well-organized mornings, there are ways to help reduce that school-morning frustration, stress and anger.

Start by letting the kids know you're not happy with how you're acting, rather than blaming it all on them. Tell them you want to change and get them involved by letting them see that you need their help to end early morning battles.

Then give your kids more time responsibility. For younger children, with little concept of time, try a kitchen timer to help them finish breakfast and get dressed in a timely manner.

For older kids, give them an alarm clock and let them choose the time they can wake up and still be ready for school without making everyone rush. Agree on a "no-snooze-alarm" rule.

Set consequences. Discuss ahead of time on a favorite something they'll give up if they dawdle over breakfast or don't get up on time. But also agree to your own consequence if you fall back into morning nagging and yelling to get them moving.

Some general changes can also speed things up. Turn off that morning TV. Whatever the show, it only slows things down. Instead, try background music, which actually helps some kids focus better.

Get things more organized. Give the kids a designated place for backpacks and books, and make sure they're in place before bedtime.

Having kids lay out the next day's clothes before bed avoids morning panic over that missing top or jeans. Make sure hats, mittens and shoes are also ready for the a.m.

Try an in-box for papers that need to be signed, and as a place to put lunch money envelopes. Make your child responsible for putting the needed papers there after school, and for remembering them in the morning. If he forgets, let him face the consequences.

Even with a good system, some mornings will still be a 3-ring circus. But help your kids take part in getting organized and you'll make most mornings more enjoyable, as well as give them skills that can help throughout life.

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

### Heritage from A1

nately, many of the new policies and practices of our federal government are intent on dividing our communities. I am resolute that here in Prince George's County our Latino Prince Georgians—whether they are native or foreign-born, are as much a part of this great County and our communities as any other resident. Latinos contribute to our society and economy, enrich our communities, thrive academically, and defend our nation by putting their lives on the line to protect our freedoms. Latinos are establishing businesses at three times the national average. Throughout the State of Maryland, we have over 40,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, contributing to the economy by creating jobs and buying goods and services, and are continuing to fuel our neighborhoods and communities. Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to reflect on these contributions, sacrifices, and celebrate the rich diversity of the Latino culture. 'Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana!'

### 2017 Prince George's County Hispanic Heritage Month Major Events:

Office of the County Executive, Prince George's County Council, and M-NCCPC host a Lunch Time Concert at the C.A.B. Featuring Trio Caliente band—Enjoy a blend of rumba beats, Bossa Nova rhythms, Contemporary flamenco and Latin Jazz

Friday, September 29, 2017  
12:00 p.m.—1:15 p.m. County Administration Building—14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
1st Floor-Courtside-Outdoors  
Free and open to the public

Prince George's Council Member Deni Taveras hosts a Hispanic Heritage Celebration and Conference: The Latino Diaspora and the Great Central American Migration

Saturday, September 30, 2017, 9:30 a.m.—8:30 p.m.  
University of Maryland, College Park—Adele H. Stamp Student Union, College Park, MD  
Free Admission

Prince George's County Public Schools hosts, Estudios Universitarios A Su Alcance—A College Education is Within Your Reach; a free workshop in Spanish for all PGCPSS students and families

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Adele H. Stamp Student Union, Campus Drive & Union Lane, University of Maryland, College Park, MD  
Free Admission

For more Hispanic Heritage Month events throughout Prince George's County, please visit the website at [http://www.pgcmis.info/2049?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](http://www.pgcmis.info/2049?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery), and for more information on Hispanic Heritage Months events, please visit: M-NCCPC 2017 Hispanic Heritage Month Events Guide.

**Serving all of Prince George's County**

## Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Announces Emergency Solutions Grant Awards

*Over \$2.9 Million Awarded to Support Homeless Shelters and Services*

By PRESS OFFICER  
MDHCD

New Carrollton, MD—On September 6, 2017, The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development announced the recipients of Fiscal Year 2018 grants through the Emergency Solutions Grants program. Over \$2.9 million in program grants will assist homeless shelters and support homeless services in 19 counties and five municipalities in Maryland. In Fiscal Year 2017, over 6,200 Marylanders experiencing or at risk of homelessness were assisted with services through the Emergency Solutions Grants program. The awards are expected to leverage over \$3.4 million in additional funding.

"Homelessness affects all parts of Maryland," said Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Kenneth C. Holt. "The state is proud to partner with local communities and nonprofit service providers through the Emergency Solutions Grants program to shelter and support this vulnerable population."

Emergency Solutions Grants funds are used to support shelter operations, outreach, as well as prevention and rapid re-housing. Rapid re-housing is an important, evidence-based strategy that quickly moves homeless households back into housing and provides time-limited services that are scaled to the need of the family.

The Fiscal Year 2018 Emergency Solutions Grants program awardees are as follows:

### Allegheny County—\$128,000

- Allegheny County Human Resources Development Commission—\$100,100
- Family Crisis Resource Center—\$27,900

### City of Annapolis

- Light House—\$116,600

### City of Baltimore

- Strong City Baltimore/Youth Empowered Society—\$80,000

### Calvert County—\$97,900

- Calvert Affordable Housing Alliance—\$25,300
- Community Ministry of Calvert County—\$13,200
- Project ECHO—\$59,400

### Caroline County

- Saint Martin's Ministries—\$38,500

### Carroll County

- Human Services Program—\$111,900

### Cecil County—\$112,600

- Cecil County Men's Shelter—\$27,100
- Deep Roots, Inc.—\$35,600
- Human Services Development Corporation, Inc.—\$49,900

### Charles County—\$97,200

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC- Angel's Watch—\$32,500
- LifeStyles of MD Foundation, Inc.—\$31,800
- Robert Fuller Transitional House—\$32,900

### Town of Denton

- His Hope Haven (Winter Haven Shelter)—\$108,900

### Dorchester County—\$122,250

- Delmarva Community Services, Inc.—\$117,900
- Dorchester County—\$4,350

### Frederick County—\$116,200

- Advocates for Homeless Families—\$51,300
- Heartly House, Inc.—\$64,900

### City of Frederick—\$99,900

- Frederick Community Action Agency—\$47,000
- The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs—\$52,900

### Garrett County

- Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.—\$105,100

### Harford County—\$130,050

- Anna's House/Associated Catholic Charities, Inc.—\$10,400
- Harford Community Action Agency, Inc.—\$101,700
- Harford County Department of Housing and Community Development—\$9,350
- Sexual Assault/Spousal Abuse Resource Center—\$8,600

### Howard County—\$127,700

- Bridges to Housing Stability, Inc.—\$22,000
- Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center—\$14,000
- HopeWorks of Howard • Howard County Department of Corrections—\$46,000

### Kent County

- Saint Martin's Ministries—\$53,800

### Prince George's County

- Prince George's County—\$80,000

### Queen Anne's County

- Queen Anne's County Housing & Community Services—\$91,500

### City of Salisbury—\$126,400

- City of Salisbury—\$25,000
- Diakonia, Inc.—\$77,600
- Samaritan Ministries—\$23,800

### Somerset County—\$112,800

- Catholic Charities Seton Center—\$61,600
- Somerset Committee for the Homeless, Inc.—\$51,200

### St. Mary's County—\$125,000

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC- Angel's Watch—\$22,800
- Three Oaks Center—\$102,200

### Talbot County

- Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.—\$81,900

### Washington County—\$143,250

- CASA, Inc.—\$19,900
- REACH, Inc.—\$58,300
- Washington County—\$4,350
- Washington County Community Action Council, Inc.—\$60,700

### Worcester County—\$119,900

- Diakonia, Inc.—\$90,200
- Samaritan Ministries—\$29,700

### Training and Technical Assistance to Continuums of Care & Data Warehouse—\$120,000

### Special Population Homelessness Initiative—\$293,477

**TOTAL—\$2,940,797**

### Langley from A1

#### Langley Park: Land of change

And so began the next phase in the on-again, off-again relationship between Prince George's County and Langley Park, one that goes back to well before the 1980s, when the area saw its first waves of Latino immigrants, most of them fleeing from violence in Central America.

Langley Park was once an estate owned by the McCormick-Goodhart family, whose mansion at 8151 15th Street is now the home to CASA, one of the largest Latino-focused nonprofit social service organizations in the state.

The McCormick-Goodhart estate, named "Langley Park," was partially sold in the '40s and developed for housing aimed at returning World War II veterans. Latinos started arriving in numbers during the 1980s.

State Delegate Carlo Sanchez, 35, who represents Langley Park and grew up there during that time, didn't recall the county being around much when he was a kid.

"When they saw this Latino influx coming in, it felt like they kinda pulled out a little bit," said Sanchez, D-Prince George's. "It wasn't until the late '90s, when we saw a lot of gang recruitment, that the county started coming back in."

After a 1990 master plan for the area, Prince George's wouldn't produce another major planning document for Langley Park until 2003, when the county teamed with the city of

Takoma Park on a commercial development plan that envisioned University Boulevard as "a future International Corridor that is a memorable place that celebrates its rich cultural diversity, not unlike Adams-Morgan in Washington."

A background statement for the study displayed the county's discomfort with its newest arrivals: "The new immigrants' cultural differences, perceived absence of shared values, and failure to obey laws and follow established behavioral norms, when coupled with a perceived lack of government code enforcement, make established residents angry."

By 2009, the county was back again, still on paper. In its Takoma/Langley Crossroads Plan that year, despite well-documented pedestrian safety and housing issues, the county decided a 25,000-square-foot multi-level library was necessary for Langley Park and approved \$11,714,000 for it in the county's capital improvement budget.

By 2016, the project was still being planned but had grown to 40,000 square feet, with a price tag of \$21,450,000.

For those who've witnessed the county's efforts in Langley Park going back to the 1980s, like Erwin Mack, 84, founder and former president of the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Development Corp., the county's track record is not debatable.

"They've done precious little," said Mack, who also owned a business in Langley Park from 1982 to 1996.

Mack noted that he tried for years to get the county to put a

simple "Welcome to Prince George's" sign on the Langley Park border with Montgomery County, to no avail. Yet branding the area is listed as a "vision" in numerous county planning documents going back almost 20 years.

"The problem is simple," said Doyle Niemann, a former state delegate who lost the county council election for District 2, which includes Langley Park, by six votes to Deni Taveras in 2014. "Langley Park is an incoming destination for large numbers of people, and with that comes all the problems associated with a high concentration of folks with low income. That's kind of been the reality (in Langley Park) for many years. And that was known before the current (county) administration."

### Prince George's big return

The Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative initially used crime data to decide which six communities in the county most urgently needed attention, which they would get in the form of a dedicated county agency director to develop an action plan and attend monthly community meetings for the next four years.

Betty Hager Francis, the deputy chief administrative officer in charge of health, human services and education for the county, was tasked with initial oversight of Langley Park's TNI program.

"The thing that struck me the most was that the county government had really been ignoring Langley Park," said Hager Francis. "We hadn't really appreciated its international nature. We

weren't providing many services. Most people were scared of government and the police and weren't reporting crimes, especially domestic violence. Lots of people were getting robbed and they were just sort of dealing with it."

Gloria Brown Burnett, the director of social services for the county who was a regular attendee at the monthly Langley Park TNI meetings, expressed a similar sentiment.

"Before the TNI, I only had a passing understanding of the demographics of Langley Park," she said. "Our (county social services) role was extremely limited. There were very few county services located within the area."

Despite Prince George's County's admitted lack of familiarity with Langley Park, the community benefitted in ways big and small from being in the TNI. And the county took the program seriously, evinced by regular monthly meetings held at the Langley Park Community Center. Besides Hager Francis, other agency heads that regularly attended included Brown Burnett and Theresa Grant, the former acting director of family services.

Local leaders and county officials generally offer the same readout on the meetings—they were pivotal in connecting the community directly to government decision makers, who could often solve problems quickly.

"By having all the heads of all the county agencies at the

See **LANGLEY Page A7**



# COMMENTARY

## Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator for Maryland



### Senators Draw Line On Tax Reform: Workers' Retirement Savings Will Not Bankroll Corporate Tax Cuts

Cardin, Brown, Wyden, Stabenow, Casey Say No to Proposals to Tax Retirement Savings for Working Families

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.) and other top Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee—Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Bob Casey (D-Pa.)—have warned the White House and Senate and House leaders against funding corporate tax breaks by slapping new taxes on retirement savings for workers. The senators sent a letter today in opposition to a reported Republican corporate tax break pay-for that would force all workers into Roth retirement savings plans, reducing workers' take home pay and curtailing the freedom workers currently have to choose the best plan for themselves—making it more expensive for workers to save.

"At a time when working families are already struggling to get ahead, reducing or taking away tax-deferred retirement savings options could have significant long-term consequences," the Senators wrote. "Tax reform should increase working families' take-home pay, encourage savings, grow jobs and the economy, reward companies that invest in American workers and their communities, and maintain sound fiscal policy. So-called 'rothification' of retirement savings fails that test on all counts."

So-called 'rothification,' would take away the freedom Americans currently have to choose the retirement savings plan that works best for them. Instead, it would force everyone into a Roth account. Unlike 401ks, IRAs or other retirement savings plans many Americans currently use, Roth savings are taxed up front, reducing workers' take home pay and making it more expensive for Americans to save for retirement.

Roth plans are also more expensive for employers to offer and would make it harder for small businesses to provide retirement plans for their employees.

Further, the Senators also pointed out that rothification is fiscally irresponsible and would add to the federal deficit. "This proposal is a budget gimmick that lets Congress raise revenue by pushing income recognition from outside the ten-year budget window to inside the ten-year budget window," the Senators wrote.

The letter was sent to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, White House Chief Economic Advisor Gary Cohn, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch and House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady.

Full text of the letter is below.

Dear Secretary Mnuchin, Mr. Cohn, Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Chairman Hatch and Chairman Brady:

As you consider options for building a fair and progressive tax code, while maintaining fiscal responsibility, we urge you to reject any proposal that would reduce or eliminate incentives for working families to save for retirement. Millions of Americans rely on 401(k)s, IRAs, and other plans to save for their retirement and their family's future. Putting those savings vehicles—and the financial security of seniors—at risk is antithetical to the spirit of

See **TAX REFORM** Page A5

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Reinstate DACA and Protect Dreamers

"As the leaders of communities across the country—individuals and institutions that have seen these young people grow up in our communities—we recognize how they have enriched and strengthened our cities, states, schools, businesses, congregations, and families. We believe it is a moral imperative that the administration and the country know we are with them. We also join together to send our assurances to Dreamers: we see you, we value you, and we are ready to defend you."

—open letter signed by more than 1,800 governors, attorneys general, mayors, state representatives, judges, police chiefs and other leaders

An overwhelming majority of voters —about 85%—are opposed to deporting immigrants who are eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. These "Dreamers," as they are known, were brought into the United States as children, most of them younger than 7. About 90 percent of Dreamers are employed, more than 70 percent have attended college.

Despite widespread support for allowing Dreamers to remain, the Trump Administration has acquiesced to 10 state attorneys general who threatened to sue if it did not end the program. But even President Trump does not want to deport Dreamers. "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military?" he wrote on Twitter. "Really! ..."

Sadly, many of the people who voted for him do, and voted for him because he said he would do it. But even among the most hard-core supporters of the President, those who say they

"strongly approve" of his performance, only a third favor deportation of Dreamers.

With this kind of support, it's hard to understand why 800,000 hard-working, law-abiding contributing members of society are in danger of being wrenched from the only country they've ever known. Many do not even speak the language of the countries of their birth.

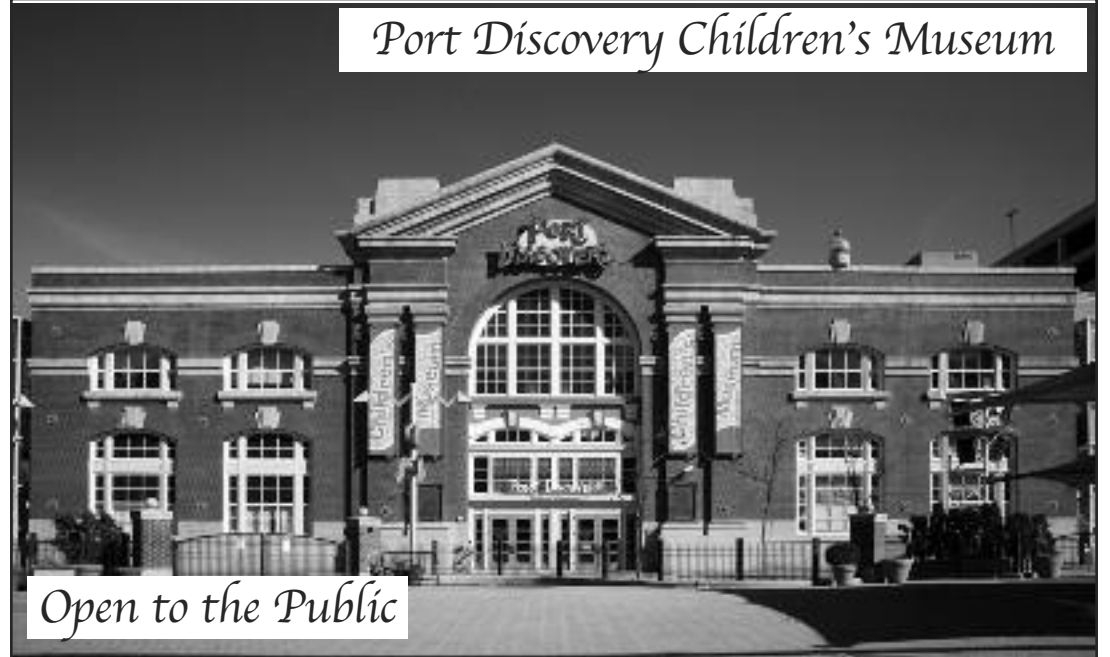
In addition to the human catastrophe deportation of Dreamers represents, the U.S. would lose about \$460 billion in GDP over the next 10 years and about 700,000 people could lose their jobs.

Earlier this month, fifteen states and the District of Columbia filed a suit seeking to stop the repeal of DACA. Last week, California filed a separate lawsuit, which was joined by Maine, Minnesota, and Maryland. Meanwhile, President Trump has struck a tentative agreement from the House and Senate Minority Leaders to support legislation protecting Dreamers in exchange for enhanced border security.

While there is a chance that deportations of Dreamers will not occur, it's shameful that they should be in a position to fear it at all. Dreamers trusted the United States government in enrolling in the program, now that very trust could be used against them. There is no justification for ending the program even as a legislative solution is sought.

Protecting Dreamers is quite simply the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. It's the economically sound thing to do. And even though it shouldn't matter, it's the popular thing to do. We urge Congress to immediately pass legislation protecting Dreamers and call upon the Trump administration to reinstate DACA so no Dreamer has to fear deportation from the home they love.

## Port Discovery Children's Museum



**Open to the Public**

**PORT DISCOVERY CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**  
Located in Baltimore Maryland's Inner Harbor on the site of Baltimore's Historic Fishmarket Building, adjacent to Power Plant Live! at 35 Market Place, Baltimore, MD 21202. Port Discovery offers three floors of interactive, educational exhibits and ever-changing programs for children ages birth through 10. Toddle and crawl through Tot Trails. Get healthy and fit in Kick It Up!. Splish splash in Wonders of Water. Shop and pump gas at the Royal Farms Convenience Store and Fill'er Up Station. Cook and serve food in Tiny's Diner or climb and slide through KidWorks, a 3-story urban treehouse. General Admission is \$14.50 for ages 2 and up, and members and children younger than two years are FREE. Please call for hours of operation, 410.727.8120.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



### A Prayer to End Child Poverty in Our Time

We know what to do to end child poverty if we want to in rich America. The U.S. Census Bureau reported this week that the number of children in poverty declined slightly again for the second year, but that children shamefully are still our poorest age group. More than 13.2 million children — 18 percent of all children — were poor in 2016. Almost 70 percent of our poor children were children of color.

Census data also showed the positive benefits government programs have for poor children with data from the Supplemental Poverty Measure which tracks the impact of government programs on family resources. It showed 1.5 million children escaped poverty with the help of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP — previously food stamps); 1.05 million with the help of housing subsidies; and 4.4 million with the help of the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and other refundable credits. And I could go on. The bottom line is we know steps we can take right now to end child poverty as we approach the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's and Robert Kennedy's Poor People's Campaign and call to end poverty and hunger. I ask that we commit to doing so by ending poverty beginning with every poor child. This means stopping the budget ravaging at the federal level and in states and localities of programs we know can help feed, house, clothe, educate and prepare our most vulnerable children for the future and help more families work at decent wages. And we must stop the moral obscenity of politicians pitting the rich against the poor and proposing more tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans by stealing from survival programs for our poorest Americans, including children, to pay for them.

My deepest wish and prayer is for Dr. King's dream to end poverty to become reality in our times beginning with children right now. They have only one childhood. God help us to end poverty in our time.

The poverty of having a child with too little to eat and no place to sleep, no air,

sunlight and space to breathe, bask, and grow.

The poverty of watching your child suffer hunger or get sicker and sicker and not knowing what to do or how to get help because you don't have another dime or a car, money, or health insurance.

The poverty of working your fingers to the bone every day taking care of somebody else's children and neglecting your own, and still not being able to pay your bills.

The poverty of having a job which does not let you afford a stable place to live and being terrified you'll become homeless and lose your children to foster care.

The poverty of losing your job, running out of unemployment benefits, and having no other help in sight.

The poverty of working all your life caring for your own children and having to start all over again caring for the grandchildren you love.

The poverty of earning a college degree, having children, opening a day care center, and taking home

\$300 a week—or a month—if you're lucky.

The poverty of loneliness and isolation and alienation—having no one to call or visit, tell you where to get help, assist you in getting it, or care if you're living or dead.

The poverty of having too much and sharing too little and having the burden of nothing to carry.

The poverty of convenient blindness and deafness and indifference to others.

The poverty of low aim and paltry purpose, of weak will and tiny vision, of big meetings and small actions, of loud talk and sullen grudging service.

The poverty of believing in nothing, standing for nothing, sharing nothing, sacrificing nothing, struggling with others for nothing.

The poverty of pride and ingratitude for God's gifts of life and children and family and freedom and home and country and not wanting for others what you want for yourself.

See **WATCH**, Page A6

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## Your Money Matters

### Ask Rusty — Taxing Social Security Benefits

**Dear Rusty:** My wife started collecting Social Security at her full retirement age of 66. I am 60 and still working, and I think it is unfair that we must add her Social Security earnings to mine when we file taxes. She has also worked some this year. Do we need to add this amount she received to our wages when we file?  
**Signed: Overtaxed**

**Dear Overtaxed:** We regularly hear from people who, like you, are upset to find that their Social Security benefits can contribute to their tax liability. After all, you paid into Social Security with your taxable earnings so benefits shouldn't be taxable, right? Well they weren't when Social Security was first enacted in the late 1930's. But way back in 1983 Congress changed that to make up to 50% of benefits taxable if your income was over a certain limit, and then in 1993 another income threshold was added to make up to 85% of benefits taxable. And yes, since you're married and file jointly all of your combined income, including any earnings either of you have, affects the amount of your Social Security benefits that will be taxable. Without getting into the reasons or fairness, here's how taxing Social Security works:

Social Security uses what's called "provisional income" to determine if your benefits are taxable. Provisional income includes the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) amount on your tax return, with certain deductions (i.e., tax-exempt interest) and any non-taxable income added back in, plus 50% of your total Social Security benefit—in other words your total gross income plus half of your total annual Social Security benefit. If your provisional income exceeds certain levels, a portion of your Social Security becomes taxable income; if it doesn't exceed those limits your benefits aren't taxable.

The income levels to determine tax liability are different depending upon whether your tax filing status is "single" or "married filing jointly." Single people with provisional income of \$25,000 or less and married couples filing jointly with provisional income of \$32,000 or less pay no income taxes on their benefits. For single people with provisional income between \$25,000 and \$34,000 and married people with provisional income between \$32,000 and \$44,000, up to 50% of their benefits are taxable. And for those over those income thresholds, up to 85% of benefits are taxable.

If there's any good news in this, it's that only your gross income in excess of those thresholds count when computing the amount of your Social Security that is taxable. Take, for example, a couple whose total provisional income is \$60,000, about \$15,000 of which is one half of their total combined Social Security benefits. Zero percent of the first \$32,000 of provisional income is taxable; 50% of the income between \$32,000 and \$44,000 (\$12,000) is taxable; and 85% of the provisional income over \$44,000 is taxable. So to do the math for this example:

- 0% of the first \$32,000 is taxable Social Security income
- 50% of the income between \$32,000-\$44,000 is taxable Social Security income (50% of \$12,000 equals \$6,000)
- 85% of the income amount over \$44,000 is taxable Social Security income (85% of \$16,000 equals \$13,600)

These three segments are added together to compute your taxable Social Security income. In this example for a married couple with \$60,000 in provisional income, \$0+\$6,000+\$13,600 equals \$19,600 in taxable Social Security income. In other words, \$19,600 of their total \$30,000 Social Security benefit is taxable (about 65% in this example).

So yes, adding Social Security income to your wages can have tax implications but it is the current law. Although there are active proposals in Congress to eliminate taxing of Social Security benefits, none have gained enough traction to predict success. For this reason, you should always consult with a Tax Advisor whenever any additional income might increase your tax liability.

*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](mailto:info@amacfoundation.org).*

#### Contest from A1

##### Winter:

**First place:** American Wigeon by Nikunj Patel of Laurel

**Second place:** Dredging in Fishing Bay by William Whaley of East New Market

**Third place:** Eagle by John Adolph of Timonium

##### Spring:

**First place:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Wendy Crowe of Glen Burnie

**Second place:** Fox Pup by Dane Madsen of Bozman

**Third place:** Eastern Bluebird Nest by Martha Johnston of Baltimore

##### Summer:

**First place:** Night Heron by Wendy Crowe of Glen Burnie

**Second place:** Kilgore Falls by Travis Foreman of Aberdeen

**Third place:** Eastern Tiger Swallowtail by Larry Helms of Germantown

##### Fall:

**First place:** Misty Morning by Nikunj Patel of Laurel

**Second place:** Bucks by Reinhardt Sahmel of Easton

**Third place:** Great Falls Just Before Sunrise by Mark Andre of Washington, D.C.

*Congratulations to all!*

## Maryland Trade Mission to South Korea Attracts New Companies to the State

*Weeklong Mission Focused on Boosting Economic and Tourism Ties, Strengthening the Maryland-Korea Relationship with Cultural and Educational Partnerships*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, MD—A weeklong trade and diplomatic mission to South Korea led by officials from the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Secretary of State's office concluded Friday September 8, 2017, with announcements that Maryland has attracted two new companies from South Korea. A follow-up to Governor Larry Hogan's 2015 trade mission to Asia, which included stops in South Korea, China, and Japan, this mission was aimed at increasing trade and investment between South Korea and Maryland and strengthening cultural and diplomatic ties. First Lady Yumi Hogan, who is the first Korean-American First Lady in the United States, accompanied the delegation.

"This successful mission has been an excellent opportunity to highlight the special relationship between Maryland and Korea, and to find additional ways to strengthen the already-flourishing cultural and economic ties of our regions," said The First Lady.

Fasoo, a Seoul-headquartered leader in document security, application security, and document management, announced plans to move its U.S. headquarters from East Brunswick, New Jersey to Bethesda. The move is scheduled

to take place this month and the company will bring seven employees to the state.

"The quality of the Maryland workforce is why we're moving from New Jersey. The high concentration of skilled and experienced information security professionals in the corridor between Washington, D.C. and Fort Meade is one of the biggest factors in the decision to shift our North American operations," said Dr. Kyugon Cho, Fasoo's founder, chairman, and CEO.

In addition, Green Cross Cell, a Korea-based publicly-traded cancer immunotherapy products developer and an affiliate of the country's largest pharmaceutical groups, signed a MOU with Maryland Commerce committing to establishing its first U.S. subsidiary in Maryland. This will be the company's only business operation outside of Asia.

Also opening an office in Maryland will be the Korea Innovation Center (KIC), which plans to establish a presence in Montgomery County to support biotechnology and healthcare entrepreneurs. KIC is operated by the Korea Ministry of Science and ICT and provides assistance to Korean start-ups and entrepreneurs. Additionally, KIC committed to retaining its Bio Acceleration program in Maryland, subject to annual National Assembly appropriations. The program brings teams of up to 10 Korean biohealth IT start-up

executives, technicians, and regulatory affairs officials to the U.S. for several weeks of training, mentoring, and introductions to the U.S. market, particularly in the area of technology commercialization. The first weeks-long session of KIC's Bio Acceleration program was held successfully in Baltimore this past spring.

Throughout the week, the Maryland delegation met with multiple executives representing the tourism industry, as well as prospective business investors from large multinational corporations and small businesses. These meetings included addresses to the Korean Information Security Industry Association (KISIA), the largest representative body of the country's private sector cybersecurity community; K-Biz, the Federation of Korean small businesses; and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), which is comprised of executives of more than 30 life science, information technology, and infrastructure product and service companies.

The mission concluded with a reception at the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea's residence in Seoul. Attending the reception were more than 75 business leaders and officials from Maryland and South Korea, giving the delegation an opportunity to promote the many advantages of doing business in

Maryland, particularly in the life sciences and high-tech fields.

The reception featured a check presentation by the First Lady and Maryland Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ben Wu to TissueGene, Inc., a Rockville-based advanced cell therapies company that has developed a first-in-class cell and gene therapy targeting osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee. The \$750,000 grant from Maryland's Stem Cell Research Fund, administered by TEDCO, was announced earlier this year and will help the company conduct Phase III clinical trials in the United States for its product Invossa™, a first-in-class cell and gene therapy targeting OA of the knee through a single intra-articular injection. In July 2017, Kolon Life Science, Inc., TissueGene's exclusive licensee for Asia, received South Korean MFDS marketing approval for Invossa-K Inj.

Woosok Lee, TissueGene's president and CEO, said, "As a Maryland-based company with roots in South Korea, TissueGene is honored to be recognized by Deputy Secretary Wu and First Lady Hogan during this important trade mission. The state of Maryland has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting innovative therapies such as Invossa™, which could potentially be the world's first disease-modifying drug for treating osteoarthritis of the knee."

## CASA Congratulates the City of College Park Mayor And Council Members for Enacting Immigrant Voting

By PRESS OFFICER  
CASA

COLLEGE PARK, MD—After hours of debate, on September 13, 2017, the City of College Park adopted a charter amendment that will allow all residents of the city to vote in local elections regardless of their immigration status. The City of College Park joins eleven other municipalities in Maryland in expanding the franchise and is now the largest City in the state recognizing the extraordinary enhancements its immigrant residents

make to community life in this unique manner.

CASA congratulates the City of College Park Mayor, Patrick Wojahn, and Council Members: Christine Nagle, Monroe Dennis, P.J. Brennan, and Stephanie Stulich for voting in favor of Charter Amendment 17-CR-02, which allows non-citizens—regardless of immigration status—to vote in College Park's city elections. But even more so, we celebrate the extraordinary local residents, immigrant and non-immigrant alike, who researched and lobbied, spoke with their neighbors and

knocked on the doors of strangers, all to ensure that their town would stand as a beacon of hope in the midst of a very tough national moment for immigrant families.

"This is a courageous step in the right direction, it fosters inclusiveness and builds a stronger democracy within the City of College Park" said Gustavo Torres, CASA's Executive Director.

Last night's victory was even sweeter because it came after months of sometimes contentious debate and was hard fought by advocates. It represents a generational defining

win for the immigrant community because it empowers all civically engaged residents in College Park to participate in their local democracy.

"All residents—regardless of immigration status—deserve to have a say on who should be the decision makers on municipal issues, from big topics like public safety and community building, to the daily work of garbage collection and snow removal," said Torres. "The City of College Park has just issued a declaration that everyone is welcome to the table of their community family."

#### Tax Reform from A4

tax reform. Tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans should not be paid for by increasing taxes on middle class families saving for retirement.

For many hardworking Americans, the tax incentive for retirement savings is a critically-important tool for building long-term financial security. Four out of five households say the incentives and favorable tax treatment of their retirement accounts encourage them to save. At a time when working families are already struggling to get ahead, reducing or taking away tax-deferred retirement savings options could have significant long-term consequences.

We are particularly concerned about rumored proposals to eliminate the traditional, tax-deferred treatment of 401(k) and IRA contributions and mandate the use of after-tax, Roth ac-

counts. Roth accounts can be a better tool under certain circumstances for retirement saving. However, this is not always the case for all families. The current practice of allowing families the freedom to choose the type of retirement tool that is most beneficial for them based on their unique circumstances makes sense given this dynamic. Tax reform should preserve this freedom and not end it.

Families today are already not saving enough for retirement, and we are concerned that mandating Roth savings will diminish their ability to save even further. Those with limited discretionary income will need to reduce their current level of saving to afford the immediate taxes due on their savings, or they will need to reduce other necessary spending, such as on education, child care and housing costs. To the extent that these affected savers are small business owners, they may de-

cide it is not worth the annual cost and time to establish and maintain a retirement plan at all, which will have the cascading effect of reducing workplace saving options and saving rates for their employees.

Importantly, both the tax-cut and the revenue generated by mandating Roth accounts is a mirage and will not deliver an immediate income boost for many in the middle class. Even if you assume that all of the benefits of tax reform will accrue to the middle-class, the "rothification" proposal makes those tax cuts a shell game—reducing current take-home pay with one hand for those that need to maintain their current level of savings while cutting their tax rates with the other. At worst, it is theft, reducing the take home pay for working families to finance tax cuts for the wealthy.

We are also concerned that from a fiscal perspective mandating Roth savings is a sham.

As you know, retirement plan contributions are tax deferred, not tax exempt. This proposal is a budget gimmick that lets Congress raise revenue by pushing income recognition from outside the ten-year budget window to inside the ten-year budget window. This is not revenue on which tax cuts should be based. Using this revenue to pay for tax cuts will require future taxes to make up for revenue lost outside the budget window, or will require painful budget cuts to critical programs, such as in Medicaid, assistance for higher education, and disaster recovery.

Tax reform should increase working families' take-home pay, encourage savings, grow jobs and the economy, reward companies that invest in American workers and their communities, and maintain sound fiscal policy. So-called "rothification" of retirement savings fails that test on all counts.

**Proudly Serving Prince George's County Since 1932**



# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### The Big Sick

The Big Sick  
Grade: B+  
Rated R, a lot of harsh  
profanity, a little sexuality  
2 hrs.

There's a lot happening in *The Big Sick*, an autobiographical romantic comedy by Kumail Nanjiani (*Silicon Valley*) and Emily V. Gordon about the early days of their relationship. It's a rom-com, complete with the trope where one party lies to the other, the discovery of which leads to a breakup. But it's also a light drama about Kumail's inner religious turmoil: he hasn't told his parents that he no longer practices Islam and is dating a non-Muslim girl, but he's led the girl to believe that he has.

Most rom-coms arrive at this point in the story at around the 90-minute mark. But Kumail (playing a version of himself) and Emily (played by Zoe Kazan) break up at about 40 minutes, immediately after which Emily becomes deathly ill and is put into a medically induced coma, leaving Kumail to deal awkwardly with her parents, Beth and Terry, whom he has never met and who know their daughter just dumped him.

The mom is Holly Hunter, too. Can you imagine having Holly Hunter mad at you?

It's a very funny and authentic film, with effective drama that gives it weight but doesn't weigh it down, directed by the increasingly mature Michael Showalter (*Hello, My Name Is Doris*). Kumail, a Pakistani immigrant trying his luck as a stand-up comedian in Chicago, is torn between his secular life and his good-naturedly old-fashioned parents (Anupam Kher and Zenobia Shroff), who intend to arrange a marriage for him with an eligible Muslim girl. That aspect of the story—which at first seems like the focus—takes a backseat to Emily's medical crisis; the med-



ROTTENTOMATOES

Based on the real-life courtship between Kumail Nanjiani and Emily V. Gordon, *The Big Sick* tells the story of Pakistan-born aspiring comedian Kumail (Nanjiani), who connects with grad student Emily (Kazan) after one of his standup sets. However, what they thought would be just a one-night stand blossoms into the real thing, which complicates the life that is expected of Kumail by his traditional Muslim parents. When Emily is beset with a mystery illness, it forces Kumail to navigate the medical crisis with her parents, Beth and Terry (Holly Hunter and Ray Romano) who he's never met, while dealing with the emotional tug-of-war between his family and his heart. *The Big Sick* is directed by Michael Showalter (*Hello My Name is Doris*) and producer by Judd Apatow (*Trainwreck*, *This is 40*) and Barry Mendel (*Trainwreck*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*).

ical crisis, in turn, adds depth to the religious conflict, the experience helping Kumail crystallize his feelings and make a decision.

Nanjiani and Kazan have good romantic and comedic chemistry, but she's absent from much of the film. More crucial is the interaction between him, Hunter, and Ray Romano, who plays Emily's father (and is fantastic, by the way, a reality-based version of his sitcom persona). This relationship, clumsy at first, develops into understanding and affection as Kumail, Beth, and Terry, get to know each other, with Kumail using humor as a tension-breaker. They bond over an incident at a comedy club where Kumail is heckled by a Muslim-hater, awakening Beth's mama-bear instincts. (Again: I

do not want to be on the wrong side of Holly Hunter.)

As you'd expect from a true story, there are numerous touches that feel painfully or charmingly authentic. One is when Beth and Terry first get to town and Kumail takes them to Emily's empty apartment, sensing the strangeness of being there without her as they see her belongings and associate memories with them. Another is how, as Kumail and Emily's romance blossoms, she starts pronouncing "Pakistani" the way he does ("pock," not "pack"), a subtle detail that means a lot.

The only real problem with the film, oddly, is Nanjiani: he's too old to play this version of himself. He and Gordon got married 10 years ago, when he

was 29. The film is set in the present, with Kumail in his late 30s, but it still has him acting like someone in his late 20s: slovenly apartment, slacker roommate, directionless existence, and so forth. His traditional Shia parents try to marry him off the way they probably did back then, not with the panicked intensity they'd surely have if their son were still a bachelor at almost 40.

But we shouldn't ding Nanjiani and Gordon too hard for sticking to the story as it actually happened; in almost every other respect, the honesty is a boon to the film. The romantic comedy, the religious struggle, and the medical drama blend and overlap with the bumpy harmony that can only be found in real life.

#### Watch from A4

The poverty of greed for more and more and more, ignoring, blaming, and exploiting the needy, and taking from the weak to please the strong.

The poverty of addiction to more and more things, drugs, drink, work, self, violence, power, fleeting fame, and an unjust status quo.

The poverty of fear which keeps you from doing the thing you think is right.

The poverty of convenient ignorance about the needs of those around you and of despair and cynicism.

God help us end poverty in our time, in all its faces

and places, young and old, rural, urban, suburban and small town too, and in every color of humans You have made everywhere.

God help us to end poverty in our time in all its guises—inside and out—physical and spiritual, so that all our and Your children may live the lives that you intend.

Don't make any excuses for not speaking out for justice for poor children. Make the difference that you can. So I add a short closing prayer.

O God, I am not smart enough to debate monetary, fiscal, or budget policy with the Federal Reserve, the

Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, or President Trump and Congressional leaders.

But I am a citizen and I know injustice when I see it. I know You told us when we give to the poor we lend to You. So when we take from the poor we steal from You.

Help me to stand up courageously against unjust tax and budget policies at every level of government which increase benefits for those who have much and decrease benefits for those who have little. Help me to stand up for political choices that close the gap between

the rich and the poor and to stand up against choices which widen that gap. Help me to try to do what You would do.

*Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org.*

*Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post.*

#### Xfinity from A1

Students can also upgrade their Xfinity On Campus accounts to include a selection of premium channels, including HBO, Showtime and STARZ, as well as the Sports Entertainment Package, which includes popular channels like ESPN Goal Line.

Xfinity On Campus provides an opportunity to introduce a younger audience to Xfinity X1—Comcast's next-generation video product currently enjoyed by residential customers throughout the nation. Xfinity X1 delivers an immersive and personalized entertainment experience across all devices in an

interface that is sleek, intuitive and makes search and discovery of content easier than ever.

Xfinity On Campus is easy and cost-effective for a university's IT department to maintain. To register for the service, students can visit <https://xfinityon-campus.com>, type in their school name and authenticate with their student user name and password. Once registered, students can watch their programming anytime by downloading the Xfinity Stream app or by visiting <https://tv.xfinity.com> and logging in with their student credentials.

#### About Bowie State University

Bowie State University (BSU) is an important higher

education access portal for qualified persons from diverse academic and socioeconomic backgrounds, seeking a high-quality and affordable public comprehensive university. The university places special emphasis on the science, technology, teacher education, business, and nursing disciplines within the context of a liberal arts education. For more information about BSU, visit [www.bowiestate.edu](http://www.bowiestate.edu).

#### About Comcast

Comcast Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCSA) is a global media and technology company with two primary businesses, Comcast Cable and NBCUni-

versal. Comcast Cable is one of the nation's largest video, high-speed internet, and phone providers to residential customers under the XFINITY brand, and also provides these services to businesses. It also provides wireless and security and automation services to residential customers under the XFINITY brand. NBCUniversal operates news, entertainment and sports cable networks, the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks, television production operations, television station groups, Universal Pictures and Universal Parks and Resorts. Visit [www.comcastcorporation.com](http://www.comcastcorporation.com) for more information.

## Wintering House Plants

### Successfully Transition Your Houseplants Indoors for Winter

By Melinda Myers



PHOTO CREDIT: GARDENER'S SUPPLY COMPANY

Using a combination of artificial and natural light helps plants better tolerate the less-than-ideal indoor growing environment.

Help your houseplants make a smooth transition from their outdoor summer home back inside for winter. The lower light and humidity indoors along with any insects that hitched a ride indoors make it difficult to keep these plants looking their best.

Give them a shower before they move indoors. A gentle blast of water washes dust and dirt off the leaves and dislodges aphids and mites that might be feeding on the plants.

Gradually prepare the plants for the lower light conditions indoor. Start by placing plants in the sunniest south- or west-facing window available or grow them under artificial lights. Leave them here for several weeks if the final destination receives less light.

Next move them to an east-facing or well-lit north facing window. Again, leave them here for several weeks. Gradually decrease the amount of light the plants receive until they reach their final location. This gradual acclimation helps the plants develop more shade tolerant leaves. Foregoing this process results in yellow leaves and massive leaf drop. This is stressful on the plant and its caretaker.

Skip this step, reduce the stress on your plants and keep them looking their best throughout the winter by growing them under artificial lights. Using a combination of natural and artificial light helps plants better tolerate the less-than-ideal indoor growing environment.

Isolate these plants from your indoor houseplant collection until you are sure no insects tagged along. Check under the leaves and along the stems for aphids, mites, scale and white flies. Use an eco-friendly product like Summit Year-Round Spray Oil ([SummitResponsibleSolutions.com](http://SummitResponsibleSolutions.com)) to prevent these pests from moving onto the rest of your indoor garden. This highly refined mineral oil suffocates the insects, doesn't poison them, and is approved for organic gardening.

Continue monitoring for pests over the next few weeks. Reapply the organic insecticide every two weeks as needed. Always read and follow label directions when using any organic, natural or synthetic chemical.

Increase the humidity by grouping plants together. As one plant loses moisture from its leaves, or transpires, it increases the humidity around its neighboring plants.

Further increase the humidity and decrease your workload by placing the plants on a gravel tray. Place pebbles in the bottom of the saucer or other shallow container. Set the pot on top of the pebbles. Allow excess water to collect in the pebbles below the pot. As this water evaporates, it increases the humidity around the plants.

You'll also eliminate the amount of time spent and mess made when pouring off the excess water that collects in the saucer. Plus, you'll avoid root rot and other diseases caused by plants sitting in a water-filled saucer.

Give your plants a bit of TLC as you tuck them into their winter lodgings. Your efforts will be rewarded with healthier, pest-free and better-looking plants to enjoy all winter long.

Gardening expert 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 & radio segments*. Myers is also a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).



## Calendar of Events

September 28 — October 4, 2017

### Cross Country Program Schedule

Date and time: Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6:00 pm  
Description: Lace up your running shoes and introduce yourself to the world of Track and Field! This endeavor of running (or walking), offering the opportunity to traverse one, two or three miles, is the base training staple for novices entering track and field. It can also be a gateway to immersing the entire family into the world of better fitness and healthy living.

Event will occur on a one-mile loop around the grounds of the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex  
Runners should report to Stadium concessions and Rest Facility (adjacent to the track entrance)

Each weekly event is typically conducted rain or shine! In case of extreme weather or forecast, please call the Sports Office weather line at (301) 927-0822 for updates.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex  
8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, M

Contact: 301-583-2400; TTY 301-699-2544

### Gentle Yoga for Beginners

Date and time: Friday, September 29, 2017, 10:00 am–11:00 am  
Description: Learn why millions of people of all ages are enjoying the benefits of yoga. Calm your mind, stretch your muscles, improve your balance and feel better when you join this class designed specifically for Seniors new to yoga.

Please bring a yoga mat and water. Space is limited, so advance reservation is recommended.

Cost: FREE

Ages: 60 and better

Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

### Poetry Night

Date and time: Friday, September 29, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Join us for an open mic night! Come demonstrate your verbal gymnastics through poetry, short stories, and spoken word.

Cost: FREE! with M-NCPPC Youth ID

Ages: 10–17

Location: Rollingcrest/Chillum Community Center  
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD

Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

### Capital Challenge Horse Show

Date and time: Saturday, September 30–October 8, 2017, 8:00 am  
Description: The Capital Challenge Horse Show is one of the most prominent events on the East Coast! The show is open to all, and competitors from as far away as Alaska make the journey to The Prince George's Equestrian Center to participate. Come join us for this exciting nine-day 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

### Health: Learning About Yourself

Date and time: Saturday, September 30, 2017, 11:30 am–1:30 pm  
Description: The aim of this program is to create safe and shared community spaces. These sessions will use artistic expression, healthy eating demonstrations, recreation and physical activities as vehicles to help raise awareness of the importance of balance nutrition and incorporating healthy habits. This program is sponsored by La Clinica Del Pueblo.

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: Langley Park Community Center  
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD

Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

### Senior Paint Class

Date and time: Monday, October 2, 2017, 11:00 am–12:30 pm  
Description: A relaxed on-site painting activity filled with creativity and fun! An imaginative art instructor will give you step-by-step guidance on how to paint your beautiful piece of art. By the end of the class, you will have a work of art to hang in your own home! Participants will be provided with a canvas, easel, paint, apron and paint brushes!

Cost: Resident: \$25; Non-resident: \$33

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Bowie Community Center  
3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD

Contact: 301-464-1737; 301-699-2544

### Tuesday Talks

Date and time: Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 6:30 pm  
Description: Jump out of a plane?! Fly into a storm?! Not every aviator has a job with an airline. Find out more about the aviation adventures our guests take in their careers.

This weeks guest: Nicolle Cabana, NOAA Corps

Cost: FREE

Ages: All ages are welcome

Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD

Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

### Soul Line Dance Drop-In Class

Date and time: Wednesday, October 4, 2017, 10:00 am–11:30 am  
Description: Soul Line Dancing is fun for everyone! This is not just the Cupid Shuffle or the Electric Slide, Soul Line Dance will show you how to put some style & rhythm into your dance moves. Take one class or take them all, no experience or partner is needed and the classes are Senior Friendly. Space is limited, advance purchase is recommended.

Cost: \$5

Ages: 60 & better

Location: Publick Playhouse  
5445 Landover Road, Cheverly, MD

Contact: 301-277-1710; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Green Patent Sharing: Putting Health of the Environment Above Profits

Dear EarthTalk:

*What is so-called green patent sharing and how does it work?*

—Bill Gilmore,  
Albuquerque, NM

The idea behind so-called green patent sharing is that researchers, inventors and companies can share the rights to make, use or incorporate certain patented technologies that benefit the environment, theoretically expediting the development of energy efficiency, pollution prevention, recycling, water conservation and other advances for the common good.

The concept of patent sharing isn't new. Back in the 1850s the four major manufacturers of sewing machines in the U.S. got tired of fighting over patent infringement and joined ranks in a patent sharing pool. Outside manufacturers would have to pay licensing rights to the pool, but otherwise the four partner companies were free to make use of any and all shared patents.

It took another 150 years, though, for green patent sharing to institutionalize. In 2008, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) created the Eco-Patent Commons, an online exchange of green-friendly patents that can be downloaded and used for free. Eleven companies—Bosch, DowDuPont, Fuji, HP, IBM, Nokia, Pitney

Bowes, Ricoh, Sony, Taisei and Xerox—have pledged over 100 different patents to the Commons to try to encourage new innovations in sustainability and conservation.

"Companies are increasingly realizing the value of partnering and sharing expertise on sustainability issues," says Wayne Balta, IBM's Corporate Environmental Affairs VP. "The Eco-Patent Commons provides an opportunity for business to share intellectual property that can further sustainable development."

A few examples of patents available in the commons include; a battery recycling kiosk for consumers to swap out their used batteries for new replacements; a process that eliminates the need for antioxidant metal coatings in the assembly of microchips and circuit boards; a lab-designed organism that lights up to indicate the presence of pollutants in water treatment facilities; and environmentally superior refrigerants to replace the ozone-destroying fluorocarbons phased out by the Montreal Protocol and other international agreements. These shared patents and dozens more are accessible via WIPO GREEN, an online marketplace for sustainable technology.

The concept of green patent sharing came up recently with the worldwide launch of Al Gore's new movie, *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*. The film documents a Decem-



CREDIT: ANDREW MALONE, FLICKRCC

**The concept of patent sharing started in the 1850s when sewing machine manufacturers banded together to share their intellectual property, but these days companies are utilizing the same concept by sharing green patents to encourage innovation in conservation, energy efficiency and recycling.**

ber 2015 phone call that Gore made to try to convince SolarCity CEO Lyndon Rive to be the corporate hero of the Paris climate accord by offering hold-out India free use of his company's photovoltaic patents to ease the costs of, and hasten the country's transition away from fossil fuels. Indian negotiators had been complaining that they could not get access to enough credit to pay for the expensive transition to solar on their own.

It isn't clear by the end of the movie whether Rive extended the offer (he did) nor whether it had any impact on India's decision to join the rest of the world in eventually signing onto the Paris accord (Indian negotiators say the patent sharing offer was-

n't a factor). Regardless, there's been no evidence of any intellectual property transfer to date, although SolarCity "formally invited" Indian officials to visit its headquarters in 2016, so the wheels could be in motion.

CONTACTS: WBCSD, [www.wbcasd.org](http://www.wbcasd.org); WIPO GREEN, [www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/](http://www3.wipo.int/wipogreen/); SolarCity, [www.solarcity.com](http://www.solarcity.com).

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

Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### Langley from A3

meetings, it allowed us to make a lot of changes in the Langley Park area," said Danitza Simpson, director of the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center, who mentioned a slew of TNI accomplishments, including added street lighting, landscaping on various street medians and increased enforcement on housing code violations.

One of the most significant accomplishments by the TNI in Langley Park was to establish a bilingual multi-service center in La Union Mall on University Boulevard between Riggs Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

In addition to referring people to county services, the center offers on-site legal help, a family crisis unit, pregnancy testing and assistance with food stamps. It has a full-time staff of 10, plus a few others who rotate between Langley Park and other county offices throughout the week.

Since it opened in the spring of 2014, Mercedes Lemos, who runs the multi-service center for the county, said it has seen more than 21,000 clients.

### Inside the data

Langley Park, along with the other five initial TNI communities, was selected in 2012 based on a single data point: crime.

It wasn't until summer 2015—three years into the TNI—that Benjamin Birge, manager of Prince George's CountyStat (Prince George's data management and analysis unit), was asked to evaluate the program using a fuller set of indicators like median income, households on SNAP, or food stamps, and 9th grade retention rate. The only prerequisite for a data point to be included was that it had to show that it was affected by either crime rate or property values.

"They (the Baker administration) knew once they decided on what type of info they

wanted, the data (in the TNI model) was going to be used to determine where we were going (geographically) next with the program," Birge said.

The matrix Birge and his team built in 2015 to evaluate the TNI ended up being simple, elegant and arguably flawed when it came to Langley Park. Among the data points included in the model to evaluate Langley Park were things like incidents of domestic violence, food stamp participation and property violations—all things that are unlikely to be well-captured in immigrant-heavy neighborhoods like Langley Park.

Langley Park's population of about 19,000, 76 percent of which is Latino, has a median income almost a third less than the state average and a poverty rate of 16 percent, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. This probably isn't accurate for Langley Park, as many of its residents are undocumented and don't typically stand up to be counted.

Nor do they sign up for assistance programs without legal immigration status, call the police much or avail themselves of government services in large numbers—all of which makes it hard to know the true extent of their struggles.

Another considerable flaw in the data used to evaluate Langley Park was that it captured only the moment in time it was collected. It did not attempt to evaluate the TNI program during its initial phase from 2012 to 2016 to see if and where success was had. Birge said doing so would have been too complicated.

Had the county looked at available data for the first few years of the TNI in Langley Park—some of which is available on the TNI website—officials would have seen at least one alarming change: a large spike in crime, the sole data point that spawned the entire TNI program. From 2014 to 2015, the crime rate in Langley Park increased by 34 percent

after decreasing by nearly 44 percent the year before.

In addition, none of the categories were weighted, meaning median income was statistically equal to litter complaints or the number of vacant houses. And total crime rate was on par with the amount of building permits issued or home foreclosures.

Langley Park scored the lowest, or best, of the six initial TNI communities.

"They (residents of Langley Park) don't know they have the right to call in and ask for mitigation or help in creating a cleaner neighborhood," said Deni Tevaris, who represents District 2 on Prince George's County Council, which includes Langley Park. "So there goes that data point in how it's reflective of problems at the grassroots level."

In the end, Langley Park, whose highest-scoring problem was low median income, according to the data, was bumped from the TNI for neighborhoods that scored highest in litter complaints, foreclosures and high unemployment for those without a high school diploma.

### The post-TNI era begins

According to Baker and Linda Turner, manager of the initiative, the TNI is not abandoning Langley Park.

"They'll let us know what their plan is, what they're working on, and we'll help them with the resources we provide," Turner said. "As far as we're concerned, they're still a part of the TNI program, just led by community leaders."

But those leaders are nervous.

"I'm very pleased they feel that way," said Baker, who announced in June that he will challenge Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, in 2018. "When we first launched the TNI, everyone was skeptical it could have an impact. Now that people are worried that it's going to go

in reverse, it means we made some progress."

In March and July, at the first two meetings of the Langley Park TNI led by Martinez, Turner was the only senior staffer from the county in attendance.

"I think the community is ready (to be without the TNI)," said Martinez. "Most of the community that used to participate was there (at the meeting). The ones that were not was the county government."

The concern that the county will simply move on from Langley Park is most prevalent among those who have the longest history with the area. "I was sorry that it (the TNI) ended," said Melanie Isis, executive director of the Takoma Langley Crossroads Authority for the last five years. "But I think it only worked because it was mandatory for the representatives of the county agencies."

None of those former agency directors were present at the first community-led meeting of the TNI in Langley Park.

"My special assistant now attends," said Brown Burnett. "Because they've added new TNI areas, we're kinda focused on the new ones."

CASA, which has a longer relationship with the county than any other organization in the community, wants Prince George's to stay as involved as it was when the TNI began.

"If it was up to us, we'd keep the official TNI here versus the community-led model," said Julio Murillo-Khadjibaeva, a CASA policy analyst. "It does take away when you don't have the decision-maker involved directly in conversations."

Going forward, Martinez says he is hopeful Langley Park's issues will be heard by the county when they're called on to help.

"I have been assured that they (the county) will be there to support us," said Martinez. "We haven't had any problems to this point, so I haven't tested that."

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