

# The Prince George's Post



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## PGCPS Continues Testing to Ensure Safe Drinking Water in All Schools and Offices

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCPS

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) continues testing drinking water sources to ensure the safety of students, staff, families and community members in schools and offices. Information on the PGCPS Water Quality Program was sent to staff and families today. Testing is expected to conclude by the end of January 2018.

"Prince George's County Public Schools is exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level by using a more stringent water quality testing standard to ensure safe drinking water in our schools and offices," said Dr. W. Wesley Watts Jr., Chief Operating Officer. "We will continue to address this issue aggressively."

Earlier this year, PGCPS began comprehensive sampling and testing of drinking water sources in school buildings. These sources include water fountains and sinks in health rooms, teachers' lounges and kitchens. PGCPS takes action to remediate or turn off any water supply that tests for lead above 10 parts per billion (ppb), which is a stricter limit than the EPA action level of 15 ppb.

Non-potable water labels have been placed above valved-

off drinking water sources that previously tested above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action levels and non-drinking water sources, such as sinks in classrooms, bathrooms, custodial closets and work areas.

The final phase of the PGCPS Water Quality Program will allow for retesting of all drinking sources currently in use and the installation of filtered water fountains throughout the school system.

Since 2004, PGCPS has methodically addressed lead in water, with drinking sources as a priority. The final phase of this four-pronged work launched in April. Prior actions included several phases of remediation to address drinking water sources with elevated lead levels, as mandated by the EPA. These actions have included flushing the system; replacing pipes and fixtures; completely shutting off fixtures; and providing bottled water when drinking sources could not be cleared expeditiously.

The last system-wide testing for lead was completed in 2009-2010. There are no federal or state mandates for annual testing. Additional tests have been conducted since then as needed; the actions taken complied with EPA guidelines. Future plans include retesting schools every three years.



MAP BY JULIE DEPENBROCK

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday for neglecting a petition from the state's Department of the Environment that asked the EPA to enforce pollution limits on 19 coal-fired power plants (identified below) in five states upwind of Maryland—West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Indiana.

## Hogan Sues EPA Over Power Plant Pollution From Neighboring States

By F. MEILS and  
JULIE DEPENBROCK  
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK, MD—On Wednesday, September 27, 2017, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan announced a lawsuit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency for failing to enforce limits on air-pollution control at 19 mostly coal-fired power plants in five states upwind of Maryland.

"We want the EPA to step in and make sure provisions of the Clean Air Act are followed," said Ben Grumbles, Maryland's secretary of the environment. "This is necessary to protect air quality and the Chesapeake Bay."

The 19 plants have installed "smog controls," according to the Maryland Department of the Environment. "But they're not always running them when they should be," Grumbles said.

About one-third of the nitrogen that ends up in bay waters comes from "air sources," according to the EPA, which did not respond to multiple requests for comments by press time.

The original petition to the EPA requesting that the agency regulate the plants—in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana and West Virginia—was filed by the MDE in November. The EPA granted itself a six-

month extension on the original 60-day deadline. By July, the agency still had not responded to the petition.

The Hogan administration and MDE contend the power plants in question have not "effectively" operated their pollution control systems during the summer months, also known as "ozone season," and some have

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## PG County Association of Realtors Installs 2018 Officers and Directors

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCAR

LARGO, MD—REALTORS®, friends, family and colleagues joined last week to attend the Installation Ceremony of Prince George's County Association of REALTORS® (PGCAR) 2018 President, Cheryl Abrams Davis, (Associated with RE/MAX United Real Estate in Upper Marlboro, MD). Cheryl took the helm of the 3000 member trade group (PGCAR) on October 1st. This year, PGCAR was honored to have Delegate Marvin Holmes, Jr. (District 23B) install President Abrams Davis while Maryland REALTORS® 2018 President, Boyd Campbell, installed the Officers and Directors at a gala event on September 27th at Camelot in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Abrams Davis has served PGCAR in a number of capacities through the years most recently as President-Elect. Last year Cheryl Chaired the REALTORS® Political Action Committee where she was charged with meeting the Association's political fundraising goals...Which she did! Cheryl is a tireless volunteer who will take on any challenge.



PHOTO COURTESY PRINCE GEORGE'S ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS  
The 2018 Officers and Directors of the Prince George's County Association of Realtors.

President Abrams Davis plans to establish a REALTOR "Future Thinkers" Task Force that will study and keep abreast of changes affecting real estate. Cheryl will also guide PGCAR's late fall move into their new headquarters in Landover.

Other installed officers and directors include:

### Officers

President—Cheryl Abrams, RE/MAX United Real Estate  
President-Elect—Veera Phillips, Keller Williams Preferred Properties  
Secretary—Yolanda Muckle – Long and Foster Real Estate  
Treasurer—Paul "Carlos" Lancaster, Exit Right Realty

Past President Director—Patricia Dowtin, Long and Foster Real Estate

### Directors

Donald Frederick, RE/MAX United Real Estate  
Melanie Gamble, RE/MAX Supreme  
Sherman Hardy, Exit Landmark Realty  
Larry Hudson, RE/MAX Leading Edge Inc.  
Fredericka Lloyd, Lloyd & Associates Real Estate  
Shameeka Price, Capital Structures Real Estate  
Willie Rhone, Weichert REALTORS  
Gene Sementilli, Century 21 New Millennium

## University of Maryland Announces Unprecedented Investment from the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation

By PRESS OFFICER  
University of Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, MD—On October 4, 2017, the University of Maryland announced a transformative investment of \$219,486,000 from the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation. Building Together: An Investment for Maryland will increase

college access and affordability, inspire the next generation of engineering leaders and spark innovations that tackle today's most daunting problems.

This investment, the largest in UMD history and among the largest to a public research institution in the 21st century, will propel UMD and the A. James Clark School of Engineering to

the forefront of education and research by establishing and funding an array of need-based scholarships, graduate fellowships, distinguished faculty chairs and operational and capital projects.

"This investment is historic in scope and transformational in

See UMD Page A5

## Bowie State Bulldogs Overcome Turnovers To Defeat Fayetteville State 64-31

By PRESS OFFICER  
Bowie State University

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—The #21 ranked Bulldogs of Bowie State University continued its unbeaten streak after defeating Fayetteville State University 64-31 on Saturday afternoon at the Luther "Nick" Jerald Stadium. With the win, Bowie State improves its record to 5-0 on the season (2-0 CIAA) while Fayetteville State dips to 1-4 overall (0-2 CIAA).

Junior Amir Hall (Bowie, Md.) threw for 329 yards, completing 22-of-32 passes (two interceptions) and four passing touchdowns and redshirt senior Robert Chesson (Annapolis, Md.) rushed for a personal season-best 172 yards on 15 carries and scored two touchdowns to pace the Bowie State offense. Redshirt junior Brandon Britton (Columbia, Md.) recorded game-highs of nine receptions and 129 yards to lead all receivers. The Bulldogs defense

was led by senior Johnny Littlejohn (Silver Spring, Md.) with nine total tackles.

As a team, Bowie State rolled up 626 yards of total offense (297 rushing and 329 passing) compared to 344 total yards (206 rushing and 138 passing) for Fayetteville State.

Hall walked into the FSU end zone at the 11:52 mark of the first quarter on Bowie State's opening

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### INSIDE

**In Honor of National Library Card Sign-Up Month 2017, the City of Greenbelt Presents Proclamation to County Library**  
As the Proclamation states, "...a library card is an essential resource for all City residents...and plays an important role in the education and development of children..."

Community, Page A3

**Racist Extremism Remains a Crisis in The United States**  
It's unclear how the resolution will affect funding for anti-racism efforts, but we expect Congress to remain committed the principles it espouses and to hold the administration accountable for using "all resources available" to combat racial hate.

Commentary, Page A4

**Comptroller Franchot's Statement on Board of Revenue Estimates September Revisions**  
"We continue to experience the slowest and most tentative economic recovery of our lifetimes. And as I've said in the past, I think that it would be imprudent to expect a return to pre-recessionary patterns of economic expansion."

Business, Page A5

**Movie Review: A Ghost Story**  
Though this isn't a horror film, a word applies that is often used to describe them: haunting. Only it's not ghosts or demons that haunt us, it's mortality and the unstoppable march of time. The helpless sense that time is passing too quickly, felt by all adults at some point in their lives, is no less poignant for being exaggerated in C's case.

Out on the Town, Page A6

**Earth Talk**  
Dear EarthTalk:  
*Is it really true that our dogs and cats are major contributors to climate change, and if so what can we do about it?*

—Carmen Santiago,  
Newark, NJ

Features, Page A7

# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Andy Mona Student Center dedicated at McNamara High School

The new Andy Mona '82 Student Center at Bishop McNamara High School was dedicated and blessed by Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl on Sept. 14.

The student center bears the name of a 1982 graduate who died at age 27 after a long struggle with melanoma. The electric work was done by the Mona family business, Mona Electric, and the superintendent was Andy Mona's son, Andy Mona II. He was just two years old when his father died.

The center features a new cafeteria and space for students to work collaboratively. It also features large windows to let natural light in, designed to let students "look out on the goodness of God's creation," said Marco Clark, McNamara president and CEO. The windows are so designed because Andy Mona's last words (now permanently displayed on a wall in the center) were "Open the windows and throw out the screens; let Jesus in."

### People

Just days before their regular season, the Washington Redskins held preseason practice at Joint Base Andrews, which brought military stationed across the metro area to the sidelines to cheer.

Austin Lee, of Clinton, was awarded the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Washington Regional Transplant Community for his support and commitment in educating the public about the need for more organ, eye and tissue donors.

Two teachers at St. Columba School in Oxon Hill were among those honored by the Archdiocese of Washington, at the formal opening of the school year, for their many years of teaching. They are: Laura Galbreath, 35 years, and Cindy Flores, 30 years.

Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University for 35 years, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1954, and my retreat master back in 1948 at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, is featured on a new postage stamp.

This is the third commemorative stamp featuring Notre Dame. The other two were of Knute Rockne (1938) and the Four Horsemen of N.D. football (1992). I'm buying lots of the Fr. Hesburgh stamps because two of the very special men in my life graduated from Notre Dame—my husband Jack and my son Brian.

### Searching for Witch Moll Dyer at the Surratt House

Do you believe in legends, folktales or the supernatural? Come to the Surratt House Museum on Oct. 21 and hear the legend of Witch Moll Dyer of St. Mary's County. Discover whether or not she actually existed, as presenter Lynn Buonviri goes in search of Moll and her descendants. A true genealogical witch hunt! The program is free and begins at 4 p.m. Arrive early, as seating is limited. The Surratt House is at 9118 Brandywine Road in Clinton. Info: 301-868-1121.

### Coming up

Children ages 5–12 can chat about radio and talk with Ms. Janis Mavis about what it's like to interview music celebrities at the Back to School Program, Saturday, Oct. 21, 1–4 p.m., at Surratt's Library in Clinton. The first 30 children will receive a gift bag of school supplies.

Morningside holds its monthly Town Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m., in the Town Hall. I don't always get to the meetings, but when I do, I learn a lot. I recommend Morningsiders should be there; they'll learn a lot, too.

### Baby things needed

October is Respect Life Month and the Forestville Pregnancy Center at Marlow Heights could use some help. Their greatest needs include: diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, baby oil, lotion, and shampoo. Also, nightgowns, receiving blankets, baby booties and baby caps. If you can donate some of these items, bring them to 3611 Branch Avenue in Marlow Heights.

### David Sanford, longtime Morningsider, dies at 62

David Wayne Sanford, who lived most of his life in Morningside, died Aug. 11 at his home on Allies Road. I remember David when he was in Mrs. Smith's Morningside Kindergarten with my son Mike back in the early '60s. He continued his education at Morningside Elementary.

He went on to work in the Commissary at Andrews AFB, enjoyed fishing and guitar music, plunking along on his own guitar.

David is survived by his mother, Ruth Sanford; daughters Jennifer, Lisa and Michelle; sisters Linda, Margie and Janet; a half-sister Judy and half-brother Roy. A memorial service was held for him at Suitland Road Baptist Church where he was baptized years ago when it was Morningside Baptist Church. He is at rest in Trinity Gardens in Waldorf.

### May they rest in peace

Della Banks, 90, who retired in 2000 after 20 years as director of Happy Faces Day Care in Temple Hills, died Aug. 15.

Mandell Jack "Mandy" Ourisman, 90, died July 5 at his home in Palm Beach with his wife Mary by his side. He was born in Washington, son of Florence and Benjamin Ourisman. In 1921 his father started Ouris-

See **MORNINGSIDE** Page A5

## Neighborhoods

### Hospital Adopts New Parent Brand to Communicate Its Community Growth

LANHAM, MD—Doctors Community Hospital has grown from a single hospital in Lanham into a healthcare network with more than a dozen affiliate locations throughout the area. To communicate a unified identity in the market, the organization has launched a new parent brand—Doctors Community Health System.

A small group of physicians founded the hospital as an acute-care facility in 1975. Starting with one building on Good Luck Road in Lanham, Maryland, their goal was to improve the community's access to high-quality and comprehensive health care. Since that time, that footprint has expanded. Today, the organization provides all-private patient rooms, 15 operating rooms, a modern emergency department, a mobile health clinic and more than a dozen ambulatory centers located throughout Prince George's County and in Anne Arundel County.

"Given our significant growth, we need a new overarching and inclusive name to communicate our tradition of having exceptional doctors who proudly serve our wonderful community. At the same time, there must be a clear connection with our industry and growth within the market. 'Doctors Community Health System' achieves both of those objectives," stated Phil Down, president.

As part of this branding initiative, the system's flagship—Doctors Community Hospital—will retain its name and logo. However, for many of its locations not on the main campus in Lanham, they will gradually adopt the new system brand.

A marketing campaign will launch to raise awareness about this new brand. The campaign's theme will be "Let Our System Care for Yours." According to Angela Wilson, senior director of marketing and communications, "This campaign highlights the similarities between the system of the human body and that of our organization. For example, the human body is a complex system with each part playing an important role in supporting wellbeing. Similarly, Doctors Community Health System has a network of services at many locations—all focused on helping people maintain and improve their overall health."

Down continued, "We are honored to expand our 'passion for caring' mission throughout Prince George's County and beyond. As a result, we will continue our endeavor to help more people get the exceptional care they need and deserve."

### Maryland Courts Ask Students to Help Promote Peace Through Artwork

*Art Contest Focuses on Resolving Conflicts*

ANNAPOLIS, MD—The Maryland Judiciary is asking young artists to use their crayons, colored pencils, and creativity to help promote peacemaking during the 12th annual Conflict Resolution Day Student Bookmark Art Contest. The contest for Maryland students in grades K-8 helps celebrate national Conflict Resolution Day,

which is Thursday, October 19, 2017.

"We are inviting Maryland's students to explore a variety of ways to resolve conflicts peacefully and to communicate their ideas through their art," said Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals. "Their artwork provides an opportunity to encourage peer-to-peer conversations about peacemaking and non-violent resolution of disagreements."

The contest, sponsored by the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO), has become increasingly popular since it began in 2005. Last year, more than 2,100 students from across Maryland participated in the contest, with 15 bookmarks chosen as winners and 64 as honorable mentions. Students are invited to create bookmarks based on the theme of resolving or preventing conflict. Topics include peer mediation, talking things out, apologizing, respecting differences, solving problems together, listening, tolerance, building peace, and alternatives to violence.

Submissions will be judged on creativity and message. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in three age groups: grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. For each age group, the prize awards will be \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for third place. A selection of the winning entries will be printed as bookmarks that will be distributed throughout Maryland to promote conflict resolution.

Students whose entries are awarded prizes will be invited with their families to a ceremony and reception in their honor at the Judicial College Education and Conference Center in Annapolis on Tuesday, December 5. Chief Judge Barbera will meet the students and their families and present the awards. The best 1,000 entries will be displayed in the conference center in December, and some submissions may appear in other Judiciary documents.

Submissions are due by Thursday, October 19, which is Conflict Resolution Day. MACRO's website has more information, including a template that may be used for original artwork submissions. Any other paper format may also be used. The finished image size must be no larger than 3 inches high by 9 inches wide. Student artwork must be labeled, either on the back of the entry or on the label provided in the template, with the following information:

- Student's name, age, and grade
- School or program name, if applicable
- Teacher's or parent's name and email address
- Address where artwork can be returned after the contest

Participants are asked not to fold entries. Please mail or deliver entries by October 19 to Alecia Parker, MACRO, 2001 Commerce Park Drive, Suite C, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

For more information about the Conflict Resolution Day

Student Bookmark Art Contest, visit the website or contact Alecia Parker, 410-260-3540, or email to [alecia.parker@mdcourts.gov](mailto:alecia.parker@mdcourts.gov).

### The Hotel at the University of Maryland Is Now Open

*New Luxury Hotel Represents Region's Incredible Growth and Potential*

COLLEGE PARK, MD—The Hotel at the University of Maryland, this season's most anticipated new hospitality business in the Baltimore-Washington metro area, officially welcomed its first guests on Friday, September 8.

The Hotel offers 297 guest rooms and 43,000 square feet of meeting space in a 10-story structure that's located just opposite the campus visitors center for the University of Maryland. The Hotel is working in partnership with the university, but is independently owned and operated by Southern Management Corporation, the largest privately owned residential property management company in the Mid-Atlantic. The Hotel is the inspiration of developer David H. Hillman, who saw a need for this type of facility in Prince George's County, Maryland, and who determined that Southern Management should be the driving force behind it.

"This community has been eagerly awaiting our hotel, which provides a luxury lodging and event venue in a town that has craved this caliber of facility for decades," Hillman said. "We wanted to spark economic growth along Baltimore Avenue and throughout the town of College Park, and I think you can already see the positive impact the property is having."

State, local and university officials consider the opening of The Hotel the first of several significant changes aimed at transforming College Park into one of the top 20 college towns in the nation by 2020. "Even before its doors open, this magnificent hotel and conference center has already begun to transform College Park and advance this institution," said University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh. "It anchors our innovation enterprise, has attracted major investment and new businesses, and will serve this campus and its visitors in great style. We thank Mr. Hillman for his vision and success."

The Hotel houses a lobby bar and four restaurants, giving locals and visitors alike options to suit all budgets and tastes. Old Maryland Grill, The Hotel's largest dining venue and the source of its room service menu, is focused on classic and contemporary Maryland cuisine. Guests can expect to find crab, oysters, Eastern Shore fried chicken and even Maryland's official state dessert, Smith Island cake, on its menu. It's owned by Mike Franklin, an entrepreneur who opened the popular Franklins Restaurant, Brewpub and General Store in nearby Hyattsville and who has played an instrumental role in that neighboring community's economic development.

Kapnos Taverna, a coastal Greek restaurant created by

See **HOTEL** Page A3

## Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301 888 2153

### BADEN COMMUNITY CENTER

Come join the fun. Baden Community Center offers basketball classes Saturdays October 21–November 25, 2017 (6 classes) \$40 R (\$52 NR). Ages 3–5 from 9:00 AM–10AM. Barcode: 1686095, ages 6–8 from 10:00 AM–11.00 AM. Barcode: 1686096, ages 9–12 from 11:00 AM–12 noon Barcode: 1686097. Classes will cover the fundamentals of basketball to include passing, dribbling and shooting with an emphasis on teamwork.

The address is 13601 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. Telephone number is 301-888-1500 and TTY 301-699-2544.

### PRE-MEN'S DAY CONCERT

Join Christ and Nottingham Myers UMC/New Hope Fellowship Rev. Constance C. Smith, Senior Pastor for their Pre-Men's Day Concert Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM. The Concert will be held at Family Life Center Nottingham Myers UMC, 15601 Brooks Church Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772.

New Hope Fellowship Men's Choirs and other local men's choirs will appear on the program. Special guests Ventriloquist: Ken Huff w/ Mr. Wood the Devine Messengers. Rev.

Charles Kelly is Master of Ceremony from St. John A.M.E. Church, Hughesville, Maryland. Freewill Offering.

### MEN'S DAY 2017

Christ & Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church Men/New Hope Fellowship (Rev. Constance C. Smith, Senior Pastor) will celebrate Men's Day October 22, 2017 10:00 AM at Christ United Methodist Church. The church is located at 22919 Christ Church Road, Aquasco, Maryland 20608.

Guest speaker will be Rev. William Banks, Sr. Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church Washington, D.C. Guest Worship Leader is Hampton Conway BWC UMM Vice President Washington East District Treasurer.

### AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL

Join us Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10:00 AM–4:00 PM for the 9th Annual American Indian Festival at Patuxent River Park 16000 Croom Airport Road Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772. (Group Camp and Picnic Area). There is free admission and parking.

Master of Ceremonies: Keith Colston; Arena Director: Michael Nephew; Host Drum: Medicine Horse Guest Drum: Yapatoko Singers, Head Dancers: Steve & Rie Miller, Color Guard: Vevita,

Musical Guests: Dawn Avery, Ron Warren.

Free activities include finger weaving, Indian games, crafts, storytelling performances, drumming, singing, native horsemanship demonstrations, educational exhibits and more activities.

Nominal Fees: traditional foods and other favorites, horse and pony rides, basket craft, vendor sales, multiple raffles including a collectible "Pendleton" blanket. Phone 301-627-6074 for festival information.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday to John Tyree, Camden Knight, Madison Rae Stroman, Kaylee Davis, Reagan Elise Denbow, Dwayne Wood, Khia Knight, William Stammer, David Samuel, Leslie Slybaugh, Ulric Thomas, Erica Barron, Barbara Washington, Iheanyi Mbakwe (Junior), George Taylor who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating birthdays in October.

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy wedding anniversary to Jeffrey & Mia Kerrick, Dwayne & Melva Wood, Lawrence & Roseline Omoregbe, Clarkie & Georgia Kinard who are Clinton United Methodist Church members celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in October.

# COMMUNITY

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Surprising Ways That Tragic Events Can Affect Us All

Were you aware that when you read about or hear about news reports of major tragedies, they may be impacting your own life beyond what you may realize?

The recent devastating hurricanes ... reports of terrible earthquake damage ... the threatening military actions in the far east ... the too-numerous terror attacks occurring in Europe—any and all of these, no matter how far removed from where you live, are events that can affect each of us in negative ways.

We all want to feel safe in our daily lives, but when we see and hear exhaustive news reports of tragic events on a regular basis, it can bring on very real physical and emotional reactions. It's called vicarious trauma. Such reactions are common and normal in the face of events too large and horrific for normal comprehension. They can make you wonder just how safe you are as you realize that whatever just happened, or something similar, could just as easily happen to you.

Real physical reactions can include chills, nausea, dizziness and headaches. You may find yourself more irritable, prone to anger or having sudden emotional outbursts. Some people experience confusion or nightmares, or may simply find it difficult to relax.

The problems that can arise are not in the emotions we feel, but in how we respond to them. When you deny such feelings, or try to hide from them by working longer hours, or by turning to alcohol or drugs, you aren't validating and accepting your very real, very normal feelings.

A good way to respond to such feelings is to go back to basics. Stick to a schedule. Be well rested. Eat healthy meals. Alternate exercise and relaxation.

If feeling overly anxious, try pampering yourself a little. Take a hot bath, listen to your favorite music, read a good novel, maybe even allow yourself to cry. It's also important to spend time with others and to talk about what you're feeling. In times of tragedy, you'll find others are experiencing similar feelings and reactions and are often eager to discuss them.

It's also a good time to start, or increase, volunteer work. Helping others also helps you as your work makes the world a little bit better.

Being affected by tragedies is a very normal human reaction. When it happens, acknowledge what you're feeling and take steps to help you feel better.

*Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org*

### Hotel from A2

Mike Isabella, one of the Washington area's most celebrated chefs, will open later in the month. Bagels 'n Grinds and Potomac Pizza, a pair of franchises created by Adam Greenberg, whose wife graduated from the university, also opened on September 8—to the delight of UMD students, who recently returned to campus from their summer breaks.

The Hotel will be the property of choice for prospective students, parents, alumni and guests of the university, but its position along the Baltimore-Washington corridor and easy access to three major airports also makes it an ideal option for meetings and events of all sizes and types. Located merely 10 miles from Washington and 30 from Baltimore, this property also provides free shuttle service to the College Park Metro station and can connect its guests to the nation's capital and surrounding highlights within a matter of minutes.

Ten separate event spaces are named for notable figures in state, county and university history—from the Wright brothers, who taught the first army pilots how to fly at the world's oldest continuously operating airport (located just around the corner), to Harriet Tubman, who was born on Maryland's Eastern Shore, to Muppets creator and UMD graduate Jim Henson. The Hotel also boasts a 10th-story penthouse event space that offers unparalleled views of the campus and beyond. It's

sure to be a popular spot for wedding receptions and other top-tier gatherings.

Standard guest rooms, which average 450 square feet, are the largest in town. The Hotel also offers a fitness center, pool and open-air zen garden terrace on its fourth floor. In a few short months, Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa will open a 5,200-square foot facility on that same recreation floor; like all the restaurants, the spa will be open to the public as well as Hotel guests. The property also opened an 850-car parking garage so visitors can come and go with ease, whether they're attending a conference, staying overnight, or simply meeting friends for dinner.

The Hotel isn't just bringing more dining and entertainment options to College Park, it's also generating new jobs. Already the entire project—the Hotel and its restaurant partners—has created more than 400 positions, many of which are being filled by UMD students.

Southern Management is building another property, a Cambria Hotel & Suites, further up Baltimore Avenue, increasing the town's hotel inventory by another 150 rooms. The company already operates The Hotel at Arundel Preserve near BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, and Bear Creek Mountain Resort & Conference Center in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley.

For more information about or to make reservations at The Hotel at the University of Maryland, please visit [www.thehotelumd.com](http://www.thehotelumd.com) or call 301-298-5574.

## In Honor of National Library Card Sign-Up Month 2017, the City of Greenbelt Presents Proclamation to County Library

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

GREENBELT, MD—The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is the proud recipient of a Proclamation presented by the Honorable Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland on behalf of the City Council. Michael Gannon, Interim Chief Executive Officer, accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the County Library System that was issued on September 25, 2017, in celebration of National Library Card Sign-up Month.

As the Proclamation states, "... a library card is an essential resource for all City residents ... and plays an important role in the education and development of children ..." Also, the Greenbelt Branch Library's Tugwell Room includes a special collection "of rare and unique plans, documents, artifacts and photos related to Greenbelt and planned communities," continues the City of Greenbelt Proclamation.

PGCMLS provides and ever expanding broad range of services. The Library offers Ready 2 Read events and resources to en-

hance school preparedness, homework help with Brainfuse's HelpNow, technology advancement and career development with Lynda.com and other online learning options, computer access, Playaway Launchpads, Educational SmartSpots (free WiFi), passport services and more.

Sign up for your library card today! Students, activate your LINK account (virtual library card) using your student identification number to access great library resources for this academic year. The Library wishes to thank the City of Greenbelt for the Proclamation issued in honor of Library Card Sign-up Month 2017.

### About Prince George's County Memorial Library System

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), consisting of 19 branches, offers strategies for lifelong learning. Skills development library resources include: Rosetta Stone Library Solution, Lynda.com, Brainfuse's HelpNow and JobNow, ArtistWorks for Libraries and Learning Express Library. Early literacy resources are: Ready 2 Read Centers, Ready



Interim Chief Executive Officer Michael Gannon accepts the Proclamation from the Honorable Emmett V. Jordan, Mayor of the City of Greenbelt.

2 Read Backpacks, ABCmouse, AWE Early Literacy Stations, Beanstack, Playaway Launchpads and PebbleGo. All these services are free with your PGCMLS library card. Also, enjoy Minecraft, 3D printing, DREAM (Digital Resources for Electronic Applications in Me-

dia) lab, chess clubs and MAC (Manga and Anime Clubs) free at your library. Engage with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube. Check out our mobile apps! Learn more about what your Library has to offer at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

## Fun-Packed Festival to Help Foster Children

By PRESS OFFICER  
CASA of PG County

RIVERDALE, MD—Spread the word, everyone is invited to a fun-filled festival that helps raise money to recruit, train and supervise Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for America's most vulnerable boys and girls, foster children.

We are Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)/Prince George's County, and our 6th Annual Pepco World of

Wheels (WOW) for CASA features games, moon bounces and a variety of emergency and utility vehicles for families to inspect and enjoy.

Admission is free, thanks to Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras who is sponsoring the event. So, bring your kids, grand-kids, neighbors and friends!

World of Wheels will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10am-2pm at DeMatha High School at 4313 Madison Street in Hyattsville. The first 500 at-

tendees will each receive free Pepco bags.

Tickets will be on sale for moon bounces and carnival games. Every game player is a winner, courtesy of MGM. Potomac Pizza will be for sale with all proceeds benefiting our Court Appointed Special Advocate.

We provide CASA volunteers who make sure that foster children are properly housed, educated and cared for so that they have a chance for a full and successful life.

Come out to see a Pepco utility truck, Amerigroup community health vehicle, the Prince George's County Marine Unit, Metro Police Mobile Command, and many other exciting vehicles that keep our community moving, safe and secure.

Check out the Game Truck mobile video game trailer from 10-11:30.

Thank you to our sponsors: Pepco, Council Member Taveras, MGM, Purple Line Partners, Turbo Haul, Amerigroup, WTOP and Nauticon!

### Bulldogs from A1

drive of the game and sophomore Gene Carson (Accokeek, Md.) added the extra point for the early 7-0 lead. Bowie State scored on its very next possession, when Hall connect with redshirt senior Kerrick Pollock (Miami, Fla.) for a 12-yard, pass, catch and score to give the Bulldogs 13-0 advantage at the 8:10 mark.

Fayetteville State's Jacobe Clement (Charlotte, N.C.) gets a pick six and returned it 32 yards to trim the Bowie State lead to 13-7 with 5:04 left in the opening quarter.

The Bulldogs got those points back in a hurry on a Hall to junior Lansana Sesay (Bowie, Md.) 82-yard touchdown pass. Car-

son's extra point gave Bowie State a 20-7 lead. Redshirt sophomore Brandon Abrams (Baltimore, Md.) punched it in from 1-yard out to give the Bulldogs a 27-7 cushion at the 12:41 mark of the second quarter.

Marquise Watts (La Plata, Md.) recorded his second touchdown of the season, catching an 8-yard pass from Hall at the 10:25 mark to push the Bowie State lead to 34-7 in the second quarter.

David Lamb (Pineville, N.C.) kicked a 28-yard field goal with 5:34 remaining before halftime to cut the Fayetteville State deficit to 34-10. Nigel Peele (Greensboro, N.C.) intercepted a deflected pass from BSU's Hall and returned it 25 yards for a Fayetteville State touchdown with 5:21

remaining before halftime, but the Broncos trailed 34-17.

Another Bowie State turnover was costly as Fayetteville State capitalized to trim the Bulldogs lead to 34-24 with 1:51 left in the second quarter. Stevie Green (Washington, N.C.) rushed seven yards for the score.

Bowie State capped off a 7-play, 75-yard drive with a Hall to Britton 25-yard touchdown with 16 seconds left in the first half to give the Bulldogs a 41-24 advantage.

Bowie State capitalized on an interception by redshirt freshman Tevin Singleton (District Heights, Md.) and converted the Fayetteville State turnover into six points on a 3-yard score by Chesson. Chesson

scored again following another Broncos turnover. This time Chesson rushed for another 3-yard score to pad the Bulldogs lead at 55-24 at the 10:57 mark of the third quarter.

Junior Maurice Williams (Baltimore, Md.) scored on a 2-yard run with 1:48 remaining in the third quarter to increase Bowie State's lead to 61-31.

Bowie State's Carson put the final nail in the coffin with 3:20 remaining in the game, following a 44-yard field goal to account for the final margin of 64-31.

The Broncos were led by quarterback Devin Knudsen (Fresno, Calif.) with 131 passing yards (14-30-2) and Donshel Jetton rushed for 94 yards on 20 carries.

### EPA from A1

not used their pollution control systems at all.

Although most parent companies of the power plants cited in the Maryland petition did not respond to requests for comment by deadline, the Tennessee Valley Authority, which operates Paradise, a coal-fired plant in Kentucky, challenged Maryland officials' claims.

"We do have emissions controls. They run when the plant is operating," said Jim Hopson, TVA's manager of public relations, who said he was not aware of the Maryland lawsuit. "They reduce sulfur dioxide and nitrous dioxide levels in excess

of 90 percent and they eliminate particulate matter ... All of our plants have those."

The EPA defines the ozone season for Maryland and all the states named in the EPA petition as April through October, with the exception of Indiana, whose ozone season is April through September. Ozone levels are believed to be at their worst during the summer on sunny, hot days, particularly in urban environments, according to the EPA.

"Pollution from out-of-state power plants also harms our in-state streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay," said Jon Mueller, vice president of litigation at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which plans to file

a similar lawsuit with partners in the coming weeks. "Studies show nitrogen oxides from coal plant emissions degrade our water, and harm our fish and other aquatic life."

In its original petition to the EPA, MDE expressed concern that nitrogen oxide emissions from the offending plants could prevent the state from achieving the required air-quality standards mandated by the Clean Air Act.

According to estimates in the Maryland petition, about 39,000 tons of nitrous oxide emissions could have been prevented in 2015 had the 19 power plants in question "run their control technologies efficiently." In 2014, MDE said those same power

plants had profited to the tune of \$24 million by either not using their pollution controls or not using them effectively.

A request for comment from the American Coal Council as to why or why not a coal-fired power plant would employ pollution controls was not returned by press time.

"Maryland has made significant progress in improving our air quality in recent years, and that progress is in jeopardy due to a lack of action by the EPA that dates back to the previous administration," said Hogan, a Republican, in a statement. "We strongly urge the EPA to approve the petition and enforce the air pollution controls ..."

# COMMENTARY

**Cong. Steny H. Hoyer**  
House Democratic Minority Whip



## Representatives Hoyer, Pascrell, King, Reichert, Johnson Introduce Bill Reauthorizing Fire Service Grant Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On September 29, 2017, U.S. Representatives Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), Peter King (R-NY), Dave Reichert (R-WA), co-chairs of the Congressional Fire Service Caucus, and Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, announced introduction of the AFG and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act of 2017, which renews vital federal funding streams for local fire departments.

Each year more than one million fire and emergency services personnel respond to over 30 million emergency calls across the country. This bipartisan legislation would ensure that our over 30,000 fire departments continue to have access to the necessary training, equipment, and staffing to conduct emergency response missions and to continue to reduce community risk.

Specifically, this legislation would reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program, the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant program. Congressional authorization for these grants expires tomorrow and sunsets on January 2, 2018.

The measure is a companion to S.829, sponsored by Senators John McCain (R-AZ), Jon Tester (D-MT), Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tom Carper (D-DE), legislation the Senate passed on July 11, 2017 and now awaits action in the House. The bi-

partisan fire service co-chairs authored a letter to Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on August 11, 2017 asking the House to take up and pass the Senate bill.

“Our firefighters put their lives on the line for their communities each day,” said Representative Hoyer. “We must ensure that they have the resources they need to do their job safely and effectively. I’m proud to join in cosponsoring the bipartisan AFG and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act, so that the hardworking men and women who make up fire departments across the nation have access to the proper equipment and training programs to support the critically important work that they do.”

“Firefighters and first responders across our nation deserve all the support they need to keep our communities safe,” said Representative Pascrell, an author of the original bill that created these grant programs. “When I crafted the initial law establishing these grant programs, I knew that towns and cities across our nation needed assistance to offset the costs associated with hiring new staff, replacing deteriorating equipment, and meeting training requirements. These federal grants ensure the brave men and women on the front lines are provided critical resources to support and protect communities across our nation. It is a no-

See **FIRE SERVICE** Page A6

**Marc Morial, President and CEO**  
National Urban League



## Racist Extremism Remains a Crisis in The United States

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Congress rejects White nationalism, White supremacy, and neo-Nazism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States urges the President and his administration to speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and White supremacy; and use all resources available to the President and the President’s Cabinet to address the growing prevalence of those hate groups in the United States.

—Congressional Joint Resolution signed 9/14/17

Last weekend’s escalation of NFL protests against police brutality seems to have sparked another wave of racist incidents across the United States. A fire chief in suburban Pittsburgh was fired after publicly using a racial slur against Steelers coach Mike Tomlinson. A bar in Missouri created a doormat of jerseys spelling out “Lynch Kaepernick.”

The words of the Charlottesville “Unite the Right” organizer Jason Kessler, interviewed for the most recent episode of NPR’s “This American Life,” may go a long way toward explaining why white supremacy and racial hostility are on the rise.

“We are being replaced culturally and ethnically,” Kessler said, referring to white men. “It’s a genocide by replacement ... Our first immigration policy, you know, said that in order to be a citizen you had to be a white person of good character, right? So it was explicitly a white country. Like, there are traditional demographics. And when you don’t respect those, you destroy a people.”

Kessler, 33, does not consider himself a white supremacist. “White supremacy, blah, blah, blah. That’s a BS liberal term that you have been indoctrinated with. That white supremacy, white supremacy!” This is our country!

The current Congress, the most diverse in history, is 81 percent male and 81 percent white.

White men hold about 70 percent of all seats on corporate boards. More than 70 percent of Fortune 500 senior executives are white men. The black unemployment rate is consistently about twice that of whites, and studies show resumes with traditionally “white-sounding” names garner about 50 percent more job interviews over “Black-sounding” names.

In every measureable way, white men are vastly overrepresented beyond their percentage of the U.S. population in positions of power. But men like Jason Kessler look at this overrepresentation and see ... white genocide.

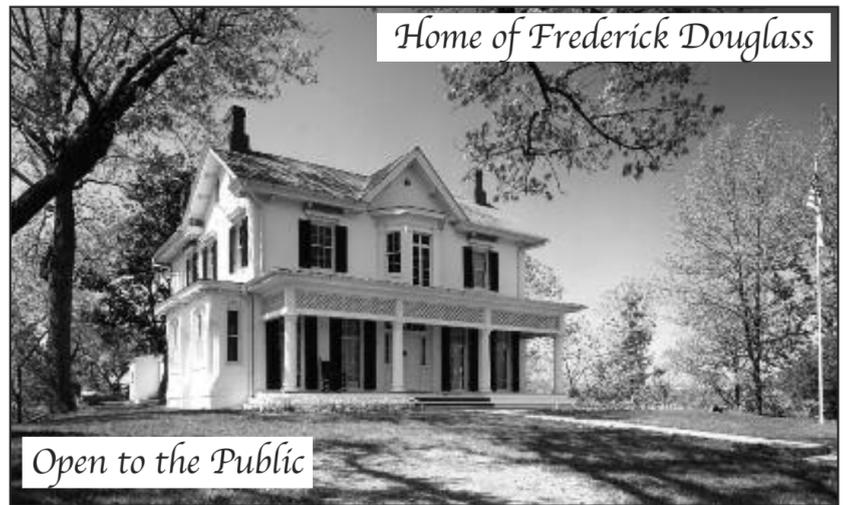
Earlier this week, FBI Director Christopher Wray told Congress the agency has about 1,000 open investigations into potential domestic terrorists, including extremist white supremacists and white nationalists. Within the past nine years, right-wing extremists in the United States plotted or carried out nearly twice as many terrorist attacks as Islamist extremists. Police managed to foil twice as many of the Islamist cases as the right-wing incidents. Yet the current administration has decided to cut federal funding for groups fighting right-wing violence to shift more resources to fighting Islamist terrorism.

Police told the New York Times, “Militias, neo-Nazis and sovereign citizens” are the biggest threat we face in regard to extremism, and the threat is so high exactly because “it is an emerging threat that we don’t have as good of a grip on, even with our intelligence unit, as we do with the Al Shabab/Al Qaeda issue.”

Earlier this month, President Trump signed a resolution, unanimously passed by the House and Senate, condemning “the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place” in Charlottesville as well as white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups.

The resolution urges the president and his administration to “speak out against hate groups that espouse racism, extremism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and white supremacy,” and calls on the Justice Department and other federal agencies to “use all resources available” to address the growing prevalence of those groups.

It’s unclear how the resolution will affect funding for anti-racism efforts, but we expect Congress to remain committed the principles it espouses and to hold the administration accountable for using “all resources available” to combat racial hate.



Home of Frederick Douglass

Open to the Public

PHOTO CREDIT: US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

### THE HOME OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS

The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the most famous 19th century African American. His life was a testament to the courage and persistence that serves as an inspiration to those who struggle in the cause of liberty and justice. Visitors to the site learn about his efforts to abolish slavery and his struggle for rights for all oppressed people.

In 1877 Frederick Douglass purchased the home which he named Cedar Hill. This location was authorized Sept. 5, 1962, as Frederick Douglass Home; and re-designated Feb. 12, 1988 as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Frederick Douglass’ life spanned nearly eighty years, from the time that slavery was universal in American states to the time it was becoming a memory. Douglass freed himself from slavery and through decades of tireless efforts he helped to free millions more. Located at 1411 W Street SE, Washington, DC 20020, the hours of operation are, Sunday through Saturday 9:00 Am –5:00 PM.

## Child Watch

by Marion Wright Edelman



## Kneelers of Conscience

Many President Trump observers believe he throws out inflammatory and divisive comments to distract in moments when the news cycle is critical of his erratic, inappropriate and contentious conduct. That appeared to be true last week when more than three million suffering Americans without power or enough food and water in hurricane devastated Puerto Rico were desperately crying for more federal help. Senate Republicans were busy introducing another callous health care repeal bill to deny millions of Americans life giving health care to widespread criticism and President Trump was spouting rhetoric which threatened to bring our nation closer to a military confrontation with North Korea’s intemperate leader. As if these crises were not enough distraction, President Trump chose to pick a loud un-presidential fight urging football players who chose to kneel during the national anthem in non-violent protest be fired. His blatant and sad attempts to pit us against each other as Americans should shame us all.

It did not take long to recognize that the specter of President Trump in Alabama standing before a boisterous, largely White crowd condemning a predominantly Black group of citizens for a peaceful method of non-violent protest against injustice was chillingly familiar. Rev. Bernice King, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s daughter, was one of many who immediately pointed out historical parallels. On Twitter she shared photos of civil rights leaders kneeling in protest next to a photo of N.F.L. players Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid kneeling before a game.

It was former Super Bowl quarterback Kaepernick who made the first quiet, courageous and moving decision of conscience last year to kneel during the national anthem written by a White pro-slavery supporter. He was personally and non-violently protesting against a string of indefensible police-related killings of Black men and the pervasive racial and social injustices evident all across our nation. Reid and then others

joined in the peaceful and prayerful gestures of conscience that triggered President Trump’s vulgar and utterly un-presidential outburst. Along with photos of her father, Bernice King commented:



Veteran Congressman and courageous civil rights icon John Lewis shared his photo kneeling with fellow protesters outside a segregated Illinois pool in 1961:



Former Attorney General Eric Holder was among others who shared a photo and message about Dr. King:



Marion 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.childrens-defense.org](http://www.childrens-defense.org).

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

## The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS

## Social Security Matters

### Ask Rusty Should I Retire Now or Maximize?

**Dear Rusty:** I am 66, born 5/17/51, and planning for filing for my social security benefit. My husband is 60 and will be working for the next 7–10 years. We have our own corporation; he is a clinical psychologist and I work for the corporation as office manager. I will still continue to work. I am hoping to invest half of the SS check and use the other half for house projects, mortgage, and travel. Is there anything particular I need to know to apply or how I apply to maximize the most money? Our financial planner said filing or waiting was up to me. We are behind in saving for retirement, but also want to travel while we still are healthy enough to do so.

**Signed: Wanting to know more**

**Dear Wanting:** Yes it is, indeed, a dilemma trying to decide when to start your Social Security benefits. Keep in mind that for each month you wait beyond your full retirement age of 66, you are earning a 2/3rds of 1% increase in the amount of your Social Security benefit. That equates to 8% increase per year, and that can continue up until your reach age 70. At age 70, you would get 132% of the benefit you were entitled to when you turned 66. Since your birthday is in May, as of right now you've earned an additional 2% in "delayed retirement credits" (DRCs), and if you wait until the first of October to apply you'll get another 2/3rd of 1% increase in your benefit. Since Social Security doesn't compute delayed retirement credits until January of each year, if you apply now you wouldn't actually see the higher benefit until your January payment (which you would get in February). And even though you don't get the DRC increase until January, you won't earn additional DRC's for the months between when you apply and January when they recalculate your benefit. Obviously losing these DRC's doesn't amount to a lot of money monthly, but you'd get the increase for the rest of your life so it would add up over time. Just as obviously, it's hard these days to earn more than 8% on any investment, but that's clearly a judgment only you can make. When you do finally decide to apply, you can do so online by opening an online "My Social Security" account at ssa.gov, via telephone at 1-800-772-1213, or in person at your local Social Security office.

You said that your husband is 60 and plans to continue working. One thing for him to keep in mind is that if he starts Social Security before his full retirement age of 66 + 6 months, his earnings from work will be subject to Social Security's "earnings limit" (\$16,920 for 2017) which, if he exceeds it, will cause his Social Security benefits to be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 he earns over the limit. You don't have that worry because you've already reached your full retirement age of 66 so you're not subject to the earnings test.

Choosing when to apply for Social Security is a decision only you can make. There's a lot to be said for enjoying the money while you're younger, but to maximize your benefits (which you asked about) a case can also be made for waiting a little longer. I hope this gives you enough information to make an informed decision.

*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.*

### Morningside from A2

man Chevrolet and grew it into the largest Chevrolet dealership in the United States. Mandy went to work for his dad in 1947 and, with the help of his sons and grandsons, built Ourisman Motors into what is now a 4th generation family business with more than 36 franchises in Virginia and Maryland. The McHales bought several cars at Ourisman on Branch Avenue.

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16; Frank McCrone, Oct. 17; Paul Long, Andrew Nicholas Smith, former Morningside Councilwoman Carol (Kline) DeGraba and VFW 9619's Nola Cook, Oct. 18.

Happy 64th anniversary to Daisy and Ralph Young on Oct. 15; and happy 37th to Michael and Anita (Fulton) Freeman, Oct. 18.

## Comptroller Franchot's Statement on Board Of Revenue Estimates September Revisions

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Comptroller

ANNAPOLIS, MD—On September 20, 2017, the Board of Revenue Estimates voted to reduce the revenue projections for the State of Maryland for Fiscal Year 2018 by \$53 million, representing a 0.3 percent decrease over prior estimates. The Board also unveiled the first official estimates for fiscal year 2019, which is projected to be \$17.6 billion, representing a \$73.5 million reduction.

The actions are largely driven by weaker-than-anticipated sales tax revenues, which are the result of sluggish income growth, changing buying habits with more online purchases being made and tepid consumer confidence stemming from uncertainty about potential federal government cuts and other actions.

Following are Comptroller Franchot's remarks, as prepared for delivery:

"This action comes just weeks after we closed the books on Fiscal Year 2017 with \$90 million above our original projections, which provides reason for restrained optimism.

"The proposed reductions in FY 2018 and FY 2019's estimates are primarily influenced by the continued weak growth in sales and use tax revenue, and a modestly reduced outlook for average wage growth in Maryland. In this revision, the largest write-down is the sales and use tax projected revenues, which underscores the fact that consumer spending remains unpredictable.

"Following a very brief but relatively successful holiday season, sales tax revenue declined this past spring. Over the last several fiscal years, we've barely attained 2% growth in sales and use tax revenues. Our prior estimates had generally held that the State would at least see 3% to 3.5% growth. But we



PHOTO COURTESY THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

**Comptroller Peter Franchot, chairman of the Board of Revenue Estimates (second from left), along with (from right) Marc Nicole, deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Budget and Management, Chief Deputy Treasurer Bernadette T. Benik and Andrew Schaufele, director of the Bureau of Revenue Estimates and executive secretary of the board, met on the afternoon of September 20, 2017, in the Assembly Room of the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis.**

know these figures are influenced in large part by the meager income growth that we continue to experience, and the political uncertainties coming out of Washington.

"As we continue to weather these uncertain economic conditions, Maryland working families are understandably putting more money in the piggy bank instead of spending on things they want, instead of need.

"In this consumer-powered economy, far too many businesses—and in particular, small and locally-owned businesses that are the backbone of the Maryland economy—are struggling to survive at a time when consumers are reining in their discretionary spending.

"We continue to experience the slowest and most tentative economic recovery of our lifetimes. And as I've said in the past, I think that it would be imprudent to expect a return to pre-recessionary patterns of economic expansion.

"To be prepared for the fiscal uncertainties of the future, I believe fiscal policymakers need to

consider this rate of growth in our revenues as the "new normal," if you will. And I would encourage my fellow state leaders to adopt this approach when making spending and fiscal policy decisions in the months ahead."

"I do want to tip my hat to Governor Hogan and to the General Assembly for continuing to exercise fiscal restraint and for recognizing the fiscal and economic realities that our state faces today. More than anything else—and I know both the Governor and the General Assembly are in bipartisan agreement on this—we must establish a business climate that is characterized by stability and predictability, one in which employers feel comfortable investing capital and creating good-paying, long-term jobs.

"We must avoid decisions that take more money out of the pockets of consumers who are already reluctant to put money back into the Maryland economy, which is why we need to continue to reject any proposals that would increase or create new taxes and fees.

"We need to provide some stability and relief for our working-class citizens and small businesses. And furthermore, we must remain smart and forward-thinking about how we spend limited taxpayer dollars and resist adding to our existing state debt—recognizing the fact that we simply cannot sustain continued debt accumulation that can be dangerous to our fiscal stability in the years ahead.

"The fiscal realities we face require us to invest in the things that we need, and forego many of the things that we simply want. This is the same principle that so many households and business owners use when planning and executing their own budgets—and we have a solemn responsibility to do the same as their elected representatives.

"I am confident that if we continue on the current path of fiscal prudence, we will be well-positioned to emerge from these economic and fiscal challenges stronger than before. And we will be properly prepared to weather future disturbances in our economy."

### UMD from A1

impact, and I do not say this lightly," University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh said. "Access to higher education is essential, if we are to solve urgent national problems. Creating this path for the most promising students in engineering and other fields may well prove to be Mr. Clark's greatest legacy."

"Without question, my dad loved the University of Maryland," said Courtney Clark Pastrick, board chair of the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation. "College Park was instrumental in educating and equipping him as an engineer and successful businessman. However, his legacy is in his community engagement and generosity. Our family and the Foundation look forward to seeing the impact of this gift in the decades to come."

"Thousands of University of Maryland students already wake up in dorms or study in academic halls that bear the mark of the Clark name," said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. "Today, the Clark spirit of generosity is on full display yet again. With this new investment in STEM education, the Clark family and the Clark Foundation are ensuring that this university continues to be a national and global leader, where the next fearless idea is developed."

The gift was announced at an event today with Loh, Pastrick, Governor Hogan, Mrs. Alice B. Clark, Clark Foundation President

Joe Del Guercio, Maryland Speaker of the House Michael Busch, and Chancellor of the University System of Maryland Robert Caret. More than 150 students who have received previous scholarships from the Clark Foundation were also in attendance.

### Increasing College Access & Affordability

Access to an affordable college education to promising students has guided the Clark family's longstanding investments. New scholarships and fellowships made possible by this donation build on the Foundation's—and Mr. Clark's—fundamental belief in connecting effort with opportunity, by helping those who demonstrate determination and perseverance.

The Clark Challenge for Maryland Promise, a campus-wide scholarship matching program that engages the philanthropic community, aims to generate a \$100 million fund to support students with financial need. In partnership with the university, the Clark Challenge grant will catalyze support from alumni and friends to ensure an education for high-performing students with the greatest need.

Building Together: An Investment for Maryland will also help expand the Clark Opportunity Transfer Scholarship Program, which supports transfer students from Maryland community colleges to pursue their engineering education at UMD. The investment will also support high-performing undergraduate engineer-

ing students with financial need with the launch of the A. James Clark Scholars Program, the Foundation's signature academic program combining engineering, business, leadership and community service. At the University of Maryland, A. James Clark Scholars will also participate in the National Academy of Engineering's Grand Challenges Scholars Program, charging students to solve some of engineering's greatest challenges in the 21st century, from sequestering carbon to reverse-engineering the brain.

### Building the Next Generation of Engineering Leaders

"This investment will transform the university, and especially engineering," said Clark School Dean and Farvardin Professor of Engineering Darryll J. Pines. "For today's engineering students, this gift promises not only to open doors to a world-class engineering education, but also to inspire hearts and empower minds through the example set by Mr. Clark. By learning about the industry leader and philanthropist, students will feel driven to develop solutions to help people lead better lives."

The investment will fuel innovation that paves the way for engineering excellence at UMD by expanding the Clark School's innovative research through programs, facilities and by recruiting promising students and faculty. The investment will also substantially increase the num-

ber of graduate fellows through the establishment of the Clark Doctoral Fellows Program.

### Solving Today's Problems

Building Together: An Investment for Maryland will also enable UMD to support faculty working in the interdisciplinary fields that are critical to the knowledge-based economy of the future, such as data analytics, neuroscience, virtual and augmented reality, and cybersecurity.

Funded by the Foundation, five Clark Leadership Chairs with shared appointments in colleges across campus will conduct important cross-cutting research on emerging issues that are most pressing to the future of our global society. The Foundation will also establish eight Clark Distinguished Chairs, faculty positions that directly address the most critical research areas set forth by the 2020 Strategic Plan for the Clark School.

To learn more about Building Together: An Investment for Maryland, visit [buildingtogether.umd.edu](http://buildingtogether.umd.edu)

### What People Are Saying About This Transformative Investment

"For generations, public universities like the University of Maryland have opened doors to students with high potential and promise," said Joe Del Guercio, president and CEO of the Found-

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK

## Movie Review

### A Ghost Story

A Ghost Story  
Grade: B+  
Rated R, absurdly,  
for one F-word and brief  
violent images  
1 hr., 32 min

*A Ghost Story* is indeed a story about a ghost, but that's where the similarities between it and, say, *Poltergeist* stop. Written and directed by the contemplative David Lowery (*Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, *Pete's Dragon*), this is more of a melancholy love story and a rumination on the passage of time. Framed like an old photograph, nearly square with rounded corners, the film has a great beauty to it, notwithstanding some patience-trying stretches.

We never learn the names of our protagonists, played by Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara; the credits call them C and M, respectively. They're a married couple who live mostly happily in an old suburban house until C dies and returns as a ghost. Not the scary kind, either, but the trick-or-treat kind: a white sheet with eye holes cut out. Silent and unseen, he observes M as she grieves, recovers, moves on.

Time passes for C as in a dream. He sees M with another man and immediately lashes out in anger, knocking books off a shelf (as ghosts do)—only it's not "immediately," it's the next day, or several days later. He can't keep up with chronology. He tries, in his ghostly fashion, to pry a scrap of paper from the wall where M hid it; when he glances up, years have sped by and the house has new occupants. Standing at the window, C communicates (silently) with a fellow ghost



ROTTENTOMATOES

With *A Ghost Story*, acclaimed director David Lowery (*Ain't Them Bodies Saints*, *Pete's Dragon*) returns with a singular exploration of legacy, loss, and the essential human longing for meaning and connection. Recently deceased, a white-sheeted ghost (Academy Award-winner Casey Affleck) returns to his suburban home to console his bereft wife (Academy Award-nominee Rooney Mara), only to find that in his spectral state he has become unstuck in time, forced to watch passively as the life he knew and the woman he loves slowly slip away.

in the house next door who's also waiting for someone, also in vain.

Structurally, the movie is built on a combination of montages and long, unbroken takes, on silence as well as Daniel Hart's plaintive musical score (which is often stretching, yearning, never resolving). Perhaps because time isn't measured on the spiritual plane, Lowery freely hops around the timeline (timecircle?), showing us the mundane togetherness and minor disagreements of C and M's marriage before leaping even further back and further ahead.

By far the talkiest, least abstract part of the film is a scene where the house that once belonged to C and M is the site of a party, during which a man (Will Oldham) monologues about life, the universe, and everything as C listens. Here's where Lowery's themes are summarized: we try to leave a lasting impression on

the world even though nothing lasts; all we have is now.

Though this isn't a horror film, a word applies that is often used to describe them: haunting. Only it's not ghosts or demons that haunt us, it's mortality and the unstoppable march of time. The helpless sense that time is passing too quickly, felt by all adults at some point in their lives, is no less poignant for being exaggerated in C's case. What's curious is that Lowery is able to convey deep feelings vividly despite the character with the most screen time not having a face for most of it. The hollow, oval-shaped eye holes in C's sheet look perpetually sad, enhanced by the somber absence of a mouth. He can see but he can't communicate. We know how he feels.

To help us appreciate the weight of passing time in a film that is only 92 minutes long, Lowery uses cinematic tricks like

"dragging things out" and "making us watch what feels like nothing for what actually is several minutes." The most notable of these is an early sequence in which M grief-eats most of an entire pie brought to her by a friend after C's death. In two long takes totaling more than four minutes, M silently cries and chews while her ghost husband stands motionless nearby. Mara's performance is effective (and harder to pull off than it looks), but in this and a few similar instances you think: Could this maybe be a minute shorter without losing its impact?

Nonetheless, Lowery takes huge risks here, casting known actors in an experimental tone-poem of a movie that could easily have been an insufferable disaster. If some sections of it are more wearying than enlightening, that's outweighed by the unforgettable emotional experience of seeing eternity pass before your eyes.

## UMD from A5

date. "We know that cost remains a barrier for too many students especially first-generation college students. The Clark Foundation is committed to ensuring that college is both accessible and affordable; as a result, need-based aid and financial support to students are a cornerstone of this investment."

"One of the most important contributions to the quality, stature, and impact of a major university is its faculty. The Clark Leadership Chairs will make it possible to attract and retain the very best people in critically important fields such as neuroscience, virtual reality, cybersecurity, and big data—fields that are key to solving our greatest societal issues," said Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President and Provost of UMD. "The A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation's investment in Clark Leadership Chairs will catapult the university forward in

these critically important fields, while touching programs across the entire university."

### Building Together: An Investment for Maryland Programs

- The Clark Challenge for Maryland Promise: Gifts from other donors in support of this new program will provide need-based scholarships to hundreds of students every year from all majors. If fully matched, this program aims to generate a \$100 million fund to support students with financial need.

- A. James Clark Scholars Program: A new program providing scholarships to 40 high-performing engineering undergraduates. Reflecting the Clarks' commitment to the local community, priority will be given to in-state students.

- Clark Opportunity Transfer Scholars Program: The endowment of a pilot program which will provide need-based scholarships to 40 engineering majors

coming from Maryland community colleges.

- Clark Distinguished Chairs: The creation of eight faculty chairs for stellar engineering researchers that directly address engineering's most critical research areas, such as additive and advanced manufacturing, autonomy and robotics, and energy and sustainability.

- Clark Leadership Chairs: The establishment and endowment of five faculty chairs throughout the campus in interdisciplinary fields that are critical to the knowledge-based economy of the future, such as data analytics, neuroscience, virtual and augmented reality, and cybersecurity.

- Clark Doctoral Fellows Program: An endowment supporting 30 additional first-year doctoral fellowships, allowing the Clark school to increase research productivity and graduate more outstanding Ph.Ds every year.

- New engineering building: A new space that secures the uni-

versity's stronghold in engineering innovation by helping recruit and retain world-class faculty and facilitating collaborations between disciplines with institutional and business partners.

- IDEA Factory: An expansion of the Clark School's signature Jeong H. Kim Engineering Building which will foster innovation with new cutting-edge labs, start-up space, and areas dedicated to cross-disciplinary research.

- Mpac: The 125th Anniversary Fearless Ideas Mpac Challenge is the A. James Clark School of Engineering's "moonshot" engineering program to spur innovative engineering research solutions. Commemorating the school's 125th Anniversary in 2019, this program provides funding for Clark School teams to develop solutions to engineering problems and innovations in engineering research that have the potential to improve the lives of millions of people.

## Fire Service from A4

brainer for the House to advance this non-controversial quickly for our fire services and fire safety nationwide."

"It is essential that our first responders have the tools they need to protect the lives and well-being of the public and themselves," Representative King said. "This legislation will go a long way to providing the resources, equipment and training for our nation's first responders."

"Our firefighters and first responders are the first line of defense in our communities," said

Representative Reichert. "But they are continually asked to do more with fewer resources and safety equipment. This bipartisan bill reauthorizes vital programs which help address the funding shortages for fire departments and first responders across our country. This support is necessary for our firefighters and first responders to perform their critical mission of protecting our families, while also having the resources to protect their own safety."

"Every day our firefighters risk their lives to keep us safe, so it is important that we make

every effort to support the important work and service they provide to our communities," Representative Johnson said. "This legislation will allow our first responders to enhance their fire prevention program and reduce the incidences of injury or death, helping them to continue the vital services they provide to our community."

This legislation has been endorsed by the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

## Background on AFG, FP&S, and SAFER Grant program

Congress created these grant programs to help address the significant staffing, equipment, training, and health and safety needs of fire departments. The SAFER Grant program provides funding to cover the costs associated with hiring personnel to maintain safe staffing levels. The AFG program makes funds available for fire departments to purchase equipment, provide training, and meet other fire department needs. The FP&S Grant program provides assistance to fire

## Maximizing Your TV Viewing Experience

### Top Tips to Reap the Fullest Experience From Fall TV

(BRANDPOINT)—With long nights and chilly temperatures, it's always good to find an excuse to stay home. Here's a classic excuse that's gone from lame to legitimate in a short time: I have to catch up on my favorite TV show.

So fix your favorite snack and pull up a sofa, because this fall, there are a ton of hot and critically acclaimed TV shows debuting and returning.

In fact, one projection says 2017 is on track to smash records. This year, as many as 500 original scripted shows have already aired and streamed, according to a report in AdWeek. That means there should be something for everyone, right?

Now's the perfect time to check in with your set to make sure it's up to the task of bringing you the best possible TV-watching experience.

**Get cinematic:** It's not unheard of for TV shows to boast multi-million-dollar budgets that can cover elaborate costumes, locations, sets and stunning special effects that would rival any movie. If you're looking for TV technology with the ability to accurately replicate the action and characters, consider investing in one of LG's sets. Whether you look at their premium LG OLED TVs or one of their Super UHD TVs with Nano Cell Technology, you're sure to get the most lifelike, advanced picture quality available.

**Switch around with ease:** If switching the TV display from cable to streaming is still a complicated feat that requires three remotes and a 10-minute training session that still befuddles your partner, it's really time to update your entertainment station to something sleeker and more intuitive.

A smart set with a compatible remote can solve all these problems. For example, all of LG's OLED and Super UHD sets come with its award-winning webOS Smart TV platform and Magic Remote, which makes flipping between content seamless and easy—all without stumbling into a screen of TV static. Plus, LG's Magic Remote is voice-activated, making your life easier than ever before.

**Get organized:** Figuring out what to watch and when to catch it is half the battle. The last thing you want is a big let-down because your show happens to be on a bye week you didn't know about. Shop around for an app that lets you manage your shows, so you know at a glance what's coming up. Also, today's sets come with a platform so you can keep and manage your information right where you're going to use it.

**Start thinking about the series finale:** When a favorite emerges, keep the season finale in the back of your mind. That's a great reason to host an end-of-season viewing party, because plot twists and cliffhangers are so much sweeter when experienced with someone. Even if you have plenty of comfy seating to handle the crowd, make sure your TV set is suitable for screening at a wide angle. Many LCD sets have a narrow viewing range with the TV's "sweet spot" limited to directly in front of the TV, which can mar the entire experience.

However, the superior technology of LG OLED sets pulls everyone into the drama with the widest viewing angles available, and with more than a billion rich colors and perfect blacks, your guests will only see a lifelike, high-contrast image wherever they sit. LG has the largest selection of OLED TVs on the market. If you're interested in learning more, visit [lg.com/us/oled-tvs](http://lg.com/us/oled-tvs).



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDPOINT

departments to support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards in order to reduce injury and prevent death among high-risk populations. The current authorization for these vital programs expires in 2017.

### Details of the AFG and SAFER Program Reauthorization Act of 2017

In order to improve upon the success of these grant programs, this legislation makes the following minor changes as part of the reauthorization:

- Eliminates the sunset provision: This legislation removes the sunset provision in current authorization for these grant programs in order to keep the programs from expiring on January 2, 2018.

- Extends the authorization date: This legislation extends the current AFG and SAFER Grant programs' authorization levels of \$750 million through FY 2023.

- Individual waiver authority: The last authorization for the SAFER grant program allowed the FEMA Administrator the dis-

## Calendar of Events

October 12 — October 18, 2017

### Xtreme Teens: Fun & Fitness Friday

Date and time: Friday, October 13, 2017, 7:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Time to get to work! Come join us for an exciting day of fitness as we learn new techniques to burn more calories, improve your cardio and help you on your way to a healthier lifestyle! We'll be working out and having fun while doing it! Get up, get out and exercise your way to a better you!  
Cost: FREE! with appropriate ID  
Ages: 10–17  
Location: Rollingcrest/Chillum Community Center  
6120 Sargent Road, Chillum, MD  
Contact: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-699-2544

### Bohemian Caverns All-Star Band

Date and time: Friday, October 13, 2017, 8:00 pm–10:00 pm  
Description: Come join us for the smooth, relaxing and finger-popping musical fusion of the Bohemian Caverns All-Star Band. For the past 90 years, Bohemian Caverns has been DC's "sole home of soul jazz." Return home to the Caverns with this special performance featuring some of Bohemian Caverns' All Stars including, pianist Allyn Johnson; bassist Chris Funn; drummer Quincy Phillips; and, trumpeter Donvonte McCoy. Don't miss this eclectic brand of music that is sure to provide you an ethereal experience.  
Cost: \$25; 10% discount for Montpelier members & seniors  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Montpelier Arts Center  
9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
Contact: 301-377-7800; TTY 301-699-2544

### Mounted Games Across America

Date and time: Saturday, October 14, 2017 and Sunday, October 15, 2017, 8:00 am–8:00 pm  
Description: Mounted Games Across America, Inc. (MGAA) welcomes all riders, all ages, and all skill levels. MGAA is an independent 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit, all-volunteer group of equestrians devoted to playing national and international mounted games and encouraging and supporting others who want to play equestrian mounted games.  
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

### Boo Bash!

Date and time: Saturday, October 14, 2017, 11:00 am–1:00 pm  
Description: Halloween games, fun, candy bags, music, and a costume parade. Come ready because there's no telling what other "Bootastic" things might happen!  
Cost: Resident: \$2; Non-resident: \$3  
Ages: 6–12 years old  
Location: Langley Park Community Center  
1500 Merrimac Drive, Hyattsville, MD  
Contact: 301-445-4508; TTY 301-699-2544

### Hands-on History: All Things Riversdale

Date and time: Sunday, October 15, 2017, 12:00 pm–3:30 pm  
Registration required by October 13  
Description: Spend this day off from school unlocking Riversdale's rich history. Learn how this house relates to local, state and national history. Take a tour of the house and grounds on this national historic landmark and architectural gem that has over 200 years of stories to tell! Children, ages 8-12, enjoy crafts, activities, cooking, and more!  
Cost: Prince George's & Montgomery County Residents: \$35; Non-residents: \$45  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### Harvest Festival

Date and time: October 15, 2017, 12:00 pm–3:30 pm  
Description: Enjoy Fall family fun with hands-on activities in the garden and open hearth kitchen. Includes a tour of the historic house. Create autumn crafts, snack on seasonal treats, dig up some fun with interactive activities in the garden, explore the open hearth kitchen, and more!  
Refreshments and activities are available while supplies last.  
Cost: Adult: \$5; Children 12 & under: \$2  
Ages: All ages are welcome  
Location: Riversdale House Museum  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
Contact: 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544

### Senior Paint Class

Date and time: Monday, October 16, 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 and better  
Location: Bowie Community Center  
3209 Stonybrook Drive, Bowie, MD  
Contact: 301-464-1737; 301-699-2544

### Farm Story & Craft

Date and time: Wednesday, October 18, 2017, 10:00 am–11:00 am  
Description: "Old McDonald had a farm..." and now, you can have your very own farm experience! Join us for a fun-filled day of farm-related stories, hands-on craft-making, then end your day with an animal meet and greet. (Think Dr. Dolittle!) Saddle up! You don't want to miss this hee hawing time down on the farm! "...Eee-i-ee-i-oooo!!!"  
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-resident: \$4  
Ages: 2–12  
Location: Old Maryland Farm  
301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD  
Contact: 301-218-6700; TTY 301-699-2544

## EARTH TALK ... Carbon Pawprints: How Our Dogs and Cats Contribute to Global Warming

Dear EarthTalk:

*Is it really true that our dogs and cats are major contributors to climate change, and if so what can we do about it?*

—Carmen Santiago,  
Newark, NJ

Unfortunately, our beloved dogs and cats do produce shockingly high amounts of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. According to a recent study by UCLA Professor Gregory Okin, American dogs and cats generate the equivalent of almost 64 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions (primarily in the form of methane and nitrous oxide) per year, an amount equivalent to driving 13.6 million cars for a year.

Besides all of this off-gassing, our cats and dogs are also big meat eaters, which doesn't help their carbon footprints. Cats and dogs consume about 20 percent as many calories as people do in the U.S.—or about as much as 62 million Americans. And because our pets are mainly meat eaters, they account for some 30 percent of the animal-derived calories compared to what you and I consume.

So what's the big deal? In short, raising livestock requires significantly more land, water and energy than growing plants.

A recent report by the World-watch Institute goes so far as to say that some 51 percent or more of greenhouse gas emissions are caused by animal agriculture. Since we like to feed our pets meat-based dog and cat food, Fido and Buttons are guilty by the ripple effect. Meat used in dog and cat food generally comes from the scraps of meat that humans eat.

Another reason why dogs and cats are contributors to climate change besides their diets is by virtue of all that ... feces. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) even categorizes dog waste as a non-point source pollutant, which places it alongside harmful chemicals such as herbicides and insecticides.

Meanwhile, cat litter can contain toxins that are harmful to the environment and even human health. Clay, a common ingredient in most cat litters, must be "strip mined," a process that has already destroyed millions of acres of land across Appalachia and beyond. Many kitty litter companies also use silica gel in their formulations to absorb and deodorize smells—despite the fact that the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified it as a known human carcinogen back in 1997. And those cats that just go outside aren't doing the environment



CREDIT: KEVIN DOOLEY, FLICKRCC

**Our pets may be cute, but they are contributing millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually into the atmosphere which only serves to exacerbate our global warming woes.**

any favors either, as cat feces can be toxic to ground soil.

There is no clear or easy solution to this ongoing problem. But little changes can help. For example, try switching your pet over to a plant-based diet — perhaps after a discussion about the options with your veterinarian. After all, you want to make sure your pet is getting enough protein in its vegetarian diet to live an active, happy and healthy life.

If you're not willing to turn your pet to outright vegetarianism, you can work in more and more vegetarian food over time. Also, you can still be part of the solution by at least buying organic pet food and compostable cat litter. These few

changes might not automatically solve the worldwide problem, but at least you—and Fido and Buttons—will be taking a few steps, er, paw prints, in the right direction.

CONTACTS: EPA's Pet Car Fact Sheet, <https://goo.gl/JX2UXt>; "Environmental impacts of food consumption by dogs and cats," <https://goo.gl/4Zykhx>.

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

### Fire Service from A6

cretion to waive the local match requirement. Erroneously, the bill only waived the reference to the local match requirement in one part of the statute and not the other, creating a situation where FEMA is unable to exercise the waiver authority as Congress intended. This legislation makes the technical correction to

ensure the waiver authority operates as Congress intended for jurisdictions with demonstrated local hardship. Erroneously, the statute only waives the reference to the local match requirement in one part of the statute and not the other, creating a situation where FEMA is unable to exercise the waiver authority as Congress intended. This legislation makes the technical correction to

ensure the waiver authority operates as Congress intended for jurisdictions with demonstrated local hardship.

• Improved oversight: This legislation requires the FEMA Administrator and Assistant Administrator for the Grant Program Directorate to make grants administration training available online so potential grant recipients are better able to access and

manage grants. Additionally, the legislation requires the development and implementation of an oversight framework to reduce potential waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.

• Expanded use of SAFER funds: This bill expands the use for SAFER grants so that fire departments may change part-time or paid-on-call firefighters to full-time firefighters.

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**  
**FIRE / EMS DEPARTMENT**  
**ST. JOSEPH STATION 806**

**FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE**  
**Saturday October 14, 2017**  
**12:00pm to 3:00pm**

**The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department**  
**St. Joseph Station 806**  
**2901 St. Joseph Drive, Bowie Maryland**  
**Wishes to invite the community**  
**to our annual**  
**Fire Prevention Open House**

**There will be displays and demonstrations for the**  
**Community to learn about Fire Prevention and Life Safety**

**Fire Engine Rides – PGFD K-9 demonstrations – Sprinkler Demonstrations**  
**Blood Pressure checks – Dive/Water and Boat Safety**  
**Fire Department demonstrations –**  
**& other displays from various agencies within Prince George's County**